

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 1 September 2011

at 3.00 pm

**in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Cook, Cranney, Gibbon, James, McKenna, Rogan and Turner.

Resident Representatives: Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and 1 vacancy.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2011

**4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE
COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items

**5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA
SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items

6. **CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY
FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

No items

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Scrutiny Investigation 'Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults
in Hartlepool aged 19 - 25'**

7.1 Scoping Report - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

7.2 Setting the Scene:-

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

(b) Presentation – *Economic Development Manager and Employment
Development Officer*

7.3 Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Regeneration and Planning Services
Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

8.1 The Executive's Forward Plan - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

9. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) **Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 29th September commencing at 3.00 pm in
Committee Room B**

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

21st July 2011

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Trevor Rogan (In the Chair)

Councillors Allan Barclay, Rob Cook, Kevin Cranney,
Steve Gibbon and Marjorie James

Also Present: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Chris
Simmons as substitute for Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher

Resident Representatives Ted Jackson and John Maxwell

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Christopher
Akers-Belcher

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2011

Approved

4. Portfolio Holder's Response to the Investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development)*

The Economic Development Manager presented a report which provided

Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' which was reported to Cabinet on 21 March 2011. Cabinet had accepted the recommendations in their entirety. Details of the recommendations and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet were provided in the Action Plan appended to the report.

The Economic Development Manager referred to the recommendation that HBC should provide assistance to organisations independently applying for funding. He noted that the Council had recently supported 5 regional growth bids which if successful could lead to the creation of over 2 thousand jobs. A bid had also been submitted to the DWP work programme on behalf of HBC, Adult Education and the Wharton Trust with the results imminent. An announcement was also expected on a forthcoming DWP Social Fund programme aimed at supporting families that were not economically active. There was expected to be £15million available in the North-East over 3 years. Members queried whether HBC would collaborate with other partners. The Economic Development Manager was unsure of the details but anticipated a consortium bid of between 2 and 10 partners would be needed. He would provide further details to the forum when they became available. Further funding opportunities including a JSA Plus Flexible Support Fund and an innovation fund supporting young people's employment prospects were also discussed.

Members highlighted the recent Government announcement on the collection of old business rates. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that the initial proposals had been watered down and it was hoped that through capping and other measures the current status quo would remain in place. It was designed as more of an incentive to create more business in areas. Members felt it might give the Council greater control over rate relief for struggling businesses however the Economic Development Manager commented that if the rates were returned to local authorities there may be a requirement to fund 100% which would be detrimental.

The Economic Development Manager referred to recent amendments to the procurement procedure requiring at least 2 local businesses be approached to supply goods and services to the Council where applicable. Members acknowledged this but felt that sometimes local businesses were forced to compete with more established national businesses to carry forward projects which may have initially been their idea. They felt that if local businesses brought forward innovative ideas they should be given the opportunity to pilot those ideas for a period. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods acknowledged the sentiment behind this but indicated that current processes as laid down by the Government gave no weight to social value despite the big society agenda. It is difficult for local companies and organisations to compete with the large national businesses financially.

The Chair queried whether the development of a 10 year jobs and economy strategy was too far reaching in light of the current economic climate. The Economic Development Manager acknowledged this but felt that it was

important to establish a 10-year vision although the action plan itself only covered a 3-year period. The 15-year Core Strategy would also be a key document in all aspects of the strategy.

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holders response and actions detailed within the Action Plan be noted.

5. Portfolio Holder's Response to the Investigation into Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing)

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) presented a report which provided Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum with feedback on the recommendations from the investigation into the 'Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse' which was reported to Cabinet on 23 May 2011. Cabinet had accepted the recommendations in their entirety. Details of the recommendations and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet were provided in the Action Plan appended to the report.

The Chair asked whether the investigation had led to an increase in male victims contacting the helpline. The Assistant Director advised that it was difficult to monitor trends in this way however 20% of all calls received reporting domestic violence issues were from men. Members felt that the investigation had highlighted a number of real concerns particularly in relation to the publicising of the support available. The Assistant Director acknowledged the soundness of the recommendations. However funding was an issue.

The Assistant Director informed members that the Council's Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, Laura Gourlay, had died recently. She would be sorely missed and her death would impact upon future services. Members asked that their condolences be sent to her family.

Members expressed disappointment that neither Portfolio Holders had come to the meeting to present the Cabinet response to the two Scrutiny investigations considered at today's meeting. The Committee requested that the Chair send a letter to the Mayor highlighting these concerns.

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holders response and actions detailed within the Action Plan be noted.

6. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

No items

7. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

No items

8. Role of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Scrutiny Manager submitted a report for Members' information which set out the role and remit of Scrutiny in general and specifically the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum. Details of the scheduled meetings for 2011/12 were also set out.

Recommendation

That the report be noted

9. Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme for 2011/12 (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer reported that at the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 24 June 2011, the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's Work Programme had been agreed for 2011/12 as follows:-

Forum Investigations

- Housing Regeneration
- Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults aged 19+

Budget Items

- Budget 2012/13
- Economic Development

However following further consideration the Chair proposed that Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults aged 19+ should be the sole topic for investigation during 2011/12. Members were in favour of the Employment and Training Opportunities investigation and were clear that the changing of the primary investigation topic in this way would not set a precedent for the future in terms of the Work Programme setting process. It

was also noted that by making this amendment the scoping report would be pushed back to the next meeting and the month which had ostensibly been gained by agreeing the scrutiny programmes in advance at Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee would be lost. Despite these concerns however members clarified that they would support the amendment of the investigation topic.

Recommendation

That the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum work programme be amended to allow Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults aged 19+ to be the sole topic of investigation and that a revised work programme be submitted to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 25 July for approval.

10. Issues identified from the Forward Plan

No items

The meeting concluded at 3:50pm

CHAIR

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

1 September 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG
ADULTS AGED 19 TO 25 – SCOPING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum for their forthcoming investigation into Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults Aged 19 to 25.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 21 July 2011, Members determined their work programme for the 2011/12 Municipal Year. The issue of 'Employment and Training Opportunities for Young People Aged 19 to 25' was selected as the topic for consideration during the current Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Youth unemployment in Hartlepool continues to be above the regional and national average; Hartlepool 16.2%, North East 9.9% and Great Britain 7.5%. The percentage of youth unemployed of the total unemployed in Hartlepool is 32%. The Government have introduced a range of measures under the Get Britain Working Campaign to support the unemployed back into work including specific measures for young people such as the Work Programme, the New Enterprise Allowance Scheme, Work Experience and Sector based academies.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 3.1 To explore and evaluate the issue of training and employment opportunities in Hartlepool for young people aged 19 to 25.

4. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION/ENQUIRY

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the investigation/review are proposed:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the issue of training and employment opportunities for young people aged 19 to 25, with particular reference to the very vulnerable who fall in to this category;
- (b) To explore/evaluate the services currently provided in Hartlepool to young people aged 19 to 25, not in employment, education or training and the effectiveness of these services. To include details of:-
 - (i) services provided by the Local Authority (including 19+ Connexions services);
 - (ii) areas of partnership working and service provision;
 - (iii) transition arrangements for those moving from Connexions;
 - (iv) potential gaps in service provision.
- (c) To consider the views of the young unemployed in Hartlepool, those in training or who have successfully used services available, and also the views of local employers on the effectiveness of service provision;
- (d) To gain an understanding of the impact of current and future budget pressures, future funding streams and the potential development local enterprise zones on the opportunities for employment and training open to this cohort of young people;
- (e) To explore and consider how support for young people aged 19 to 25 not in employment, education or training should be provided in the future (giving due regard to *term of reference (d)*).

5. POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENQUIRY / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

- 5.1 Members of the Forum can request a range of evidential and comparative information throughout the Scrutiny review.
- 5.2 The Forum can invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of a balanced and focused range of recommendations as follows:-
- (a) Member of Parliament for Hartlepool;
 - (b) Elected Mayor;

- (c) Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development and the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services;
- (d) Director and/or appropriate officers of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department and the Child and Adult Services Department;
- (e) Local employers and young people who use services;
- (f) Another Local Authority as an example of 'good practice';
- (g) Appropriate national / regional organisations, the Voluntary and Community Service and partner agencies (i.e. Job Centre Plus, OFCA, Advance, Westview Project, Federation of Small Businesses);
- (h) Representatives of minority communities of interest or heritage; and
- (i) Ward Councillors.

5.3 The Forum may also wish to refer to a variety of documentary / internet sources, key suggestions are as highlighted below:-

- (a) http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/1679/scrutiny_final_reports-youth_unemployment; (**Appendix B**)
- (b) http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/1680/scrutiny_final_reports-youth_unemployment_appendix_a; (**Appendix C**)
- (c) http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7275/scrutiny_final_report-working_neighbourhoods_fund. (**Appendix D**)

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

- 6.1 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the Scrutiny process and diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. Based upon the research undertaken, paragraph 5.2 includes suggestions as to potential groups which the Forum may wish involve throughout the inquiry (where it is felt appropriate and time allows).

7. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE DEDICATED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUDGET

- 7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report, to the need to request funding from the dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry. At this stage no additional funding has been identified as being necessary to support Members

in their investigation. Members, however, may wish to seek additional funding over the course of the investigation and the pro forma attached at **Appendix A** outlines the criteria on which a request to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be judged.

8. PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 8.1 Detailed below is the proposed timetable for the review to be undertaken, which may be changed at any stage:-

1 September 2011

‘Setting the Scene’ – Report/Presentation covering *Term of Reference (a)* to include details of:-

- (i) The number of young unemployed aged 19 to 25 not in education, employment and training in Hartlepool, including the identification of the numbers in particularly vulnerable groups (i.e. young parents, carers, 19 year olds leaving care, homelessness and dependency issues);
- (ii) Brief overview of training, employment and guidance services available to young people in Hartlepool and services specific to vulnerable young people in the 19 to 25 age group and not in employment, education or training;
- (iii) Local economic trends and factors which may contribute to this issue;
- (iv) Where Hartlepool sits in comparison to regional and national figures in this area.

29 September 2011

Evidence gathering – Reports / presentations covering *Term of reference (b)*

- (i) Detailed overview of training, employment and guidance services available to young people in Hartlepool. To include details of:
 - Local Authority Provision (including services provided above statutory requirements);
 - The Connexions service, (with specific reference to those aged 19-25 with learning and physical disabilities who still access the Connexions Service);
 - Areas of partnership working;

- (ii) Detailed overview of services specific to vulnerable young people in the 19 to 25 age group and over not in employment, education or training (as detailed above) including those with learning disabilities and physical disabilities who remain within the Connexions Service;
- (iii) An analysis of the effectiveness of local authority and partner services (including drop out rates and identified gaps in service provision);
- (iv) An update on the progress of the actions arising from the previous Youth Unemployment and Working Neighbourhood Funds scrutiny investigations and current departmental targets in this area.

24 November 2011

Evidence gathering – Reports / presentations covering *Term of Reference (b)*

- (i) Invitation to be extended to partners agencies to provide details of the services delivered to this age group;
- (ii) Invitation to be extended to another Local Authority to give evidence as an example of good practice in this area.

Between 24 November 2011 and 19 January 2011 –

Hold focus groups to hear the views of the young unemployed in Hartlepool, those in training or who have used services successfully.

19 January 2011

Evidence gathering – Reports / presentations covering *Term of reference (c)*

- (i) Feed back from focus groups;
- (ii) Invitation to hear the views of local employers on the effectiveness of training and employment services in preparing young people aged 19 to 25 for work;
- (iii) Evidence from the Portfolio Holder (subject to availability);
- (iv) Evidence from the M.P. (subject to availability).

2 February 2012

Evidence gathering – Reports / presentations covering *Terms of reference (d) & (e)*

- (i) To gain an understanding of the challenges facing the provision of services in the future in light of the current economic situation;
- (ii) Details of potential employment and training opportunities that may be created in the advent of regional enterprise zones, and suggestions as to how the young unemployed in Hartlepool can be best prepared to appeal to potential new employers;
- (iii) Identification by the Forum of suggestions for improvements to the way services can be provided in the future or alternative ways to achieve desired outcomes, giving consideration to the current economic climate and the greater demands places on services.

8 March 2012 - Consideration of Draft Final Report

13 April 2012 – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

14 May 2012 – Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet/Council (tentative date)

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Members are recommended to agree the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's remit of the Scrutiny investigation as outlined in paragraph 4.1.

Contact Officer: - Elaine Hind - Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executives Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: - 01429 523647
Email:- elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper(s) was/were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Hartlepool Borough Council Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum Final Report into Youth Unemployment May 2007.

APPENDIX A

**PRO-FORMA TO REQUEST FUNDING TO SUPPORT
CURRENT SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

Title of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
Title of the current scrutiny investigation for which funding is requested:
To clearly identify the purpose for which additional support is required:
To outline indicative costs to be incurred as a result of the additional support:
To outline any associated timescale implications:
To outline the 'added value' that may be achieved by utilising the additional support as part of the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:

To outline any requirements / processes to be adhered to in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules / Standing Orders:

To outline the possible disadvantages of not utilising the additional support during the undertaking of the Scrutiny Investigation:

To outline any possible alternative means of additional support outside of this proposal:

CABINET

11 June 2007



Report of: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT – FINAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into Youth Unemployment.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 16 June 2006 Members considered potential work programme items for the 2006/07 municipal year. During this meeting Members of this Forum selected the 'Youth Unemployment' topic as its second main Scrutiny investigations for the current municipal year. Youth Unemployment is one of the key economic targets included in the Hartlepool Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and Best Value Performance Plan.
- 2.2 Members selected the topic from an appendix attached to the 'Determining the Work Programme' report submitted at the Forum's meeting on 16 June 2006. This appendix contained a list of the Authority's Performance Indicators of relevance to the remit of this Forum. Under the Corporate Plan Objective JE9, "To support young people to gain suitable employment," Members identified the *Local Area Agreement (LAA) target 2.5*, which focuses on the youth unemployment rate in Hartlepool, as an issue they wished to investigate. The outturn figure for this issue in 2005/06 was 36% (Nov 05) against a 2006/07 target of 31% and a 2008/09 LAA target of 30%. The target is measured by the proportion of Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) Claimants who are aged 18-24 years old, where the overall claimant count is 100%.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 To gain an understanding of the issues around Youth Unemployment and to suggest areas for improvement.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the review were agreed by the Forum:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of why the level of Youth Unemployment has risen as a percentage of the overall unemployment level;
- (b) To gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in Hartlepool who have some responsibility for tackling Youth Unemployment;
- (c) To examine the role of the Authority as a non-statutory service provider in relation to Youth Unemployment, and in particular its role in Economic Development;
- (d) To gain the views of young people who are unemployed in relation to this issue; and
- (e) To identify suggested areas for improvement in relation to the Youth Unemployment rate.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM

5.1 Membership of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum for the 2006/7 Municipal Year:-

Councillors R W Cook, S Cook, Gibbon, Laffey, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, Richardson, Wallace, D Waller and Wright.

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson and Iris Ryder

6. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

6.1 Over the course of the investigation Members have considered evidence from a wide variety of sources, including:

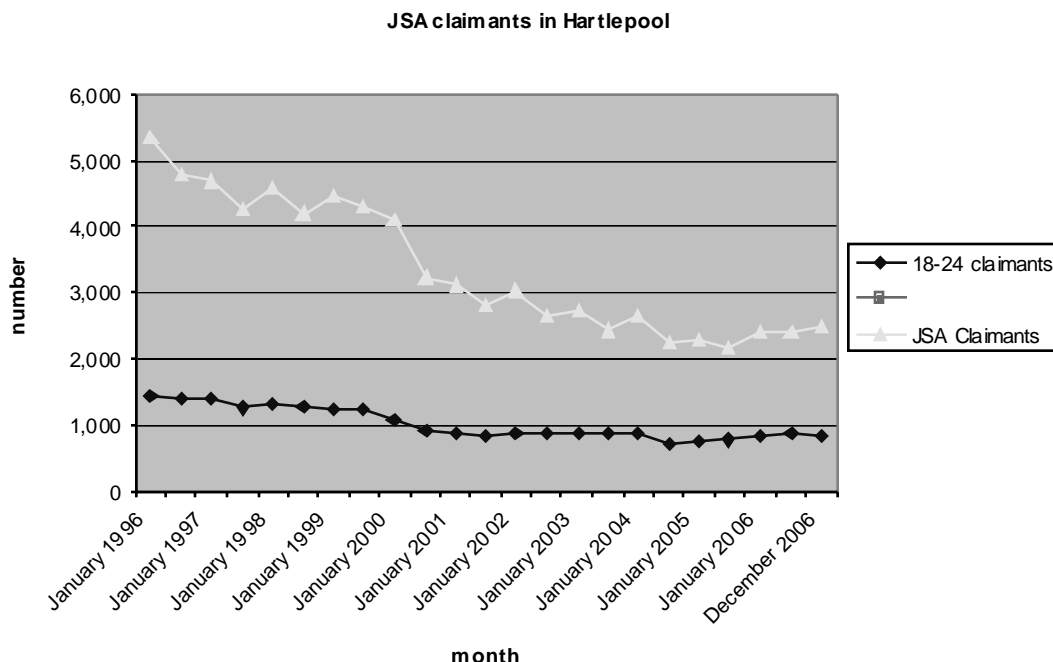
- (a) Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) Officers;
- (b) Representative from Job Centre Plus;
- (c) Representative from Connexions (submitted written evidence);
- (d) Representative from the Learning and Skills Council (submitted written evidence);

- (e) Representative from Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) – potentially seek involvement of HVDA as ‘umbrella’ organisation.
 - (f) Focus Group with unemployed young people – fed into the Forum through *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base* report on 23 February 2007; and
- 6.2 In addition the Economic Development Service commissioned a report on, *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base*. The research took place between November 2006 and January 2007. The first stage of the research involved a review of the existing data using NOMIS (who produce official labour market statistics) and Joint Strategy Unit (JSU) reports, comparing the data where possible, to the rest of Tees Valley and the UK; focusing on indicators in relation to claimant count, economic activity and inactivity, worklessness, the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) group and destinations of school leavers. This data was supplemented by qualitative anecdotal information from semi structured interviews with individuals and focus groups as well as responses to questionnaires. Consultation took place with 18 representatives from the public, private and voluntary sector as well as interviews and focus groups with 10 young people.
- 6.3 The findings from the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base* report have been used extensively in the production of this final report.

FINDINGS

7. Causes of the Level of Youth Unemployment Increasing as a Percentage of the Overall Unemployment Level

- 7.1 As can be seen from the chart (below), overall unemployment (as measured in terms of claimant count JSA) has declined from a high of 5357 in 1996 to just over 2500 in January 2004 with 18-24 claimants reducing from a high of over 1400 to fewer than 800. However, during this period, the rate of 18-24 claimants measured as a proportion of overall JSA claimants fluctuated between 27% and reaching a high of 35% in the same period. Consequently, the overall number of Hartlepool residents claiming JSA has declined at a greater rate than that of the 18-24 year old age group. Recently there has been a steady increase in the overall numbers of young people claiming JSA, from under 700 in January 2005 to nearly 900 by September 2006, although during the last two months this figure has reduced by 10% to 805 in November 2006.



7.2 In 2001 the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) produced a report providing a snapshot of the local economy in 2000 and found some defining characteristics:

- (a) Slack labour market;
- (b) Low wage levels;
- (c) Lowered expectations of work and attainment; and
- (d) High availability and provision of training.

7.3 At this time unemployment was at 10.9% (February 2000). Over the last six years unemployment has reduced to 4.5% (September 2006) but the characteristics of the labour market remain similar.

7.4 The table below identifies the percentage of young people in the 16-18 cohort 'in learning'; 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' (NEET); 'in employment'; and those 'not known'.

	Hartlepool	Tees Valley	England
16-18 Cohort Profile	2950	21209	1125658
% In learning	70.2	71.2	75.2
% NEET	11.7	12.4	8.6
% In employment	17.2	15.5	17.9
% Not known	4.00	4.8	5.4

Source: Connexions Tees Valley

In Learning

7.5 Hartlepool compares well with Tees Valley and England in terms of the number of young people in learning with 70.2% of this cohort in learning in

Hartlepool compared to 71.2% in Tees Valley and 75.2% in England. Of those in learning, 58.2% are in education – slightly lower than Tees Valley (59.4%) and lower than England at 65.6%. 3.3% of those in learning are in employment with training – consistent with Tees Valley but significantly lower than in England (6.4%). 8.7% of those in learning in Hartlepool are on government supported schemes. Both Hartlepool and Tees Valley are significantly higher than England at 3.2%. Data on qualifications from the JSU shows that Hartlepool has higher rates of people achieving NVQ level 1 and 2 than Tees Valley, the region or nationally, but lower rates of those achieving trade apprenticeships.

In Employment

- 7.6 The number of young people in employment in Hartlepool compares well with England and is higher than in the Tees Valley. However, data indicates that a significant proportion of this employment is part time (65%) (NOMIS Jan-March 2006). During the consultation process for the production of, *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base*, concerns were expressed that education and training were not linked closely enough to the labour market and employers, and that the curriculum and training programmes do not prepare young people for the labour market.

NEET

- 7.7 The NEET figures for Hartlepool are higher than England but lower than the Tees Valley at 11.7%. The NEET group can be broken down into those available for work and those not available for work. In relation to Hartlepool, those NEETs available for work make up 7.9% of the overall 11.7% with those not available for work making up 3.6%. This is significantly higher than Tees Valley at 2.8% and almost three times the rate for England at 1.3%.
- 7.8 Consultation for the, *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base*, report with agencies and organisations revealed a number of factors that lead young people to becoming NEET:
- (a) Disengaging from learning at school;
 - (b) Low skills and qualifications;
 - (c) Low aspirations – linked to generational unemployment;
 - (d) Lack of confidence to access support networks when things go wrong;
and
 - (e) Wider social issues e.g. homelessness, dependency issues, mental health issues, teenage pregnancy, caring responsibilities, young people in care.
- 7.9 Analysis of vulnerable young people reveals that Hartlepool has the highest percentage of teenage parents of all local authority areas in England. Furthermore, the data indicates that only 50% of 19 year old care leavers in the town are in education, employment or training (EET), therefore,

correspondingly 50% are NEET or not known. This trend is replicated in Tees Valley (with the exception of Redcar and Cleveland) and England.

Not Knowns

- 7.10 Hartlepool has a lower number of 'not knowns' than Tees Valley but is higher than England. Hartlepool in particular has made a significant improvement in reducing the numbers of not knowns at 16 – a reduction of 83% since June 2005 and has also made an impact on the 17 and 18 year olds, however, 18 year olds still make up 70% of those not known.
- 7.11 Discussions with Connexions in the consultation for the, *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base*, report highlighted that destinations of those aged 17 and 18 are much harder to trace at 18 as many sign on and 'shift' contact from Connexions, as a young people's service, to Job Centre Plus. The two agencies have started to share data to enable closer tracking of young people aged 17-18. The higher numbers of not known at 17 and 18 can in part be explained by the difficulty in tracking them, however, this would also be consistent with a significant number of 17 and 18 year olds dropping out of training programmes as highlighted in the previous sections.

Employment and Worklessness

- 7.12 The following table shows a profile of young people in the town in relation to employment and worklessness (May 2006). Due to how data is collected and collated it is not possible to analyse the data consistently across age groups and categories, however, the data in the table below provides an indication of the numbers in each category.

Indicator	16-17 years	16-19 years	18-24 years	20-24 years	Total
Unemployment (JSA Claimants)			820		820
Employment		2300		3700	6000
Income Support	50		730		780
Incapacity Benefit	30		410		440
Workless/Not known (remainder of population)					2560
Total					10,600
Ward with highest unemployment	Stranton				

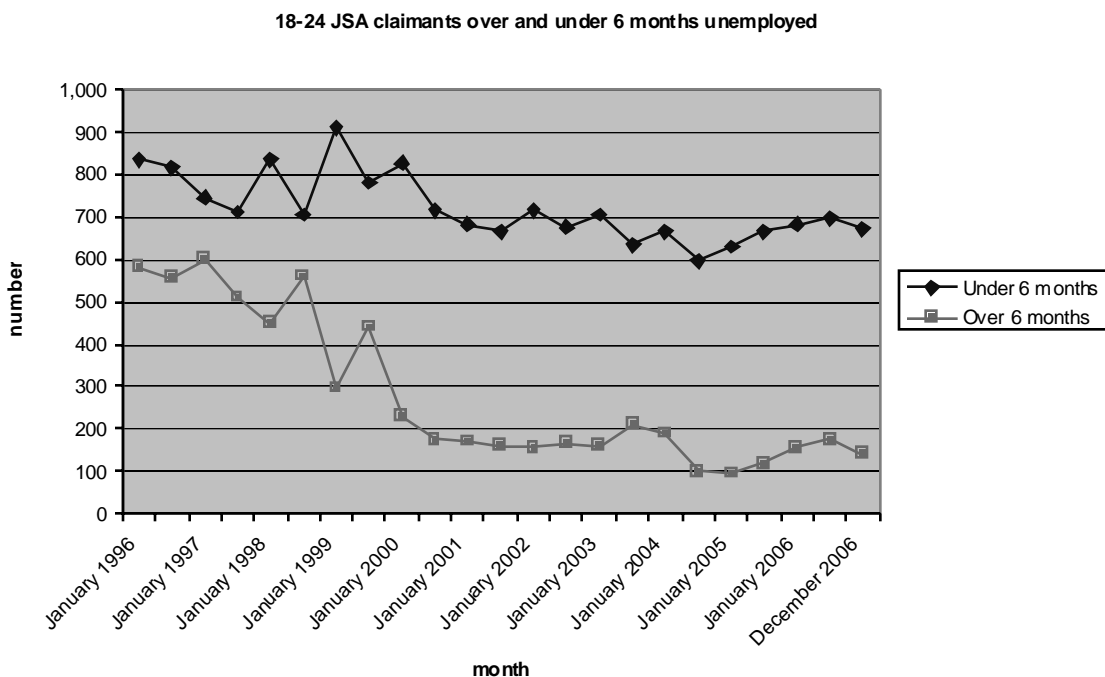
- 7.13 67% of the 16-24 age groups are in employment, with almost 8% unemployed. 7% of the cohort is claiming income support and 4% are claiming Incapacity Benefit. When this data is compared with the corresponding rates for the 25-retirement age group, (3.7% unemployed, 14%

Incapacity benefit, 10% income support), the rates of unemployment and income support would seem high – however, this concurs with the data indicating that youth unemployment has reduced at a slower rate than overall unemployment but it would also be anticipated that the high incidence of teenage pregnancy amongst this age group would impact on the income support rate.

- 7.14 Furthermore, whilst the incapacity benefit rate for this group does not appear overly high in relation to the older age group – there are 440 young people on incapacity benefit. It is highlighted in the, *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base*, report that this figure does give cause for concern given the Government's green paper - *A New Deal for Welfare Empowering People to Work* (January 2006) which stated that, "after two years on Incapacity Benefit, a person is more likely to die or retire than to find a new job". Furthermore, the report questions whether this means that 4% of the 16-24 age groups could potentially be looking at long term benefit dependency?

Claimant count and duration of unemployment

- 7.15 A closer look at the data reveals that the rate of unemployment is affected according to how long a young person has been unemployed. The following chart shows that those young people who have been unemployed for over 6 months have seen a significantly greater reduction in the numbers unemployed over the period than for those unemployed under 6 months.



Source: NOMIS

- 7.16 Those unemployed over 6 months are eligible for New Deal and it is this group that have seen a downward trend of 84% from its peak of 600 in January 1997 to its lowest point of 95 in January 2005. However, the numbers in this group have also started to increase steadily from this point, increasing to 175 in July 2006, although this figure has since come down to 140 in December 2006.
- 7.17 Those unemployed for less than 6 months have not seen the corresponding reduction in numbers. This group has seen a 35% reduction from its peak of 910 in January 1999 to its lowest point of 595 in July 2004. It would appear that the lower rate of reduction amongst this group is keeping the overall 18-24 rate at the 'high' identified in the baseline data. This trend is repeated across Tees Valley. Redcar and Cleveland have the lowest reduction in this claimant group of 33%. Further exploration of the factors impacting on the under 6 month unemployed group is required.

'Churn'

- 7.18 The term 'Churn' is used to explain the number of young people moving on and off the unemployment claimant count. The table below shows the 'on' and the 'off flow' for unemployed young people across the Tees Valley, the region and nationally for those aged under 25 years.

	On flow		Off Flow		On flow under 25 years		Off Flow under 25 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darlington	495	29.4	520	30.9	210	42.7	220	42.7
Hartlepool	585	24.4	590	24.7	280	48.2	245	41.6
Middlesbrough	945	23.5	1010	25.2	430	45.7	445	44.0
Redcar & Cleveland	835	27.3	860	28.2	415	49.7	400	46.7
Stockton	1130	29.1	1030	26.6	480	42.4	435	42.1
Tees Valley	3985	26.6	4015	26.6	1815	45.6	1750	43.5
North East	14060	28.2	14190	28.5	6375	45.3	6080	42.8
Great Britain	242735	26.0	233610	25.1	103445	42.6	90995	39.0

Source: JSU July 2006

- 7.19 Hartlepool has slightly lower numbers of those signing on and off the register than in Tees Valley, the North East or nationally. However, amongst those aged under 25 years, Hartlepool has a higher percentage (48%) signing on than that of the sub region, the region or nationally. For those signing off the register, Hartlepool's rate is lower than Tees Valley and the region but higher than the national rate. This indicates significant churn amongst this age group.

7.20 The table below provides the reasons why young people sign off the register.

Reason for leaving claimant count – 18-24 year olds	January 2006	April 2006	July 2006	October 2006
Found work	40	80	60	70
Increases work to 16+ hours/week	0	5	5	5
Gone abroad	0	0	10	0
Claimed Income Support	15	5	10	5
Claimed Sickness Benefit	-	-	-	-
Claimed Incapacity Benefit	5	5	15	20
Claimed another benefit	0	0	0	0
Gone to full-time education	0	0	0	15
Gone onto approved training	0	5	5	5
Transfer to Govt-supported training	15	45	20	40
Retirement age reached	0	0	0	0
Automatic credits payable	0	0	0	0
Claims back-to-work bonus	0	0	0	0
Gone to prison	0	0	0	0
Attending court	0	0	0	0
New claim review	0	0	0	0
Defective claim	0	0	5	0
Ceased claiming	0	0	0	5
Deceased	0	0	0	0
Not known	15	10	25	25
Failed to sign	90	120	90	110
Total	180	285	245	300

- These figures are missing. Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source: NOMIS

7.21 A snap shot of 'flow off' the register in 2006 taken at quarterly intervals shows that by far the most common reason for leaving the claimant count is failure to sign amongst this age group – accounting for between 37-50%, with finding work second (22-28%), and transfer to government supported training programme next (8-16%) with not known accounting for between 3-10%. Those signing off JSA to claim another benefit (incapacity and income support) account for 3.5-11%. It is not clear from the data how many of those transferring to Government supported training are young people on New Deal transferring to the options period.

7.22 The data also indicates a slightly greater churn amongst those young people unemployed under 6 months. It has not been possible to analyse the data further but consultation suggests a number of reasons for the slower reduction in the rate of those under 6 months unemployed and the significant churn on and off the register:

- (a) Avoidance of New Deal – 'the threat effect'. Young people are signing off the register before they are eligible for New Deal to take up employment or training, transfer to another benefit or fail to sign – only to sign on at a later date.

- (b) This creates the potential for churn between those claimants unemployed for over 6 months and those unemployed for under 6 months. If a young person who is eligible for New Deal signs off or fails to sign for 13 weeks, they break their eligibility for New Deal and return to under the 6 months unemployed category. Given that failure to sign is the most common reason for claimants in this age group signing off the register, there is a significant possibility that this kind of churn is taking place. Without further in depth analysis – the extent of this is not possible to gauge. Those who complete the gateway, options and follow through parts of New Deal return to JSA and have to complete another 26 weeks on JSA before they are eligible again for New Deal however, they are still counted in the 6+ unemployed category. To reduce this incidence of 'churn' amongst the 25+ claimants on New Deal, the eligibility criteria was amended – claimants would be eligible for New Deal if they had claimed JSA for 18 months over a 21 month period.
- (c) Young people dropping out of training and signing on. Discussions with young people and agencies indicate a number of possible reasons for this:
- 1) Young people completing the first year of their training who are then unable to secure a placement to complete their second year of training. These young people then join the claimant count when they are eighteen years old.
 - 2) Young people leaving school and start training but have no clear direction or progression route in mind. They later drop out as this was not the appropriate progression route for them.
 - 3) Young people leave school and embark on NVQ level 2 training. The progression routes available at this stage include level 3 training and university or employment. For those not 'academically' able to progress to a level 3 or University, the links to the labour market after completing their level 2 are not always visible or achievable. This may also link in with the high number of those at 18 who are 'not known' to Connexions.

7.23 Furthermore, the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report* identifies a number of barriers to young people accessing and progressing in the local labour market:

- (a) Employability skills** – it was felt that many young people lack key employability and life skills. From discussions with employers and training providers it is possible to see their role developing into one of 'parent', providing 'life skills' support to young people e.g. help with managing money, personal hygiene, getting to work/training on time, taking responsibility for their actions.

- (b) **Basic skills-** concern was expressed that despite significant funding to support the improvement of basic skills, this was still a major barrier to young people accessing and progressing in training or the labour market. Changes to the New Deal programme in Hartlepool have seen the introduction of basic skills support in the gateway period to assist with job search and progression to training.
- (c) **Generational unemployment** - it was felt that young people lack role models in relation to training and employment and that this was limiting their aspirations. 7 out of 10 of the young people interviewed stated their parents and other family members were not working – a significant number of parents had caring responsibilities either for other siblings or relatives. The issue was also raised that worklessness was increasingly concentrated in families and communities where a culture of worklessness and benefit dependency was the 'norm' and an accepted way of life. Since 1996 the number of families on benefits with children under 15 in the town has increased overall. However, single parent families have significantly decreased. This could be an indication that New Deal for Lone Parents is having an impact on lone parent's families.
- (d) **Structural issues** - Benefit dependency was felt to impact on the group identified above, particularly in relation to a young person's status (e.g. in learning, unemployed working) and its impact on the family's benefits. It was also felt to be an issue where young people were claiming incapacity benefit, where minimum wage jobs are not that attractive in comparison.
- (e) **Macroeconomic issues** – there was felt to be a lack of jobs resulting in a significant number of young people taking up training.
- (f) **Recruitment and training of young people** – Employers were not always clear about "how to go about" recruiting young people under the age of 18. Where recruitment and retention of young people had been successful this was attributed to:
- Good local networks – local businesses embedded in local communities
 - Employer had employed the young person straight from school and invested significant training and support. One employer felt that when young people leave education/training at 18-20 they were less inclined to "learn a trade and more difficult to mould".
 - Employer assumes the 'parent role' providing significant social and emotional support to young people.

7.24 During discussions of this item Members expressed concern that the process of claimants signing off the unemployment register to go abroad and re-signing onto it when returning from abroad was contributing towards unemployment figures, and 'churn' in particular, and that this should be challenged, wherever possible.

Impact of mainstream provision

- 7.25 The *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report* argues that it is possible to conclude that mainstream support is impacting positively on young people aged 16-18 in Hartlepool because the majority of young people in this cohort are engaged in Education, employment or training (EET) - 87%, and the NEET group and the 'not know n' have both seen reductions in Hartlepool.
- 7.26 However, the data and qualitative information highlights a number of areas for further consideration:
- (a) There are vulnerable groups within the NEET group who require targeted and intensive support – in particular teenage parents and young carers.
 - (b) Young people appear to be dropping out of training and potentially contributing to the significant number of 'not know n' aged 17 and 18 in Hartlepool.
 - (c) Young people still seem unsure about progression routes and the need for more targeted vocational Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) linked to the local labour market as identified.
 - (d) There was a general consensus that training and education was not adequately preparing young people for the labour market. Whilst Hartlepool has high rates of people achieving NVQ level 1 and 2, how far is this training improving their employability and assisting them to get jobs?
 - (e) Young people are 'turned off' by traditional learning styles, particularly if they have basic skills issues.
 - (f) The young people interviewed and feedback from agencies identified a very clear lack of aspiration and inspiration with some of the provision available

8. Roles and Responsibilities of the Various Stakeholders in Hartlepool who have some Responsibility for Tackling Youth Unemployment

- 8.1 Over the course of this Scrutiny Investigation each of the major stakeholders that exercise some responsibility for this issue have been invited to attend the Forum to provide evidence. These bodies are:
- (a) Job Centre Plus;
 - (b) The Learning and Skills Council;
 - (c) Connexions; and
 - (d) The Community and Voluntary Sector.

Jobcentre Plus

- 8.2 Jobcentre Plus is a government agency supporting people of a working age from welfare into work, and helping employers to fill their vacancies. They are part of the Department of Work and Pensions and play a major role in supporting the Department's aim to, 'promote opportunity and independence for all through modern, customer-focused services.' Initially a new claim for

JSA has a work focused interview. If the claimant has been claiming Hardship for longer than 6 months they will immediately be available for New Deal. At 13 weeks of unemployment about 70% of claimants have got employment at this stage. At 6 months unemployment they move onto New Deal for Young people.

- 8.3 At a macro level youth unemployment was identified as a key economic issue by the current Government and in 1998 and the New Deal for Young People was introduced to provide a series of cohesive and integrated interventions that aimed to improve the skills and employability of young people.
- 8.4 The New Deal is delivered by Jobcentre Plus, an executive agency of the Department of Work and Pensions and elements of the programme are sub-contracted to external public, private and voluntary sector organisations that provide training, work placements and personal development support. Each person is provided with a Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisor who is responsible for supporting the claimant through the New Deal journey to the point whereby employment is secured. The New Deal is a mandatory programme, and JSA claimants are expected to participate in programmes that will meet the objectives of individual job seeker agreements. Benefit entitlement can be affected if the young person fails to adhere to the requirements of the programme in relation to attendance and timekeeping.
- 8.5 During the evidence gathering session with the representative from Jobcentre Plus Members focused on the need to make jobs and employment attractive to young people. The issue of low wages for potentially unrewarding jobs was discussed and it was felt that employment needed to be sufficiently attractive for some young people to move them away from benefits.
- 8.6 At the following meeting of this Forum on 22 March 2007 Members questioned the impact that the six month period of unemployment as a qualification for New Deal training programmes was having on the unemployed claimant count. It was argued that some young people may be remaining unemployed specifically to access training courses through the New Deal programme. It was indicated to Members that the New Deal programme had been set up with the intention of responding to the key issue of young people who had been unemployed for over six months and that the programmes were geared towards improving the skills and employability of young people that had been unemployed for this length of time. Nevertheless, Members argued that the Authority should be lobbying for enhanced flexibility in the delivery of the New Deal programme so that young people could access training courses if they were unemployed for less than six months.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

- 8.7 Representatives of the LSC were unable to attend the Forum's evidence gathering session with external partners. However, they were eager to be involved in the process and submitted written evidence to the Forum instead. This sub-section draws on the written information provided by LSC.

- 8.8 The LSC plan and invest in high quality education and training for young people and adults that will build a skilled and competitive workforce. They help employers to get the training and skills they need for their business. The LSC are transforming the further education sector to meet the needs of employers and the local community. They are committed to improving learning opportunities for everyone.
- 8.9 The LSC is working towards the following regional priorities as detailed in the Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council Annual Plan 2006 – 07:
- (a) Increase employer demand for, and investment in, skills.
 - (b) Raise individual aspirations and demand for learning and provide individuals with opportunities throughout life to achieve their aspirations and embrace change.
 - (c) Enable those excluded from the Labour market to access learning and sustainable employment.
 - (d) Ensure all individuals have the foundations for employability – the attainment of Skills for Life and a first level 2 qualification.
 - (e) Increase the achievement of intermediate and higher level skills to support growth, innovation and productivity.
 - (f) Enable colleges and learning providers to be more responsive to employers' and learners' needs.
- 8.10 Following a joint mapping exercise by the LSC and Hartlepool LA it was found that there was no significant gaps in provision in this age band with the exception of level 3 in Accounting and Horticulture. However, NEET remains stubbornly high despite working in collaboration with Connexions on a number of projects. A review of the young people classified as NEET has highlighted that young people from vulnerable groups form a higher than expected percentage of the NEET group. Local Area Agreements have identified these groups and projects have been introduced to target these vulnerable groups. Specific actions that will be taken, across the Tees Valley, to reduce the NEET group will include:
- (a) Via the European Social Fund provision of programmes of support for 500 13-17 year olds at risk of joining the NEET;
 - (b) Provide 300 additional places on pre E2E programmes; and
 - (c) Deliver a programme of education business link activity to include 8,200 work experience places, 100 professional days for teachers and 250 employers engaged in work related activity.
- 8.11 The LSC collaborates with the following organisations in relation to this issue: Jobcentre Plus; Connexions; the Local Authority; Schools; Colleges; Work-based Learning Providers; Sector Skills Councils; and Local employers.

Connexions

- 8.12 Representatives of Connexions were unable to attend the Forum's evidence gathering session with external partners. However, they were eager to be

involved in the process and submitted written evidence to the Forum instead. This sub-section draws on the written information provided by Connexions.

- 8.13 Connexions is a relatively recent statutory service, created under the Learning & Skills Act 2000 in order to, *“encourage, enable or assist, directly or indirectly, young people’s effective participation in learning”* (Section 114).
- 8.14 The Connexions service also totally subsumed the responsibilities and budgets of the previous Careers Service, created under the still extant 1973 Employment & Training Act in order to *“assist young persons undergoing relevant education to decide what employments, having regard to their capabilities, will be suitable for and available to them when they cease undergoing such education; and what training or education is, or will be required, by and available to them, in order to fit them for those employments.”* (Section 8 as amended by Trade Union Reform & Employment Rights Act 1993).
- 8.15 Since 2002 Connexions partnerships have had a responsibility to report the current known destinations of all 16-19 year olds who have completed compulsory education. Throughout its brief history, all 47 Connexions Partnerships have been set targets by DfES, via its annual planning guidance, to reduce the levels of youth unemployment amongst those aged 16-18 in particular. Initially all partnerships were asked to reduce youth unemployment by one tenth (10%) between November 2002 and November 2004, and subsequently by varying levels (depending on previous baselines) between November 2004 – November 2006.
- 8.16 These targets were the forerunners of the current national DfES PSA target 12 to reduce Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs) by 2 percentage points from 8% to 6% over the period 2004 to 2010. With the demise of subregional Connexions services, these targets have now manifested themselves, with an annual trajectory, as part of local authorities’ Local Area Agreement targets.
- 8.17 During discussions at the informal meeting of this Forum on 8 March 2007 it was recognised that Connexions is being brought under the remit of the Local Authority. Consequently, Members suggested that the Authority (and Economic Development and Children’s Services, in particular) seek to work closely with Connexions to support young people to achieve economic well-being.
- 8.18 The key elements of provision by Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and Connexions Tees Valley (this sub regional service will be disaggregated in April 2007) have been included in the table below. Delivery of programmes can be via a range of contractors from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Provider	Provision	Key Elements
Job Centre Plus	<p>Support for people of working age</p> <p>Under 6 months unemployed –</p> <p>Over 6 months unemployed</p> <p>New Deal for Young People 18-24 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory programme • Must have been claiming JSA for 6 months to be eligible for the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active help from personal advisers to find work to meet individual needs • Jobseeker Direct is a job vacancy phone service • All young people assigned Personal Adviser • Assistance to draw up action plan • 'Gateway' for up to 4 months – regular meetings with Personal Adviser and then move into full time help/package of support • Option period: during this time the young person receives a training allowance equivalent to JSA and may also receive a £15.38 top up • Options include: work experience, placements with employer or voluntary organisation, courses to develop skills employers want, help applying for jobs. • At end of option period if not found employment or moved into training they young person returns to JSA for 'follow through' period.
Learning and Skills Council	<p>Improving the skills of young people and adults to ensure a workforce of world-class standard.</p> <p>Apprenticeships -</p> <p>Entry to Employment (E2E)</p> <p>Further Education</p> <p>1st level 2 Entitlement</p> <p>Adult & Community Learning</p>	<p>A work-based learning programme that allows employers to train existing staff and new young people. The programme involves key skills qualification as well as technical certificate eg BTEC, City and Guilds. Lasts between 1-4 yrs.</p> <p>Programme aimed at young people aged 16 – 18 who are not involved in employment, education or training; aims to prepare the learner for employment in the apprenticeship programme through work placements and/or training.</p> <p>Courses can be full or part time, academic or vocational. Providers fall broadly into five categories: agriculture and horticulture colleges; art, design and performing arts colleges; general FE and tertiary colleges; sixth form colleges; and specialist designated institutions.</p> <p>Priority given to those learners who have not already achieved this standard.</p> <p>Support a diverse range of community-based and outreach learning opportunities.</p>

	Skills for Life – National LSC Train to Gain -for businesses,	Initiative for improving literacy, numeracy and language (ESOL) skills. Skills Brokers match any training needs identified with training providers ensure that training is delivered to meet business needs.
Connexions Tees Valley	Offers a family of services Valley including impartial and accessible information, advice and guidance for 13-19 year olds	Service delivered by teams of Personal Advisers located at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools and colleges • community locations • youth facilities • one stop shops in high street locations As well as the Connexions Tees Valley website. Support offered includes: Support learning, removing barriers to progression, raising aspirations and creating opportunities to enter education, employment or training.

The Community and Voluntary Sector

- 8.19 A representative of HVDA, who manages Millennium Volunteers, provided verbal evidence to Forum. It was argued that the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) can identify needs and fill in gaps not provided by statutory providers. In the CVS in the town only two organisations offer support specifically for young people, these are Brougham Annex and OFCA. However other CVS organisations provide support to young people on an ad hoc basis. For example, the West View Project takes young people away on confidence building weekends.
- 8.20 Through volunteering young people can gain skills and confidence. Volunteering can be an important stepping stone into work. Indeed, through Millennium Volunteers (MV) many young people move on to get jobs. Of the 35 young people who were unemployed and volunteered through MV last year 25 felt they had gained employment through volunteering.
- 8.21 Over the course of the investigation Members were generally supportive of the CVS's role in providing services for tackling youth unemployment. It was argued that the CVS's role should be maximised in providing services for this issue.

9. The Role of the Authority as a Non-statutory Service Provider in relation to Youth Unemployment, and in particular its Role in Economic Development

- 9.1 HBC is a non-statutory service provider for this issue. However, the Authority does exercise a role in monitoring and co-ordinating the LAA target and in its role as a 'Community Leader' and 'Place Shaper' in the locality. Consequently, it is HBC's intention to develop an additional range of employment and training projects that will assist in a reduction of youth unemployment and economic inactivity. To this end the Council have commissioned research to provide an evidence base that will support the development of these additional initiatives. As has been indicated earlier in this paper much of this evidence base has been used to inform the findings of this report (particularly section 7).
- 9.2 Locally HBC's Economic Development Service has worked closely with a number of agencies contracted by Job Centre Plus to deliver elements of the New Deal. This includes Nacro Tees Valley who are responsible for delivering the Environmental Task Force. This offers New Deal participants training, work experience and personal development, using environmental projects as the basis for improving employability. HBC developed a funding scheme to provide this as a waged option, so that young people are employed directly by the Council and the Neighbourhood Services Department has provided significant work activities to develop individual skills. In addition the Economic Development Service have used a variety of area based funding schemes to develop employment schemes that add value to mainstream New Deal provision and also support those people who are not eligible due to their benefit entitlement.
- 9.3 In this respect HBC, through Hartlepool Working Solutions, offers a range of employment related activities that facilitate a joined up approach to service delivery in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) area. Hartlepool Working Solutions has seven separate elements:
- 1) Targeted Training;
 - 2) Womens Opportunities;
 - 3) Jobs Build;
 - 4) Work Route (ILM);
 - 5) Enhancing Employability;
 - 6) Progression to Work; and
 - 7) Work Smart.

Each element complements each other and aims to:

- (a) Provide support for residents furthest removed from the labour market by offering a cocktail of interventions, which help to overcome multiple barriers to employment.

- (b) Employment focused training, which meets the needs of the local labour market.
 - (c) Intermediary activities, which offer NRS residents with paid employment through HBC and acts as a transition to unsupported employment.
 - (d) Incentives to improve the match between the needs of employers and the aspirations of residents.
 - (e) Focused activities to support lone parents wishing to return to the labour market or become self-employed.
 - (f) Build links with employers to improve job brokerage and enhance agency activities in the town through the sharing of best practice.
 - (g) Ensure that residents have access to effective information, advice and guidance in order that they can make informed decisions regarding the opportunities open to them.
- 9.4 In 2005-06 Hartlepool Working Solutions supported 157 young people into employment.
- 9.5 During discussions Members expressed a desire to see more apprenticeships developed for young people. In addition, Members agreed that generational unemployment is a key issue that needs to be targeted.

10. Views of Young People who are Affected by this Issue

- 10.1 Given the time constraints for this investigation, it was agreed during the initial scoping exercise for this investigation that the views of young people would be sought through a focus group and fed back into the Forum. This was achieved through a couple of sessions with young people at the end of January and the beginning of February 2007. The views of the young people were fed back into the Forum through the, *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base* at its meeting on 23 February 2007 and are reproduced here.
- 10.2 The young people consulted with ranged from 17-21 years of age. Five young people were on E2e programmes, two were on New Deal and had just been accepted on HBC Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) project, one was in employment, and two were on placement with a voluntary sector organisation. Young people's perception of the training they had undertaken or were currently undertaking raised a number of issues:
- (a) It was evident that all the young people were unclear about what they wanted to do when they left school. This appears to result in:

Training as a stop gap – it was evident that most of these young people had taken up training because they did not know what else to

do or because “their mates were going on the course”. 6 out of 10 of the young people who had been on training all commented that they were unsure what they wanted to do when they left school and that the training course “was better than doing nothing”. One young person was very clear that once they turned eighteen they would leave the course and “they would get a job or sign on”.

Dropping out – many of the young people had started courses, usually straight from leaving school at 16 and had then ‘dropped out’ and then went on to start another programme at a different provider. Two of the young people interviewed said that they did not think they would complete the programme.

- (b) The young people were keen to start the job related aspects of the programmes and were not keen on the classroom elements of the training.
- (c) All the young people interviewed had had contact with a Connexions Personal Adviser with Personal Advisers referring young people to training provision.
- (d) One young person who had undertaken a diploma course at a college, but dropped out after two years, felt that there was not enough vocational support and was unclear as to the available progression routes had he completed the course.
- (e) Young people were keen to have more tasters of programmes to help them identify which course is ‘for them’.
- (f) 7 out of 10 of the young people interviewed stated their parents and other family members were not working – a significant number of parents had caring responsibilities either for other siblings or relatives.
- (g) The young people interviewed felt there were not enough jobs advertised for young people. Job adverts tended to ask for people with experience.

11. Suggested Areas for Improvement

- 11.1 The Terms of Reference for this investigation identified the need to suggest areas for improvement as part of the Forum’s remit in relation to this issue. This report has provided a summary of the evidence gathered by the Forum over a relatively short period of time. The information provided in this report suggests that this issue is broad and fairly complex. Indeed, the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report*, concluded that further consultation with young people, agencies and organisations is needed and highlighted some of the key areas that require further exploration. It argues that from discussions with young people, agencies and

organisations it is possible to identify a number of areas where additional resources could be targeted:

1. Links to the local labour market. Training and employment support must be closely linked to current and future opportunities in the local labour market. Employers are central to this and need to be:

- (a) Involved in the design and delivery of programmes.
- (b) Enabled and supported to provide work experience and placements to young people. The brokerage of placements is crucial to ensure young people complete their programmes.
- (c) Enabled and supported to provide more w aged apprenticeships.
- (d) Involved as earlier as possible. Employer involvement needs to start in schools with clearly identified progression routes with training.

Specialised Diploma Lines will be available from 2008 onwards to learners aged 14-19 within applied settings and contexts. They are designed to meet skills needs of employers and on this basis should assist in bridging the gap between learning and the labour market.

2. Sustained support for those with multiple barriers. Mentoring was seen as an initiative that could provide sustained support to this target group.

3. More Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) provision – in linking points 2 and 3 together, ILM type activity can provide intensive support clearly linked to the labour market, engaging local employers and leading to real jobs. This provision would need to be available across the age range 16-24.

4. More training and vocational tasters. This would provide more opportunities for young people to gain a real insight into different courses and areas of work before making decisions as to which training/vocational route they would like to go down.

5. Information, advice and guidance. Additional support is needed for those that drop out of training or are in danger of dropping out of training. Once a progression route had been identified additional support is needed to ensure that young person does not become NEET. More focused and clearly linked to progression routes to the local labour market

6. More intensive and focused support for those young people unemployed under 6 months. To ensure they identify an appropriate progression route and that their engagement and retention in that provision/opportunity is supported to prevent them returning to the claimant count.

7. Funding. Funding needs to be more flexible to respond to the needs of those hardest to reach. More provision needs to include flexible grants to support young people to overcome barriers to accessing and staying in training and employment.

11.2 More specifically the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report* made a number of recommendations that included:

- (a) A number of data issues need to be addressed, including:
 - 1) More in depth analysis of 18-24 claimant count and flow ; and
 - 2) Data on the delivery and outcomes of New Deal for Young People in Hartlepool.
- (b) Systems for recording, collating and sharing data between agencies need to be developed and implemented in order to gain as full an understanding of these claimant group.

11.3 In addition a number of further potential projects areas have been suggested through the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report*. These include:

Extending ILM type activities across the age range to provide intensive support that can effectively address issues of basic skills, employability and wider social issues. Consideration needs to be given to extending current provision to 12months and introducing increments as incentives. Particularly with the 'hard to reach' groups a significant amount of resources and multi-agency working is required to remove more fundamental barriers eg care, financial/benefit, health, housing, aspirations

Support for those young people unemployed under 6 months to ensure they identify an appropriate progression route and that their engagement and retention in that provision/opportunity is supported to prevent them returning to the claimant count.

Support for young vulnerable young people – ensure existing and new provision can be targeted to the needs of vulnerable young people as identified in this report: young people leaving care, teenage parents, young carers and those with other 'family issues', homeless young people, young people with mental health issues, dependency issues and learning difficulties and disabilities. This also touches on the need for **support for those young people on incapacity benefit**. A greater understanding of this group and the support they require to move into training or employment is needed.

More training and vocational tasters to provide young people with the opportunity to gain a real insight into different courses and areas of work

Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) must be focused and clearly linked to progression routes in the local labour market and provide targeted support for those that drop out of training or are in danger of dropping out of training.

Explore the potential for social enterprise activities to support young people in training and employment opportunities.

Impact of the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) needs to be monitored in terms of how far it assists young people to engage and stay engaged in learning.

- 11.4 In addition, in their written submission to the Forum on 23 February 2007 Connexions argued that:

There are no panacea solutions for what is a complex problem. As well as continuing to work on simplifying progression routes from foundation & intermediate level qualifications, areas to consider include making the rewards for participation in work based training as comparatively attractive to young people as they were prior to the introduction of the Educational Maintenance allowance. More support for organizations to employ young people through the work based learning programme and pay employed status rates of around £80 per week direct to the young person may reinvigorate participation. The proportion of young people in real jobs remains low. Whether this is more a reflection of the overall lack of buoyancy in the local labour market, as opposed to a potential relative lack of employability skills vis a vis other age cohorts needs to be more thoroughly investigated as this could shape potential solutions.

- 11.5 During the informal meeting of this Forum on 8 March 2007 Members indicated that they felt careers guidance and training for young people under 16 years of age is crucial to determining young people's attitude to employment. It was felt that the attitudes of young people to employment before they reached 16 years of age is key. Consequently, it was suggested further research should be conducted into the impact of the provision of key stakeholders on careers guidance and training and that these services should be fully integrated within schools.

12. CONCLUSIONS

- 12.1 Over the course of the Scrutiny Investigation the following conclusions have been agreed by the Forum:-

- (a) The overall rate of unemployment over the last ten years has fallen faster than it has done for the 18-24 ('youth') cohort.
- (b) Hartlepool has high levels of under 25's moving both on and off the unemployment claimant count. This is in contrast to the town's overall number of people moving both on and off the unemployment claimant count. Consequently, there are relatively high levels of 'churn' in terms of youth unemployment.
- (c) Through its consultation process with agencies and organisations the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report* identified that a significant amount of work and resources had been targeted at supporting the NEET group in Hartlepool and that headway

had been made in working with this group. The report argues that the focus for resources should now be directed towards those vulnerable young people within the NEET group: young people leaving care, teenage parents, young carers and those with other 'family issues', homeless young people, young people with mental health issues, dependency issues and learning difficulties and disabilities.

- (d) It was also felt that many NEET and vulnerable young people often have low aspirations, self esteem and motivation, and that further work is needed to address wider issues of social deprivation and generational worklessness. Many of the young people interviewed had eventually embarked on a particular training route because their Dad, Mum, brother, friend etc. had worked in this field. However, the majority of their parents and siblings were currently not working.
- (e) There is a general consensus that training and education is not adequately preparing young people for the labour market. Whilst Hartlepool has high rates of people achieving NVQ level 1 and 2, how far is this training improving their employability and assisting them to get jobs?
- (f) Young people face particular barriers in relation to their engagement and retention in training and employment, which include; lack of employability skills, lack of basic skills, and structural barriers, including benefit dependency and a lack of jobs in the local labour market
- (g) Over the last 10 years Hartlepool has seen a reduction in the number of 18-24 year old claimants. But there is insufficient data available to ascertain the impact of New Deal on this reduction or to analyse the destinations of these young people. Within this cohort there is significant 'churn' on and off the claimant register which would be consistent with feedback from young people, agencies and organisations that young people are dropping out of provision or avoiding New Deal, however, without further data and analysis this cannot be confirmed.
- (h) The young people interviewed and feedback from agencies identified a very clear lack of aspiration and inspiration in relation to some of the provision available. However, there was a general consensus that mainstream provision had the potential to make a difference to young peoples' training and employment opportunities and to their lives in general, but it was felt that this was down to how individual providers delivered the programmes and that due to the sometimes fragmented nature of provision the support to ensure their learning and experience gained from various programmes of support was translated into positive outcomes, was often lacking.
- (i) That the identification of Youth Unemployment as a local 'problem' through a Local Area Agreement (LAA) target represents a positive step towards improving this issue through the enhanced performance management and monitoring and local actions that the introduction of a LAA target can bring about.

- (j) That the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report*, which has been attached at **Appendix A** (and has informed much of the findings of this report) identifies a number of data issues that need addressing and a number of potential project areas, which could help to maintain the momentum generated for this issue through the introduction of the LAA target.
- (k) A number of issues were raised by the young people, agencies and organisations consulted with in the production of the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report*, which have contributed to the Forum's conclusions. Including:-
 - 1) Concern was expressed that young people are dropping out of training, in particular this was felt to be an issue in relation to young people part completing programmes due to being unable to secure a placement.
 - 2) It was felt that academic routeways were not suitable for all and that more vocational routes incorporating different (individual) learning styles were needed to assist with keeping young people engaged in education and training.
 - 3) There needs to be "a stronger bridge between training and labour market" and in particular it was felt that there needed to be more input and support from employers for apprenticeships.
 - 4) Introduction of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was seen as having both a positive and negative impact. Whilst it was recognised the EMA may help some young people to take up training it was also suggested that it may not necessarily help those young people wanting to progress along the work based learning route and its introduction had resulted in a reduction in numbers of young people on E2e and apprenticeships, and the 'means test' element of the application was deterring some families from applying.
 - 5) The key to engaging and retaining young people in learning is identifying a 'spark' of interest – something that interests and inspires them.
 - 6) Mainstream funding can be too output driven and not always flexible enough to support the hardest reach young people. Additional funding streams (e.g. European Social Fund, Co financing) have been targeted at the NEET and hard to reach groups to assist with engaging and retaining them in learning. However, as these short term funding streams come to an end – concern was expressed that Hartlepool may see an increase in these figures without sustained targeting of additional resources.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum has gathered evidence from a wide range of sources. The key recommendations to Cabinet are:

- (a) That the Authority is commended for taking on an active role in relation to Youth Unemployment and that the value of this work is supported and that, wherever possible, it should be supported further.
- (b) That the data issues and potential project areas identified in the *Youth Unemployment in Hartlepool: Developing an evidence base report*, which has been attached at **Appendix A**, are supported as a means to maintain the momentum generated for this issue through the introduction of the LAA target.
- (c) That, given that Connexions is being brought under the remit of the Local Authority, the Authority (and Economic Development and Children's Services, in particular) seek to work closely with Connexions to support young people to achieve economic well-being.
- (d) That further research should be conducted into the impact of the provision of key stakeholders on careers guidance and training for under 16's and that these services should be fully integrated within schools.
- (e) That the Authority should lobby for increased flexibility of the New Deal programme so that young people are able to access training programmes through this programme even if they have been unemployed for less than six months.
- (f) That the CVS's role should be maximised, wherever possible, in providing services for tackling youth unemployment.

**COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WALLACE
CHAIR OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

May 2007

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Report entitled 'Determining the Work Programme' (Scrutiny Support Officer) presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 16 June 2006.

- (b) Report entitled 'Youth Unemployment – Scoping Report' (Scrutiny Support Officer) presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 18 January 2007.
- (c) Report entitled 'Youth Unemployment – Evidence from Connexions – Covering Report' (SSO) presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 23 February 2007
- (d) Report entitled 'Youth Unemployment – Evidence from the Learning and Skills Council – Covering Report' (SSO) presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 23 February 2007
- (e) Report entitled 'Youth Unemployment – Evidence from Job Centre Plus – Covering Report' (SSO) presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 23 February 2007
- (f) Report entitled 'Youth Unemployment – Evidence from the Community and Voluntary Sector – Covering Report' (SSO) presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 23 February 2007
- (g) Report entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Youth Unemployment – Draft Research Report' (Economic Development Manager) presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 23 February 2007.
- (h) Report entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Youth Unemployment – Draft Final Report' (Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum) presented to the Forum on 22 March 2007.
- (i) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum from the 16 June 2006, 18 January, and 23 February 2007. In addition, the draft minutes from 22 March 2007 were used in preparation of this report.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN HARTLEPOOL
Developing an evidence base

FEBRUARY 2007

Tracy Elwin - Research and Consultancy

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1. Introduction

It is Hartlepool Borough Council's intention to develop an additional range of employment and training projects that will assist in a reduction of youth unemployment and economic inactivity. To this end the Council have commissioned research to provide an evidence base that will support the development of these additional initiatives.

1.1 The Brief

The research brief outlines a number of key areas for further exploration.

- What is the real scale of the NEET problem in Hartlepool and what are the factors that lead to 16 and 17 year olds becoming classified as NEET?
- What has been the impact of mainstream publicly funded employment and training programmes targeted at 16-24 year olds?
- Where are the gaps in mainstream provision?
- What are the perception of employers and young people?

It was also the intention that this work should build upon the research undertaken by CLES into unemployment in Hartlepool in 2001. This research brief posed a number of questions:

- Why had the unemployment rate for Hartlepool remained at the 10-11%?
- Why had success across a range of initiatives not translated into lower unemployment levels
- What are the key groups or segments within the total group of unemployed and how are they fairing within the overall statistics?
- Churn in the labour market - what does it say about the structure of the labour market?

The report concluded that the vast part of what was going on in the labour market ***“is a direct result of macro economic drivers and policies. Other problems are institutionalised or cultural and will not be easy to resolve”***.

The report highlighted in particular that:

- Unemployment rates had remained high due to macro economic pressures – Hartlepool's slack labour market meant that active labour market projects had had less impact. Employment opportunities were not impacting on those on JSA but were being taken up by those who were economically inactive and had a greater incentive to work.
- There was evidence of significant churn in the labour market – with many people coming on and off training courses and initiatives
- Barriers to employment for the 16-24 age group included:

- A lack of work experience and qualifications
- The inter relationship between work and parents' benefits (where the young person was living at home)
- Unrealistic expectations of work and wages
- These young people were often in a non working peer group.

This report aims to build on and update the findings of this research focussing on the 16-24 age group. Given the huge body of data and the breadth of provision available to this target group it has not been possible to provide an in depth analysis in the available timeframe. However, this research has begun the process of 'unpicking the headline data' on youth unemployment and undertaken some initial consultation with young people and key stakeholders. From this initial research it has been possible to build up a picture of youth unemployment in Hartlepool and to identify a number of key areas that require further and more detailed exploration and analysis.

1.2 Methodology

The research took place between November 2006 and January 2007. The first stage of the research involved a review of the existing data using NOMIS and JSU reports, comparing the data where possible, to the rest of Tees Valley and the UK; focusing on indicators in relation to claimant count, economic activity and inactivity, worklessness, the NEET group and destinations of school leavers.

This data has then been supplemented by qualitative anecdotal information from semi structured interviews with individuals and focus groups as well as responses to questionnaires. To date consultation has taken place with 18 representatives from the public, private and voluntary sector as well as interviews and focus groups with 10 young people. The young people ranged from 17-21 years of age. Five young people were on E2e programmes, two were on New Deal and had just been accepted on Hartlepool Borough Council's ILM project, one was in employment, and two were on placement with a voluntary sector organisation.

2. Background

Over the last 10 years Hartlepool has benefited from significant investment in the regeneration of the town, both physically and in its people.

- City Challenge
- Single Regeneration Budget
- New Deal for Communities
- Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
- European Social Fund Objective 2 & 3 and ERDF

Improving the employability of the town's residents has been a key priority for these regeneration initiatives.

2.1 Mainstream provision

Within the timeframe available it has only been possible to apply a 'light touch' approach to assessing mainstream provision and undertaking a gap analysis.

On this basis the mainstream programmes available to this target group include those funded by Job Centre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and Connexions Tees Valley (this sub regional service will be disaggregated in April 2007). Delivery of programmes can be via a range of contractors from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Provider	Provision	Key Elements
Job Centre Plus	<p>Support for people of working age</p> <p>Under 6 months unemployed –</p> <p>Over 6 months unemployed: New Deal for Young People 18-24 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory programme • Must have been claiming JSA for 6 months to be eligible for the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active help from personal advisers to find work to meet individual needs • Jobseeker Direct is a job vacancy phone service • All young people assigned Personal Adviser • Assistance to draw up action plan • 'Gateway' for up to 4 months – regular meetings with Personal Adviser and then move into full time help/package of support • Option period: during this time the young person receives a training allowance equivalent to JSA and may also receive a £15.38 top up. • Options include: work experience, placements with employer or voluntary organisation, courses to develop skills employers want, help applying for jobs. • At end of option period if not found employment or moved into training the young person returns to JSA for 'follow through' period.
Learning and Skills Council	<p>Improving the skills of young people and adults to ensure a workforce of world-class standard.</p> <p>Apprenticeships -</p>	<p>A work-based learning programme that allows employers to train existing staff and new young people. The programme involves key skills</p>

	<p>Entry to Employment (E2E)</p> <p>Further Education</p> <p>1st level 2 Entitlement</p> <p>Adult & Community Learning</p> <p>Skills for Life – National LSC</p> <p>Train to Gain - for businesses,</p>	<p>qualification as well as technical certificate eg BTEC, City and Guilds. Lasts between 1-4 yrs.</p> <p>Programme aimed at young people aged 16 – 18 who are not involved in employment, education or training; aims to prepare the learner for employment in the apprenticeship programme through work placements and/or training.</p> <p>Courses can be full or part time, academic or vocational. Providers fall broadly into five categories: agriculture and horticulture colleges; art, design and performing arts colleges; general FE and tertiary colleges; sixth form colleges; and specialist designated institutions.</p> <p>Priority given to those learners who have not already achieved this standard.</p> <p>Support a diverse range of community-based and outreach learning opportunities.</p> <p>Initiative for improving literacy, numeracy and language (ESOL) skills.</p> <p>Skills Brokers match any training needs identified with training providers ensure that training is delivered to meet business needs.</p>
Connexions Tees Valley	Offers a family of services Valley including impartial and accessible information, advice and guidance for 13-19 year olds	<p>Service delivered by teams of Personal Advisers located at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools and colleges • community locations • youth facilities • one stop shops in high street locations <p>As well as the Connexions Tees Valley website.</p> <p>Support offered includes: Support learning, removing barriers to progression, raising aspirations and creating opportunities to enter education, employment or training.</p>

The above agencies supplement their mainstream provision with a range of additional projects and initiatives funded from Europe as well as area based

regeneration programmes. This enables the targeting of additional resources to identified needs. However, these funding streams are fixed term but they enable pilot provision to be delivered and any subsequent good practice to be mainstreamed.

Hartlepool Borough Council provision

Hartlepool Working Solutions offers a range of employment related activities that facilitates a joined up approach to service delivery in the NRS area. Hartlepool Working Solutions has seven separate elements:

- Targeted Training
- Womens Opportunities
- Jobs Build
- Work Route (ILM)
- Enhancing Employability
- Progression to Work
- Work Smart

Each element complements each other and aims to:

- Provide support for residents furthest removed from the labour market by offering a cocktail of interventions, which help to overcome multiple barriers to employment.
- Employment focused training, which meets the needs of the local labour market.
- Intermediary activities, which offer NRS residents with paid employment through Hartlepool Borough Council and acts as a transition to unsupported employment.
- Incentives to improve the match between the needs of employers and the aspirations of residents.
- Focused activities to support lone parents wishing to return to the labour market or become self-employed.
- Build links with employers to improve job brokerage and enhance agency activities in the town through the sharing of best practice.
- Ensure that residents have access to effective information, advice and guidance in order that they can make informed decisions regarding the opportunities open to them.

In 2005-06 Hartlepool Working Solutions supported 157 residents into employment.

2.2 Population

The table below shows the population of Hartlepool by age group. The cohort this report focuses on, the 16-24 age group, represent 10,600 of the overall population in Hartlepool in mid 2006 making up 12% of the overall population.

	Total Population	Population by Age Group:						
		0-4	5-15	16-24	25-44	45-ret*	Ret*-74	75 plus
Darlington	99,800	6,100	13,400	10,900	26,400	23,200	11,700	8,000
Hartlepool	89,600	5,200	13,000	10,600	23,400	20,400	10,600	6,500
Middlesbrough	137,300	8,200	19,800	18,000	37,600	29,700	14,600	9,600
Redcar & Cleveland	137,200	7,200	18,600	15,600	34,100	32,600	18,000	11,200
Stockton-on-Tees	187,100	10,500	26,400	22,000	51,600	43,700	20,500	12,500
Tees Valley	651,000	37,100	91,100	77,100	173,100	149,600	75,400	47,700
North East	2,529,000	132,700	334,000	305,500	662,400	592,200	302,000	200,200
England & Wales	53,463,000	3,070,000	7,131,000	6,219,000	15,128,000	11,813,000	5,942,000	4,160,000

Notes : * "Ret" - Retirement age is 60 for Women, 65 for Men. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source : TVJSU

2.3 Economic Profile of Hartlepool

This section provides a snap shot of the local economy for the year ended December 2005 (Economic Profile for Districts in the Tees Valley - October 2006 Edition, JSU).

- 71.7% of the working age population are economically active. Hartlepool has the lowest rate of economic activity across Tees Valley and is significantly lower than the rate for the region – 75.2% and nationally 78.4%. Since 1999 Hartlepool is the only area in the Tees Valley that has seen an overall reduction in the rate of economic activity.
- 67.2% of the working age population are in employment – 49.6% in full time and 17.7% in part time employment. Hartlepool has a lower rate than Tees Valley (only Middlesbrough is lower than Hartlepool at 66.4%), the region and nationally.
- 6.4% of the working population are in self employment – this is the second highest rate in Tees Valley. Hartlepool has seen a significant

increase in this rate since 1999 – almost 3% - the highest increase in Tees Valley. This rate compares favourable with Tees Valley and the region at 6% and 6.3% respectively but is still lower than the national rate at 9%.

- 16.1% of the working age population have an NVQ4 or above (the lowest in Tees Valley). This is significantly lower than the regional rate of 21.3% and the national rate of 26.5%. 20.2% have no qualifications (the second highest in Tees Valley) compared to 18.8% for Tees Valley, 15.6% for the region and 14.3% nationally.
- Unemployment has been steadily decreasing since 1997 – from 8% to a low of 3.8% in 2005. The rate is now increasing and had reached 4.5% in September 2006. This rate is higher than Tees Valley at 3.8%, the region at 3.2% and nationally at 2.6%.
- Worklessness can be used as an alternative view of unemployment by measuring the total percentage of people of working age without work. Hartlepool's workless rate in September 2006 was 34.8% - the second highest in Tees Valley – higher than both Tees Valley at 33% and Great Britain at 25.5%.
- Hartlepool's average weekly earnings (full time and resident based)) at £373 are lower than Tees Valley, the north East and Great Britain.
- The job density figure for Hartlepool (devised as an indicator of job demand whilst vacancy data was temporarily unavailable) was 0.64 in 2004. The national average was 0.8 – indicating Hartlepool has more people than jobs and therefore has a slack labour market.

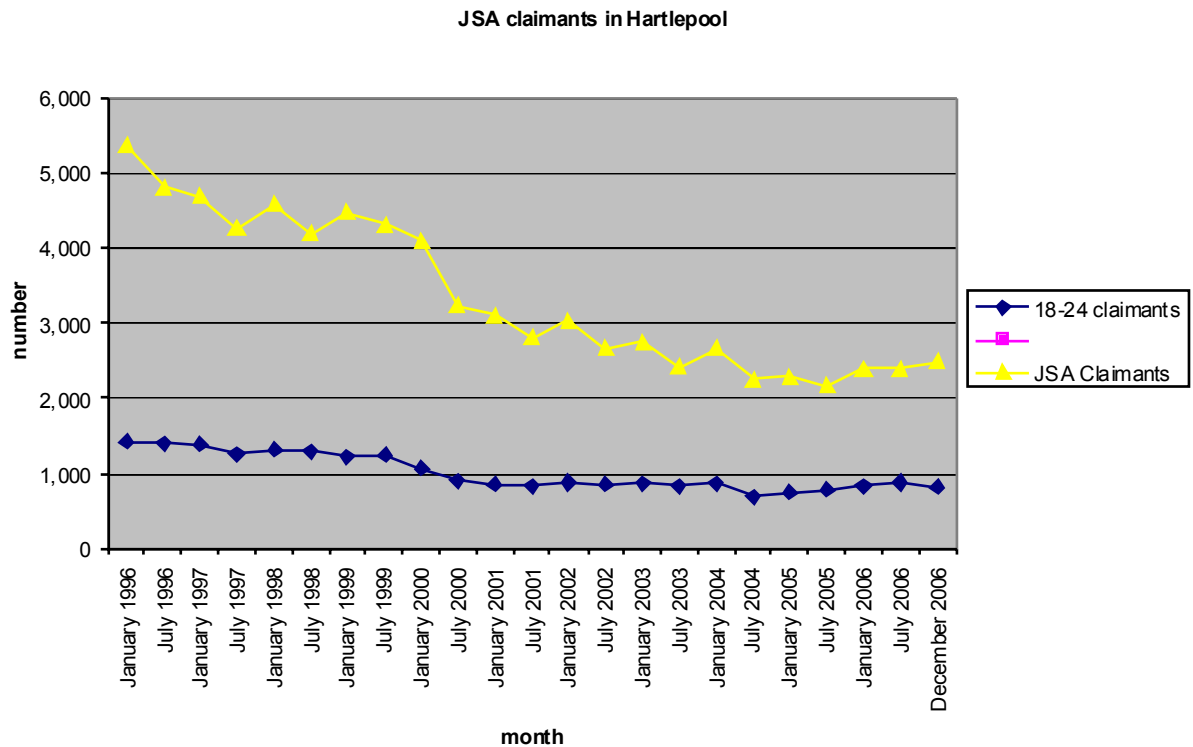
The CLES report provided a snapshot of the local economy in 2000 and found some similar characteristics:

- Slack labour market
- Low wage levels
- Lowered expectations of work and attainment
- High availability and provision of training

At this time unemployment was at 10.9% (February 2000). Over the last six years unemployment has reduced to 4.5% (September 2006) but the characteristics of the labour market remain similar.

2.4 Unemployment and worklessness

Youth unemployment is one of the key economic targets included in the Hartlepool Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement and Best Value Performance Plan. The long term target established in 2002 is to reduce the overall rate to 29% in 2012 from a baseline of 30.7%



As can be seen from the chart, overall unemployment (as measured in terms of claimant count JSA) has declined from a high of 5357 in 1996 to just over 2500 in January 2004 with 18-24 claimants reducing from a high of over 1400 to fewer than 800. However, during this period, the rate of 18-24 claimants measured as a proportion of overall JSA claimants fluctuated between 27% and reaching a high of 35% in the same period. The overall number of Hartlepool residents claiming JSA has declined at a greater rate than that of the 18-24 year old age group.

This research seeks to understand what is the real scale of youth unemployment in Hartlepool and provide an evidence base that will support the development of additional targeted employment and training projects that will lead to a reduction in youth unemployment. This report will address a number of key issues as laid out in the research brief:

- Research into the factors that lead to 16 and 17 year olds becoming classified as NEET and identify the real scale of the problem
- Assess the impact of mainstream publicly funded employment and training programmes targeted at 16-24 year olds
- Undertake a gap analysis of mainstream interventions
- Ascertain employers and young peoples perceptions of the issues

3. Findings

In order to gain a better understanding of the factors that may have impacted on the youth unemployment rate in Hartlepool the following data has been analysed:

- Population trends of the target group.
- Key indicators for the 16-18 cohorts – to gain in sight into the real scale of worklessness amongst this group: young people in learning and work, the NEET group and those whose destination is “not known”.
- Issues of unemployment and worklessness
- Claimant count and duration of unemployment.

Feedback from consultations with young people, agencies and organisations and stakeholders has also been used to add value to the data and to explore barriers to young people taking up training and employment.

3.1 Population trends

The overall population of the town in this period has declined; however, there has been a 15% increase in those aged 15-24 compared to only a 7% increase in those aged 25-59. With the main increase in those young people aged 15-19.

Whilst an increase in the population in this age group may account for some of the rate rise in 18-24 year old JSA claimants, analysis of data and qualitative information in relation to the 16-24 target group highlights some further issues.

3.2 Key Issues – 16-18 cohort

	Hartlepool	Tees Valley	England
16-18 Cohort Profile	2950	21209	1125658
% In learning	70.2	71.2	75.2
% NEET	11.7	12.4	8.6
% In employment	17.2	15.5	17.9
% Not known	4.00%	4.8	5.4

Source: Connexions Tees Valley

(i) Young People in learning

Hartlepool compares well with Tees Valley and England in terms of the number of young people in learning with 70.2% of this cohort in learning in Hartlepool compared to 71.2% in Tees Valley and 75.2% in England. Of those in learning, 58.2% are in education – slightly lower than Tees Valley (59.4%) and lower than England at 65.6%.

3.3% of those in learning are in employment with training – consistent with Tees Valley but significantly lower than in England – 6.4%. 8.7 of those in learning in Hartlepool are on government supported schemes. Both Hartlepool and Tees Valley are significantly higher than England at 3.2%.

Data on qualifications from the JSU shows that Hartlepool has higher rates of people achieving NVQ level 1 and 2 than Tees Valley, the region or nationally, but lower rates of those achieving trade apprenticeships.

Qualifications of working age population – 2005 Annual Population Survey

	Percentage people of working age with at least the following qualification level -						
	NVQ4 and above	NVQ3	Trade apprenticeships	NVQ2	NVQ1	Other qualifications	With no qualifications
Darlington	25.5	14.0	4.9	16.3	13.6	5.0	20.8
Hartlepool	16.1	17.0	6.7	19.1	15.7	5.3	20.2
Middlesbrough	16.5	15.4	7.1	17.9	14.4	8.8	19.8
Redcar & Cleveland	18.8	16.8	7.4	17.8	14.7	7.2	17.2
Stockton-on-Tees	25.4	17.8	5.5	18.6	14.3	4.1	14.3
Tees Valley	18.4	14.7	8.5	17.0	16.5	6.2	18.8
North East	21.3	15.4	7.3	18.3	15.5	6.6	15.6
Great Britain	26.5	15.1	5.6	15.8	14.3	8.4	14.3

Source: Annual Population Survey/JSUTV

Data from Connexions Tees Valley also reveals that more young people currently in training in Hartlepool join the NEET group from work based learning (WBL), E2e or Government Supported Training (GST) than in England 5.1% and 3.6% respectively.

Young people's perception of the training they had undertaken or were currently undertaking raised a number of issues. 5/7 young people were currently on E2e provision in Hartlepool, but all ten young people had undertaken some training provision in the town. Those currently on e2e programmes were all in receipt of EMA.

- It was evident that all the young people were unclear about what they wanted to do when they left school. This appears to result in:

Training as a stop gap – it was evident that most of these young people had taken up training because they did not know what else to do or because “their mates were going on the

course". 6 out of 10 of the young people who had been on training all commented that they were unsure what they wanted to do when they left school and that the training course "was better than doing nothing". One young person was very clear that once they turned eighteen they would leave the course and "they would get a job or sign on".

Dropping out – many of the young people had started courses, usually straight from leaving school at 16 and had then 'dropped out' and then went onto start another programme at a different provider. Two of the young people interviewed said that they did not think they would complete the programme.

- The young people were keen to start the job related aspects of the programmes and were not keen on the classroom elements of the training.
- All the young people interviewed had had contact with a Connexions Personal Adviser with Personal Advisers referring young people to training provision.
- One young person who had undertaken a diploma course at a college, but dropped out after two years, felt that there was not enough vocational support and was unclear as to the available progression routes had he completed the course.
- Young people were keen to have more tasters of programmes to help them identify which course is 'for them'.

The issues raised were reinforced by the agencies and organisations consulted with:

- Concern was expressed that young people are dropping out of training, in particular this was felt to be an issue in relation to young people part completing programmes due to being unable to secure a placement.
- It was felt that academic pathways were not suitable for all and that more vocational routes incorporating different (individual) learning styles were needed to assist with keeping young people engaged in education and training.
- There needs to be "a stronger bridge between training and labour market" and in particular it was felt that there needed to be more input and support from employers for apprenticeships.

A number of further points were raised with reference to young people and learning:

- Introduction of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was seen as having both a positive and negative impact. Whilst it was recognised

the EMA may help some young people to take up training a number of concerns were expressed:

- It was not necessarily helping those young people wanting to progress along the work based learning route and its introduction had resulted in a reduction in numbers of young people on E2e and apprenticeships
 - The 'means test' element of the application was deterring some families from applying.
- The key to engaging and retaining young people in learning is identifying a 'spark' of interest – something that interests and inspires them.
- Mainstream funding can be too output driven and not always flexible enough to support the hardest reach young people. Additional funding streams (e.g. ESF, Co financing) have been targeted at the NEET and hard to reach groups to assist with engaging and retaining them in learning. However, as these short term funding streams come to an end – concern was expressed that Hartlepool may see an increase in these figures without sustained targeting of additional resources.

(ii) Young People and employment

The number of young people in employment in Hartlepool compares well with England and is higher than in the Tees Valley. However, data indicates that a significant proportion of this employment is part time (65%) (NOMIS Jan-March 2006).

Employment is not seen as an 'option' at 16/17, "once I turn eighteen I'll leave the course and get a job or sign on".. The young people interviewed all saw employment as the end goal and were keen to receive a wage –although many were unsure of what kind of job they would like. It was evident that some had unrealistic expectations of the world of work – one young person commented when he was on placement "I had to start work at 7am and didn't finish till 6.30pm and I didn't even get any backhanders".

Concerns were expressed that education and training were not closely enough linked to the labour market and employers and that the curriculum and training programmes do not prepare young people for the labour market.

(iii) NEET Young People

The NEET figures for Hartlepool are higher than England but lower than the Tees Valley at 11.7%.

The NEET group can be broken down into those available for work and those not available for work. In relation to Hartlepool, those NEETs available for work make up 7.9% of the overall 11.7% with those not available for work making up 3.6%. This is significantly higher than Tees Valley at 2.8% but almost three times the rate for England at 1.3%.

Consultation with agencies and organisations revealed a number of factors that lead young people to becoming NEET:

- Disengaging from learning at school
- Low skills and qualifications
- Low aspirations – linked to generational unemployment
- Lack of confidence to access support networks when things go wrong
- Wider social issues eg homelessness, dependency issues, mental health issues, teenage pregnancy, caring responsibilities, young people in care

Vulnerable young people

Further analysis of this group reveals that Hartlepool has the highest percentage of teenage parents of all local authority areas in England. Furthermore, the data indicates that only 50% of 19 year old care leavers in the town are in education, employment or training (EET), therefore, correspondingly 50% are NEET or not known. This trend replicated in Tees Valley (with the exception of Redcar and Cleveland) and England.

The consultation process with agencies and organisations identified very clearly that a significant amount of work and resources had been targeted at supporting the NEET group in Hartlepool and that headway had been made in working with this group. The focus for resources should now be directed towards those vulnerable young people within the NEET group: young people leaving care, teenage parents, young carers and those with other 'family issues', homeless young people, young people with mental health issues, dependency issues and learning difficulties and disabilities.

It was also felt that many NEET and vulnerable young people often have low aspirations, self esteem and motivation and further work is needed to address wider issues of social deprivation and generational worklessness. Many of the young people interviewed had eventually embarked on a particular training route because their Dad, Mum, brother, friend etc had worked in this field. However, the majority of their parents and siblings were currently not working.

(iv) The Not Knowns

Hartlepool has a lower number of not knowns than Tees Valley but is higher than England. Hartlepool in particular has made a significant improvement in reducing the numbers of not knowns at 16 – a reduction of 83% since June 2005 and has also made an impact on the 17 and 18 year olds, however, 18 year olds still make up 70% of those not known.

16-18 cohort – Not knowns	June 2006	June 2005	Reduction	% in age range
Not knowns	122			
Not known at 16	5	29	83%	4
Not known at 17	32	102	69%	26
Not known at 18	85	216	61%	70
16-18	122	347	65%	100

Discussions with Connexions highlighted that destinations of those aged 17 and 18 are much harder to trace at 18 as many sign on and 'shift' contact from Connexions, as a young people's service, to Job Centre Plus. The two agencies have started to share data to enable closer tracking of young people aged 17-18.

The higher numbers of not known at 17 and 18 can in part be explained by the difficulty in tracking them, however, this would also be consistent with a significant number of 17 and 18 year olds dropping out of training programmes as highlighted in the previous sections.

(v) Young People still at school

Although this is beyond the remit of this research, a number of issues were raised in relation to school aged young people and support available at school regarding training and employment:

- Disengagement from school (sometimes exclusion) due to curriculum issues, teaching and learning styles
- Options and route ways are not sufficiently explained to young people early enough. This was reinforced by the young people interviewed who indicated that they would have liked more information about courses and what they entailed and what they could expect
- Pressure at school to perform in course work and exams. Many young people feel they cannot live up to expectations. This was a feeling expressed by one young person interviewed "there was too much pressure to do well".

(vi) Impact of mainstream provision

From the data and qualitative information it is possible to conclude that mainstream support is impacting positively on young people aged 16-18 in Hartlepool:

- The majority of young people in this cohort are engaged in Education, employment or training (EET) - 87%.
- The NEET group and the not known have both seen reductions in Hartlepool.

However, the data and qualitative information highlights a number of areas for further consideration:

- There are vulnerable groups within the NEET group who require targeted and intensive support – in particular teenage parents and young carers
- Young people appear to be dropping out of training and potentially contributing to the significant number of 'not known' aged 17 and 18 in Hartlepool.

- Young people still seem unsure about progression routes and the need for more targeted vocational IAG linked to the local labour market was identified.
- There was a general consensus that training and education was not adequately preparing young people for the labour market. Whilst Hartlepool has high rates of people achieving NVQ level 1 and 2, how far is this training improving their employability and assisting them to get jobs?
- Young people are 'tuned off' by traditional learning styles, particularly if they have basic skills issues.
- The young people interviewed and feedback from agencies identified a very clear lack of aspiration and inspiration with some of the provision available

3.3 Unemployment and Worklessness

The brief poses a specific question in relation to the 18-24 cohorts: to assess the impact of mainstream publicly funded employment and training programmes targeted at 16-24 year olds. This needs to be considered in light of the fact that the overall number of Hartlepool residents claiming JSA declining at a greater rate than that of the 18-24 year old age group.

The following table shows a profile of young people in the town in relation to employment and worklessness (May 2006). Due to how data is collected and collated it is not possible to analyse the data consistently across age groups and categories, however, the data in the table below provides an indication of the numbers in each category.

Indicator	16-17 years	16-19 years	18-24 years	20-24 years	Total
Unemployment (JSA Claimants)			820		820
Employment		2300		3700	6000
Income Support	50		730		780
Incapacity Benefit	30		410		440
Workless/Not known (remainder of population)					2560
Total					10,600
Ward with highest unemployment	Stranton				

67% of the 16-24 age groups are in employment, with almost 8% unemployed. 7% of the cohort is claiming income support and 4% are claiming Incapacity Benefit. When this data is compared with the corresponding rates for the 25-retirement age group, (3.7% unemployed, 14% Incapacity benefit, 10% income support), the rates of unemployment and

income support would seem high – however, this concurs with the data indicating that youth unemployment has reduced at a slower rate than overall unemployment but it would also be anticipated that the high incidence of teenage pregnancy amongst this age group would impact on the income support rate.

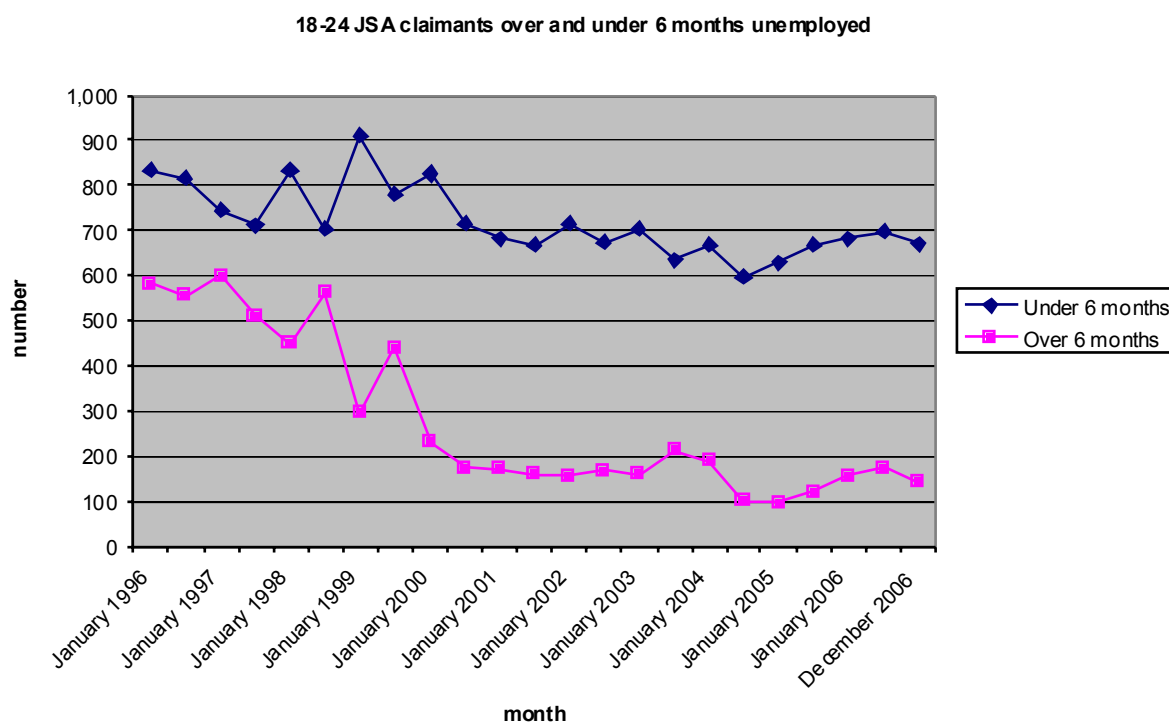
Furthermore, whilst the incapacity benefit rate for this group does not appear overly high in relation to the older age group – there are 440 young people on incapacity benefit – this figure does give cause for concern given the Government's green paper - A New Deal for Welfare Empowering People to Work (January 2006) which stated that "After two years on Incapacity Benefit, a person is more likely to die or retire than to find a new job". Does this mean that 4% of the 16-24 age groups could potentially be looking at long term benefit dependency?

(i) Claimant count and duration of unemployment

A closer look at the data reveals that the rate of unemployment is affected according to how long a young person has been unemployed.

Duration of unemployment

The following chart shows that those young people who have been unemployed for over 6 months have seen a significantly greater reduction in the numbers unemployed over the period than for those unemployed under 6 months.



Those unemployed over 6 months are eligible for New Deal and it is this group that have seen a downward trend of 84% from its peak of 600 in January 1997 to its lowest point of 95 in January 2005. However, the numbers in this group have also started to increase steadily from this point, increasing to 175 in July 2006, although this figure has since come down to 140 in December 2006.

Those unemployed for less than 6 months have not seen the corresponding reduction in numbers. This group has seen a 35% reduction from its peak of 910 in January 1999 to its lowest point of 595 in July 2004. It would appear that the lower rate of reduction amongst this group is keeping the overall 18-24 rate at the 'high' identified in the baseline data. This trend is repeated across Tees Valley. Redcar and Cleveland have the lowest reduction in this claimant group of 33%. Further exploration of the factors impacting on the under 6month unemployed group is required.

(ii) Churn

Churn is the number young people moving on and off the unemployment claimant count. The table below shows on and off flow for across Tees Valley, the region and nationally for those aged under 25 years.

	On flow		Off Flow		On flow under 25 years		Off Flow under 25 years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Darlington	495	29.4	520	30.9	210	42.7	220	42.7
Hartlepool	585	24.4	590	24.7	280	48.2	245	41.6
Middlesbrough	945	23.5	1010	25.2	430	45.7	445	44.0
Redcar & Cleveland	835	27.3	860	28.2	415	49.7	400	46.7
Stockton	1130	29.1	1030	26.6	480	42.4	435	42.1
Tees Valley	3985	26.6	4015	26.6	1815	45.6	1750	43.5
North East	14060	28.2	14190	28.5	6375	45.3	6080	42.8
Great Britain	242735	26.0	233610	25.1	103445	42.6	90995	39.0

Source: JSU July 2006

Hartlepool has slighter lower numbers of those signing on and off the register than in Tees Valley, the North East or nationally. However, amongst those aged under 25 years, Hartlepool has a higher percentage (48%) signing on than that of the sub region, the region or nationally and for those signing off the register, Hartlepool's rate is lower than Tees Valley and the region but higher than the national rate. This indicates significant churn amongst this age group.

The following table provides the reasons why young people sign off the register.

Reason for leaving claimant count – 18-24 year olds	January 2006	April 2006	July 2006	October 2006
Found work	40	80	60	70
Increases work to 16+ hours/week	0	5	5	5
Gone abroad	0	0	10	0
Claimed Income Support	15	5	10	5
Claimed Sickness Benefit	-	-	-	-
Claimed Incapacity Benefit	5	5	15	20
Claimed another benefit	0	0	0	0
Gone to full-time education	0	0	0	15
Gone onto approved training	0	5	5	5
Transfer to Govt-supported training	15	45	20	40
Retirement age reached	0	0	0	0
Automatic credits payable	0	0	0	0
Claims back-to-work bonus	0	0	0	0
Gone to prison	0	0	0	0
Attending court	0	0	0	0
New claim review	0	0	0	0
Defective claim	0	0	5	0
Ceased claiming	0	0	0	5
Deceased	0	0	0	0
Not known	15	10	25	25
Failed to sign	90	120	90	110
Total	180	285	245	300

- These figures are missing. Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source: NOMIS

A snap shot of flow off the register in 2006 taken at quarterly intervals shows that by far the most common reason for leaving the claimant count is failure to sign amongst this age group – accounting for between 37-50%, with finding work second (22-28%), and transfer to government supported training programme next (8-16%) with not known accounting for between 3-10%. Those signing off JSA to claim another benefit (incapacity and income support) account for 3.5-11%. It is not clear from the data how many of those transferring to Government supported training are young people on New Deal transferring to the options period.

The data also indicates a slightly greater churn amongst those young people unemployed under 6months. It has not been possible to analyse the data further but consultation suggests a number of reasons for the slower reduction in the rate of those under 6 months unemployed and the significant churn on and off the register:

- Avoidance of New Deal – ‘the threat effect’. Young people signing off the register before they are eligible for New Deal to take up employment or training, transfer to another benefit or fail to sign – only to sign on at a later date.

- This creates the potential for churn between those claimants unemployed for over 6months and those unemployed for under 6months. If a young person who is eligible for New Deal signs off or fails to sign for 13 weeks, they break their eligibility for New Deal and return to under the 6months unemployed category. Given that failure to sign is the most common reason for claimants in this age group signing off the register, there is a significant possibility that this kind of churn is taking place. Without further in depth analysis – the extent of this is not possible to gauge. Those who complete the gateway, options and follow through parts of New Deal return to JSA and have to complete another 26 weeks on JSA before they are eligible again for New Deal however, they are still counted in the 6+ unemployed category. To reduce this incidence of ‘churn’ amongst the 25+ claimants on New Deal, the eligibility criteria was amended – claimants would be eligible for New Deal if they had claimed JSA for 18 months over a 21 month period.
- Young people dropping out of training and signing on. Discussions with young people and agencies indicate a number of possible reasons for this:
 - Young people completing the first year of their training who are then unable to secure a placement to complete their second year of training. These young people then join the claimant count when they are eighteen years old.
 - Young people leaving school and start training but have no clear direction or progression route in mind. They later drop out as this was not the appropriate progression route for them.
 - Young people leave school and embark on NVQ level 2 training. The progression routes available at this stage include level 3 training and university or employment. For those not ‘academically’ able to progress to a level 3 or University, the links to the labour market after completing their level 2 are not always visible or achievable. This may also link in with the high number of those at 18 who are ‘not known’ to Connexions.

(ii) Young people and the labour market

From discussions with young people, agencies, organisations and employers a number of key barriers were identified to young people accessing and progressing in the local labour market:

Employability skills – it was felt that many young people lack key employability and life skills. Those specifically mentioned included, communication skills, confidence, motivation – getting out of bed, personal hygiene, and an appreciation of ‘appropriate behaviour’ in relation to the workplace. From discussions with employers and training providers it is

possible to see their role developing into one of 'parent', providing 'life skills' support to young people e.g. help with managing money, personal hygiene, getting to work/training on time, taking responsibility for their actions.

Basic skills- concern was expressed that despite significant funding to support the improvement of basic skills, this was still a major barrier to young people accessing and progressing in training or the labour market. Changes to the New Deal programme in Hartlepool have seen the introduction of basic skills support in the gateway period to assist with job search and progression to training.

Generational unemployment

It was felt that young people lack role models in relation to training and employment and that this was limiting their aspirations. 7 out of 10 of the young people interviewed stated their parents and other family members were not working –a significant number of parents had caring responsibilities either for other siblings or relatives.

The issues was also raised that worklessness was increasingly concentrated in families and communities where a culture of worklessness and benefit dependency was the 'norm' and an accepted way of life. Since 1996 the number of families on benefits with children under 15 in the town has increased overall. However, single parent families have significantly decreased. This could be an indication that New Deal for Lone Parents is having an impact on lone parent's families.

Structural issues

Benefit dependency was felt to impact on this group, particularly in relation to a young person's status (e.g. in learning, unemployed working) and its impact on the family's benefits. It was also felt to be an issue where young people were claiming incapacity benefit, where minimum wage jobs are not that attractive in comparison.

Macro economic issues – there was felt to be a lack of jobs resulting in a significant number of young people taking up training

Recruitment and training of young people

Employers were not always clear about "how to go about" recruiting young people under the age of 18. Where recruitment and retention of young people had been successful this was attributed to:

- Good local networks – local businesses embedded in local communities
- Employer had employed the young person straight from school and invested significant training and support. One employer felt that when young people leave education/training at 18-20 they were less inclined to "learn a trade and more difficult to mould".
- Employer assumes the 'parent role' providing significant social and emotional support to young people.

The young people interviewed felt there were not enough jobs advertised for young people. Job adverts tended to ask for people with experience.

(iv) Impact of Mainstream Provision

From the data on claimant count and duration, there would appear to be a link between the introduction of New Deal in 1998 and the reduction in numbers claiming JSA who are over 6 months unemployed. However, young people can access additional training and employment support initiatives aimed at enhancing New Deal provision provided through the voluntary and community sector as well as the local authority and therefore, it is not possible to isolate the impact of New Deal.

Furthermore, data on young people on New Deal in Hartlepool in terms of destinations is not available. This means it is not possible to analyse the impact of New Deal on the flow of young people on and off the register to gauge the extent to which New Deal has supported young people into employment or training and how sustainable that destination has been. From discussions with JCP it would appear that:

- New Deal data recorded and collated by JCP is only available on a Tees Valley wide basis and cannot be interrogated for Hartlepool only
- Performance is measured by contractor not by area or cohort
- Targets and measures have changed over time making any form of time series analysis difficult.

Feedback from young people on New Deal was limited as only two young people had experience of New Deal. Both young people had completed the gateway elements of New Deal and were about to start 'employment' with Hartlepool Borough Council's intermediate Labour Market Programme as a result of joint working between Economic Development and the Leaving Care Team. Both young people would have liked more intensive support from New Deal. One of the young people had completed a short training course whilst on New Deal which he found useful but had then sourced employment himself and with the help of his social worker. The other young person would have liked more proactive job search support during the gateway period.

Evaluations of New Deal

An initial search for local evaluations of New Deal for Young People has revealed very little. There have been numerous national evaluations that comment on the performance of the programme and the experience of young people.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation- The New Deals: The experience so far (July 2000) found that just under a half of young people participating on the programme had found work and three quarters of these were sustained jobs. The report goes on to suggest that the programme had led to a reduction in youth unemployment by about 30,000 in the first year, but also raises the issues that some of these would have got jobs without the programme.

Research undertaken by David Wilkinson (2003) concludes that the New Deal programme has reduced youth unemployment, “a significant part of the impact has come from young people who no longer claim unemployment benefit for 6 months and hence do not qualify for New Deal. For those that did participate in the programme, the largest effect is an increase in the proportion of young people who left unemployment to go into GST”.

These findings are supported by a study undertaken by **Duncan McVicar and Jan M Podivinsky** in 2003 ‘**Into Jobs or into the classroom**’ which found that the New Deal for young people boosted exit rates to all destinations* at different durations of unemployment but identified a previously unidentified primary effect to “shift large numbers of young people out of unemployment and into education and training”.

*definition: employment, other benefits, education and training, other

This study went on to pose the further question “it is not yet clear whether these young people are subsequently more employable as a result of the intervention”. Without data on the destinations of young people in Hartlepool on New Deal, it is not possible to comment on the impact on exit rates or employability.

There exists a consensus that job search programmes work best in dynamic labour markets and that whilst “active labour market policies can assist the long term unemployed, the key to widening the opportunities available to the unemployed and work poor is sustained employment growth” (CLES report pg 8).

With reference to learning and training provision for the 18-24 age group, many of the issues raised in the section 4.1 apply:

- Provision is not closely enough linked to the labour market and ‘real jobs’.
- Young people completing NVQ level 2 training who are not ‘academically’ able to progress to a level 3 or University are struggling to make the transition to the labour market.
- Impact has been curtailed due to young people ‘dipping in and out’ of provision. This fragmented nature of support often dilutes any positives outcomes.

Whilst assessing the impact of mainstream provision has proved a very difficult exercise, it has raised a number of important issues:

- Additional data and further interrogation of available data is needed in relation to:
 - (i) Claimant count and duration of unemployment – in particular flow on and off the register to investigate further the potential links between claimant flow and :

- Avoidance of New Deal
- Young people dropping out of training

(ii) Incapacity benefit claimants – further understanding is needed of this group to ensure support can be targeted to prevent long term dependency on this benefit.

- In order to ensure the development of new and existing training and employment projects in Hartlepool can benefit from the experience of New Deal, systems for recording, collating and sharing data need to be developed and implemented.

4. Gap Analysis

From discussions with young people, agencies and organisations it is possible to identify a number of areas where additional resources could be targeted.

1. Links to the local labour market. Training and employment support must be closely linked to current and future opportunities in the local labour market. Employers are central to this and need to be:

- Involved in the design and delivery of programmes.
- Enabled and supported to provide work experience and placements to young people. The brokerage of placements is crucial to ensure young people complete their programmes.
- Enabled and supported to provide more waged apprenticeships.
- Involved as earlier as possible. Employer involvement needs to start in schools with clearly identified progression routes with training.

Specialised Diploma Lines will be available from 2008 onwards to learners aged 14-19 within applied settings and contexts. They are designed to meet skills needs of employers and on this basis should assist in bridging the gap between learning and the labour market.

2. Sustained support for those with multiple barriers. Mentoring was seen as an initiative that could provide sustained support to this target group.

3. More Intermediate Labour market provision – in linking points 2 and 3 together, ILM type activity can provide intensive support clearly linked to the labour market, engaging local employers and leading to real jobs. This provision would need to be available across the age range 16-24.

4. More training and vocational tasters. This would provide more opportunities for young people to gain a real insight into different courses and areas of work before making decisions as to which training/vocational route they would like to go down.

5. Information, advice and guidance

- Additional support needed for those that drop out of training or are in danger of dropping out of training. Once a progression route had been identified additional support is needed to ensure that young person does not become NEET.
- More focused and clearly linked to progression routes to the local labour market

6. More intensive and focused support for those young people unemployed under 6 months

- To ensure they identify an appropriate progression route and that their engagement and retention in that provision/opportunity is supported to prevent them returning to the claimant count.

7. Funding

- Funding needs to be more flexible to respond to the needs of those hardest to reach
- More provision needs to include flexible grants to support young people to overcome barriers to accessing and staying in training and employment.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Young People 16-18

The majority of young people at 16 are identifying progression routes – the vast majority of these into further learning (71.7%). However, for a significant number of these young people this is not a sustained outcome and they are disengaging from learning for a variety of reasons:

- Lack of direction – “I don’t know what I want to do” and many seem unsure about progression routes
- Unable to secure a placement
- Inappropriate provision often due to:
 - basic skill needs
 - ‘academic’ teaching and learning styles

The majority of young people are signposted to education and training at 16 as they cannot claim JSA. Employers and young people rarely saw employment between the ages of 16-18 as a possible option.

There was a general consensus that training and education was not adequately preparing young people for the labour market. Whilst Hartlepool has high rates of people achieving NVQ level 1 and 2, how far is this training improving their employability and assisting them to get jobs?

The NEET Group

There are vulnerable groups within the NEET group who require targeted and intensive support – in particular teenage parents and young carers. The wider issues of social deprivation and generational unemployment also need to be addressed before issues relating to learning or employability can be addressed. It was evident that training providers and employers were confronting many of these issues on a daily basis and in some instances assuming the role of 'parent' to provide these young people with the necessary level of support.

Barriers to training and employment

Young people face particular barriers in relation to their engagement and retention in training and employment:

- Lack of employability skills
- Lack of basic skills
- Structural barriers, including benefit dependency and a lack of jobs in the local labour market

Impact of mainstream provision

Over the last 10 years Hartlepool has seen a reduction in the number of 18-24 year old claimants. But there is insufficient data available to ascertain the impact of New Deal on this reduction or to analyse the destinations of these young people. Within this cohort there is significant 'churn' on and off the claimant register which would be consistent with feed back from young people, agencies and organisations that young people are dropping out of provision or avoiding New Deal, however, without further data and analysis this cannot be confirmed.

The young people interviewed and feedback from agencies identified a very clear lack of aspiration and inspiration in relation to some of the provision available. However, there was a general consensus that mainstream provision had the potential to make a difference to young peoples' training and employment opportunities and to their lives in general, but it was felt that this was down to how individual providers delivered the programmes and that due to the sometimes fragmented nature of provision the support to ensure their learning and experience gained from various programmes of support was translated into positive outcomes, was often lacking.

Recommendations

Data

There are a number of data issues that need to be addressed

- More in depth analysis of 18-24 claimant count and flow
- Data on the delivery and outcomes of New Deal for Young People in Hartlepool.

In order to gain as full an understanding of these claimant group systems for recording, collating and sharing data between agencies need to be developed and implemented.

Potential projects areas

Extending ILM type activities across the age range to provide intensive support that can effectively address issues of basic skills, employability and wider social issues. Consideration needs to be given to extending current provision to 12months and introducing increments as incentives. Particularly with the 'hard to reach' groups a significant amount of resources and multi-agency working is required to remove more fundamental barriers eg care, financial/benefit, health, housing, aspirations

Support for those young people unemployed under 6 months to ensure they identify an appropriate progression route and that their engagement and retention in that provision/opportunity is supported to prevent them returning to the claimant count.

Support for young vulnerable young people – ensure existing and new provision can be targeted to the needs of vulnerable young people as identified in this report: young people leaving care, teenage parents, young carers and those with other 'family issues', homeless young people, young people with mental health issues, dependency issues and learning difficulties and disabilities. This also touches on the need for **support for those young people on incapacity benefit**. A greater understanding of this group and the support they require to move into training or employment is needed.

More training and vocational tasters to provide young people with the opportunity to gain a real insight into different courses and areas of work

LAG must be focused and clearly linked to progression routes in the local labour market and provide targeted support for those that drop out of training or are in danger of dropping out of training.

Explore the potential for social enterprise activities to support young people in training and employment opportunities

Further consultation with young people, agencies and organisations

The research brief 'threw a very wide net' over the issues to be explored. This initial report has highlighted some of the key areas that require further exploration.

Other issues

Impact of the EMA needs to be monitored in terms of how far it assists young people to engage and stay engaged in learning.

Appendix 1

Interviewees

Tom Argument, Hartlepool Borough Council – 14-19 Coordinator

Rick Wells, Principal, Hartlepool Sixth Form College

Terry Curren, English Martyrs Sixth Form College

Trevor Mortlock and Susan Alderson, Job Centre Plus

Dave Waddington and Paul Marshall, Hartlepool College of Further Education

Marjorie James, Community Empowerment Network

Miriam Robertson and Terry Wilson, Connexions Tees Valley

Sue William, Denise Taylor and Paul Johnson, Hartlepool Borough Council,
Hartlepool Working Solutions

Dane Mills, Managing Director, Flexability

Leo Gillen,

Gill Dunn, Call Centre Manager, Garlands

Respondents to Questionnaires

Stephen Wright, Partnership Manager Learning and Skills Council

Chris Wise, West View Project



REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

**FINAL REPORT
WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND**

MARCH 2011

CABINET

21 MARCH 2011



Report of: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: FINAL REPORT – WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund'.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 8 July 2010, Members determined their work programme for the 2010/11 Municipal Year. The issue of 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' was selected as the first Scrutiny topic for consideration during the current Municipal Year.
- 2.2 The Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) was introduced in April 2008 to support local authorities' efforts to promote enterprise, tackle worklessness and reduce levels of deprivation in the most deprived areas of the country. The fund replaced the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and incorporated the Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) to create a single discretionary fund for local authorities to work with their partners at a local level. The withdrawal of the WNF will have a major impact on the worklessness agenda in Hartlepool.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 The overall aim of the scrutiny investigation was to assess the reduction and potential withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, its impact on the worklessness agenda and giving consideration to any potential future funding streams available to maintain service provision and to support how such funds may be utilised.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

4.1 The Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny investigation were as outlined below:-

- (a) To gain an understanding of the overall aim of the services the WNF provides and what positive outcomes look like;
- (b) To examine how WNF services are currently provided in Hartlepool (including the input of partner organisations) and explore their effectiveness, particularly with regard to the worklessness agenda;
- (c) To determine the impact of the reduction and potential withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhood Fund;
- (d) To consider the options for the continuation of WNF service provision giving due regard to:
 - (i) How services could continue to be provided (within the resources available in the current economic climate);
 - (ii) How services can be delivered more efficiently and effectively, particularly in relation to the worklessness agenda.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SCRUTINY FORUM

5.1 The membership of the Scrutiny Forum was as detailed below:-

Councillors Barclay, Cranney, Cook, Gibbon, James, A E Lilley, London, Rogan and Wells.

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson, John Maxwell and Angie Wilcox.

6. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

6.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met formally from 12 August 2010 to 20 January 2011 to discuss and receive evidence relating to this investigation. A detailed record of the issues raised during these meetings is available from the Council's Democratic Services.

6.2 A brief summary of the methods of investigation are outlined below:-

- (a) Detailed Officer presentations and reports supplemented by verbal evidence;

- (b) Evidence from the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development;
- (c) Presentation and verbal evidence from a representative from the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency; and
- (d) Verbal and written evidence received from representatives of jobs and the economy themed WNF programmes.

FINDINGS

7 OVERALL AIM OF THE SERVICES THE WNF PROVIDES AND WHAT POSITIVE OUTCOMES LOOK LIKE

- 7.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 9 September 2010 where Members received detailed evidence from the Economic Development Manager and the Employment Development Officer regarding the historical development of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), the areas of the town covered by the fund and details of jobs and the economy themed programmes. As part of the evidence, the Employment Development Officer highlighted priority groups the fund targets and the level of funds allocated to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Hartlepool.
- 7.2 During the presentation by the Employment Development Officer Members of the Forum were informed that the aim of the WNF was to turn around long term unemployment in the most disadvantaged communities and that the fund was dedicated to local councils and community organisations to address worklessness, skills and enterprise and reduce levels of deprivation in the most deprived areas of the country.
- 7.3 The Forum learned that the total WNF allocated to Hartlepool in 2010/11 was over £5 million and that since 2008 approximately 60 projects per year had been approved by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to deliver bespoke initiatives which had considerably improved economic growth and narrowed the gap within local areas.
- 7.4 The Forum was informed that the WNF links into other initiatives and funding streams including the Regional Employability Framework (REF). This was designed to provide a framework through which partners are able to connect and deliver national priorities for economic development, employment, skills and neighbourhood renewal both at regional, sub-regional and local level.
- 7.5 Members learned that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA) commissioning and tendering processes are increasingly requiring that all partners deliver employment and training activities in line with the REF. Alongside this, Hartlepool has reconfigured WNF to ensure that it follows the REF and compliments other external funding opportunities. Through creation of the REF model, jobs and the

economy themed projects are provided with the ability to deliver all elements of the journey from initial engagement through to sustained employment. The WNF programmes have been commissioned to add value to existing mainstream service available from agencies including Job Centre Plus and Connexions.

7.6 The Forum noted that the benefits of WNF are that it can be matched with a wide variety of funding streams including:-

- Third Sector funding including Northern Rock, Comic Relief and Lottery Funding
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Future Jobs Fund (FJF)
- SFA, i.e. Train2Gain
- Single Programme Funding

7.7 Members were pleased to note that Hartlepool has fully maximised the matching of WNF with other funding streams and partners have been able to offer enhanced services to clients.

7.8 The Forum acknowledged that positive outcomes have been achieved through the use of the WNF where individuals have been supported back into work, to live independently and run their own affairs. Members were also encouraged to note that opportunities for young people to gain employment through programmes such as the Future Jobs Fund, with the appropriate support in place, had proven successful.

7.9 Members were particularly interested in gaining an insight into the business assistance programmes offered by the Council. At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on the 14 October 2010 the Economic Development Manager indicated that this business assistance programme included advice on HR and current legislation. Financial assistance was also given on a case by case basis including business rate relief and possible rate holiday periods for small to medium enterprises facing financial hardship; individual applications for this assistance were considered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Procurement.

8 HOW WNF SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED IN HARTLEPOOL AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

8.1 The Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum gathered evidence from a number of different sources in relation to the delivery and effectiveness of WNF services in Hartlepool. Information considered by Members is detailed overleaf:-

Evidence from the Economic Development Team

- 8.2 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 9 September 2010 and received evidence from the Economic Development Manager and the Employment Development Officer on the jobs and the economy themed services provided through the WNF by Hartlepool Borough Council and the Community and Voluntary Sector within the town.
- 8.3 Members learned that there were 66 WNF programmes being delivered in 2010/11, of which 27 were of the jobs and the economy theme. Members were asked to note that other worklessness programmes also exist under the lifelong learning and health & social care themes. The services provided by the 27 jobs and the economy themed projects included the following:
- Engagement with hard to reach groups
 - Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Interviews
 - Regular Jobsearch facilities
 - Self-employment and new business start up advice
 - Pre-employment programmes (including preparing for interviews)
 - Volunteering opportunities
 - Links to sector specific training
 - Grants and subsidies for residents to enter into employment and training
 - Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) placements
 - In-work mentoring and aftercare support
 - Pastoral support
 - Specialist support including mental health provision and benefits advice
- 8.4 The Forum was informed that there are key priority groups living within the WNF areas that have been identified as being disadvantaged within the labour market. The jobs and economy themed WNF is particularly targeted at the groups shown below:
- Young people who are at risk of/or who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)
 - Young unemployed/Long term unemployed
 - Adults on incapacity or other sickness related benefits
 - Lone parents
 - Adults with caring responsibilities
 - Adults with no or low level skills
 - Adults with mental health issues or learning disabilities
 - People with disabilities and long term limiting illnesses
 - Ex Offenders
 - Adults at risk of becoming /or who are homeless
 - Adults with drug and alcohol misuse problems

- 8.5 Members of the Forum were advised that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) receives approximately 40% of the overall WNF jobs and the economy themed budget.
- 8.6 Table 1 highlights the VCS contribution to WNF outputs for 2008/09 and 2009/10 relating to residents entering employment, training and volunteering as shown below:-

Table 1 VCS Contribution to WNF outputs.

WNF Outputs	VCS 08/09	Total WNF 08/09	VCS 09/10	Total WNF 09/10
Residents into Employment	303	640	334	874
Residents into Training	305	935	443	1260
Residents into Volunteering	195	195	309	309
Residents Referred	146	146	130	130
Voluntary Sector Contribution to Employment Outcomes for 2008/09		47%		
Voluntary Sector Contribution to Employment Outcomes for 2009/10		38%		

- 8.7 Members were encouraged to note that WNF projects had overachieved in a number of areas despite the significant impact that the global economic downturn had at a local level over the past three years. Figure for projected and actual outputs for jobs and the economy themed projects in 2009/10 overall are as follows:-

	Actual	Projected
New businesses assisted	898	474
New businesses created	77	63
Clients engaged	2,451	1,869
Clients entering into training	1,394	932
Clients achieving a qualification	651	607

- 8.8 Members of the Forum were please to see that projects have over-achieved in a period when there has been fewer live vacancies and more people were losing their job/being made redundant.
- 8.9 The Forum recognised that there may be duplication in the services provided in relation to the worklessness agenda, which could potentially be eliminated by partnership working. Members were told of plans by the Economic Development Team to examine a range of programmes especially in relation

to duplication with a suggestion of organisations coming together to reduce overheads, possibly through the merging of back office functions or simply sharing a building. As part of this review, organisations were being asked to show what they had done to ensure that the future of their organisation was sustainable.

Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

- 8.10 When the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum met on 14 October 2010, Members welcomed the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development, to provide evidence in relation to the current provision of services funded by the WNF in Hartlepool.
- 8.11 The Portfolio Holder indicated that it would be worthwhile examining how services were currently provided, how they were structured and how different organisations work together. One option that may be considered would be the provision of one uniform service across the town as there appeared to be several across different areas in the town but providing the same service. The Portfolio Holder felt that this may result in cost efficiencies and possible streamlining of service provision for the user. It was noted that the Economic Development Team were currently undertaking a review of projects funded through the WNF although it may be necessary for a more radical approach to ensure services were provided by the most appropriate and effective providers.
- 8.12 The Portfolio Holder commented that the level of debate should be raised and co-ordinated in relation to the effective and efficient delivery of these services and that the information gathered as part of the inquiry would inform Members to deal with the bigger crisis' ahead, it was also noted that all organisations need to work together and look at sustainable ways of working to ensure that any relevant grant funding was secured.

ERS Independent Evaluation of WNF

- 8.13 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 9 September 2010 Members received details of an independent evaluation of WNF programmes was conducted by ERS in 2008/09 – with the final report being published in April 2009.
- 8.14 Members were interested to learn that overall the evaluation noted that the majority of projects provided good value for money. The report recognised that due to the complexity of the client group that WNF providers worked with it was important not to judge initiatives solely on their 'cost per job rate'. Members were advised that it was difficult to quantify value for money across WNF programmes due to the differing circumstances faced by each individual. The report emphasised the significant barriers that many clients faced in entering into work and their distance from the job market. It

recognised that many of the projects provided a first point of contact and engagement with hard to reach groups including people who were long-term unemployed and young people who are NEET.

- 8.15 The report acknowledged that the services were easily accessible to local residents' and that there was good spatial coverage of employment and training programmes across the WNF geographical areas. There was recognition that WNF providers had improved partnership working with key stakeholders across the town and that the WNF plugged gaps in mainstream Job Centre Plus (JCP) provision by offering day one eligibility for clients (some JCP provision is currently only available after a client is unemployed for six months).
- 8.16 There were high levels of satisfaction recorded with WNF clients who were interviewed and positive feedback on the services offered. There was acknowledgement that projects 'went the extra mile' for the client and provided very good pastoral support. There were areas for improvement identified including a need for some projects who worked with specific priority groups to work closer with statutory agencies including the Youth Offending Service and Connexions. Due to the economic climate, there was also a demand for projects to be reconfigured to ensure that increased levels of support for incapacity benefit claimants was made available to prevent them moving further away from the job market (including intensive mental health support services).

Evidence from Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency

- 8.17 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 14 October 2010, Members were delighted to hear evidence from the Manager of the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA).
- 8.18 The Manager of the HVDA provided Members with an insight into the range of programmes currently funded through the WNF in Hartlepool and the success of these programmes in assisting people in their search for work.
- 8.19 The Forum was informed of the work carried out by the HVDA and that in 2009/10 759 volunteers were supported and 375 were recruited, of which 255 were unemployed and 173 were long term unemployed. The Forum was delighted to learn that 32 obtained verifiable sustainable paid employment.
- 8.20 The Forum recognised that in addition to securing employment there were benefits that could not be measured, such as the changes this made to peoples lives and the positive impact having a working role model in the household had on 2nd and 3rd generation families suffering unemployment.
- 8.21 Members of the Forum were particularly interested in the Community Campus programme highlighted in the evidence presented by the Manager of the HVDA. The Forum learned that this was a scheme aimed at getting young people job ready and in a good position to progress through the

recruitment process, by gaining places on entry to employment programmes with local employers. Following participation on the Community Campus scheme it was noted that a number of other schemes were in place which offer 26 to 52 weeks paid employment with the Council or private sector employers. Members were concerned to hear that over 400 applications had recently been received for 4 apprenticeship posts within the Council.

9 IMPACT OF THE REDUCTION AND POTENTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

- 9.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were keen to gain an understanding of the impact the reduction and potential withdrawal of the WNF would have on the worklessness agenda in Hartlepool. Evidence gathered on the impact of the reduction or withdrawal of the fund is detailed below:-

Evidence from the Economic Development Team

- 9.2 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 9 September 2010 Members were advised by the Employment Development Officer that the reduction or removal of the WNF would have a significantly adverse effect on the worklessness, skills and enterprise agenda in Hartlepool (and particularly for those residents and businesses from the most deprived wards). The Forum also noted (with concern), that the loss of the WNF would damage the organisations that deliver the employment, training and business support programmes, as some are wholly dependent on the fund.
- 9.3 The Forum learned that as of 2008 there were 8 priority neighbourhoods established within the town which had been identified as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (as shown below):-
- Burbank
 - Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
 - Hartlepool NDC
 - North Hartlepool (Central Estate, Headland & West View/King Oswy)
 - Owton
 - Rift House/Burn Valley
 - Rossmere
 - Throston
- 9.4 The Forum was informed that 55% of Hartlepool's population currently live in these eight priority neighbourhoods and the town has 17 wards of which 11 fall within the Neighbourhood Renewal area. Members were provided with a copy of the current employment and key worklessness rates within each of the neighbourhood areas as an indication of the ongoing challenges that are still faced and the impact a removal of the WNF may have on these areas, attached as **Appendix A**.

- 9.5 At the meeting of the Forum on 25 November 2010 Members were advised that the loss of the WNF would result in a loss of the structure and skills that currently were in place to assist with the worklessness agenda and that this would happen at a time when these services would be in the most demand.
- 9.6 Members noted that the Economic Development Team were providing support to the VCS regarding exit strategies and redundancy issues.

Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

- 9.7 At the meeting of the Forum on 14 October 2010, the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development expressed concerns that the withdrawal of the Working Neighbourhood Fund would have a profound effect on the town, including the withdrawal of service provision by the local authority and community and voluntary sectors. It was noted that whilst job losses would be a factor in the short term, the longer term effects on the community had yet to be identified.
- 9.8 The Portfolio Holder commented that some local authority services may be mainstreamed but with local authorities also facing dramatic cuts in funding this was questionable. In addition, the reductions in the regional partnerships would also result in less funding available for the North East area.

Evidence from the Voluntary and Community Sector

- 9.9 At the meeting of the Forum on 25 November 2010, following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), Members were advised by the Employment Development Officer that there would be no funding to replace the WNF when it came to an end on 31 March 2011.
- 9.10 Voluntary and Community Groups, along with representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council jobs and the economy themed WNF programmes gave evidence to the Forum in relation to the numbers of posts which were fully funded by the WNF and the numbers of redundancies their programmes were likely to need to make. Some of the organisations felt that their services would not be of interest to the new agencies likely to take over provision of services (known as prime providers) as they did not directly get people back into employment, but assisted them with the life skills they needed to consider becoming active in the employment market.

10 CURRENT AND FUTURE BUDGET PRESURES AND OPTIONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SERVICES CURRENTLY FUNDED BY WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

- 10.1 Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were keen to explore the impact of current and future budgetary pressures and to

examine any options available to continue the services currently funded by the WNF. The Forum considered evidence as follows:-

Evidence from the Economic Development Team

- 10.2 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 9 September 2010 Members agreed that the Economic Development Team had an excellent track record of securing external funding on behalf of the Council and third sector groups in Hartlepool and that whilst future funding would be restricted there may still be opportunities. The Emerging Works Programme and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) could provide opportunities for local providers to tender for employment, training and business investment funding. The Forum was informed that the Economic Development Team were working closely with Tees Valley Unlimited to ensure the town can capitalise on funding.
- 10.3 The Forum were also asked to note that as part of the LEPs, the Government announced a £1 billion Regional Growth Fund to help areas and communities at risk of being particularly affected by public spending cuts, the fund will be available in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 and will help areas most dependent on public sector employment. Private sector and public-private partnerships will be able to bid for funding by demonstrating that their proposal will bring in private investment and support sustainable increases in private sector jobs and growth in their area.
- 10.4 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010 the Employment Development Officer gave a presentation to highlight the CSR announcement would result in a loss of £5 million per annum to contribute to the worklessness, skills and enterprise agenda, a loss of specialist services, strong partnerships and established structures that provided a unique service to vulnerable groups, the potential loss of highly skilled workers and all at a time when there would be increased pressures to access provision by residents and their families.
- 10.5 The Employment Development Officer detailed the work which had been carried out with WNF programmes in preparation for the potential withdrawal of the fund completely. Members questioned whether more should have been done to prepare groups at an earlier stage for no further funding streams to be available, especially given that the WNF had a completion date of 31 March 2011 from the outset. However, the Employment Development Officer confirmed that as part of annual WNF verification visits, all WNF providers were advised by the department from the outset that funding would cease within the above timescale. Within these verification visits, WNF providers were also encouraged to consider how they would sustain their activity beyond March 2011. Therefore, WNF providers had up to three years in which to prepare for the eventual ceasing of this funding stream which is sufficient planning time.

- 10.6 The Forum were encouraged to note that Voluntary and Community Groups may have access to apply for funding that would not be available to the public sector, but were advised that that each organisation would need to explore this independently of the Council and that the VCS needed to be in a position to maximise their specialism's and promote and sell their services. Members noted that the VCS could not rely on the Council to source funding and needed to be as pro-active as possible however, Members were please to learn that advice on this was available from the Economic Development Team.

Evidence from Jobs and the Economy Theme WNF Programmes

- 10.7 The Forum was very keen to hear the views of internal and external jobs and the economy themed service providers who received WNF funding. An invitation was extended to all jobs and the economy themed programmes to attend the meeting of the Forum on 25 November 2010 to express their views or to submit written evidence. Representatives expressed the following views:-
- 10.8 Some groups were confident that a number of opportunities exist to exploit their expertise and sell some aspects of their services to the new service providers or businesses; they also felt that there were potential funding opportunities to sub contract services. A number of VCS groups raised concerns that the clients they engaged with needed intensive one to one support which may not be attractive to prime providers and some had been unsuccessful in securing alternative funding to date.
- 10.9 Organisations requested assistance from the Economic Development Team in the future to complete large Government grant applications.
- 10.10 Some groups are developing strategies to look at new ways of working with partners to influence local delivery and also diversifying delivery to meet current and future economic development needs, others are strengthening their business model, revising the target client group and making course more attractive at full cost to ensure sustainability in the future.
- 10.11 Collectively 34 staff are at risk of redundancy from the groups who submitted written evidence to the Forum. No support was required with redundancies other than that already available through HBC internally or provided by the Economic Development Team.
- 10.12 All organisations who submitted written evidence were satisfied with the support received from Hartlepool Borough Council.
- 10.13 Additional comments received requested that the VCS look to include projects currently funded through HBC, such as Hartlepool Working Solutions, in bidding and funding opportunities the public sector are unable apply for, or the potential to sub contract out work should VCS applications be successful. Hartlepool Mind also raised concerns regarding access to

services for people with mental health problems once WNF funding is removed as this service was unique and not attractive to prime providers.

- 10.14 VCS representatives recognised the need to work together and support each other and that where possible resources should be shared and programmes developed in conjunction with other organisations. It was also recognised that there was a need to look at organisations collective resources and utilise these in the best way possible to attract more finance, to ensure expertise was shared and funding was targeted more selectively.
- 10.15 Members were encouraged to note the VCS had recognised the need to work collectively and reduce duplication in order to continue in the provision of worthwhile services.

11 CONCLUSIONS

11.1 The Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum concluded:-

- (a) That the WNF had contributed significantly to the positive outcome of the long term unemployed in Hartlepool and engaged people who would be outside of the reach of normal routes into employment;
- (b) That Hartlepool Borough Council and Voluntary and Community Sectors work well together to secure funding and deliver vital employment services to those most in need;
- (c) That the HBC Economic Development Team have an excellent track record of securing external funding on behalf of the Council and third sector groups in Hartlepool;
- (d) That the withdrawal of the WNF will have a major impact on the ability of organisations to deliver jobs and the economy themed services within Hartlepool;
- (e) That there has been a steep decline in the ability of organisations to provide services due to the in year cuts of WNF from September 2010;
- (f) That there is a greater need for Voluntary and Community organisations to work together to ensure survival and sustainability in the future and to remove duplication and silo working practices;
- (g) That services supporting hard to reach client groups which require intensive one to one support may not be attractive to prime service providers;
- (h) That some organisations may have skills that are of interest to prime providers and these organisations should look to promote and sell on their unique skills where feasible;

- (i) That there may be opportunities for VCS organisations to apply directly for funding in the future;
- (j) That a support arrangements had been put in place to by the Economic Development Team to provide advice on issues such as redundancy rights with the VCS;
- (k) That assistance was available from HBC for businesses in times of hardship.

12 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Forum's key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below:-

- (a) That where organisations can independently apply for funding that Hartlepool Borough Council should provide assistance with this process;
- (b) That promotion of support and assistance available for local businesses is undertaken including:-
 - (i) Increasing the awareness of hardship assistance available to businesses from Hartlepool Borough Council, for example through the prominent inclusion of information with business rates demands; and
 - (ii) Ensuring Hartlepool Borough Council staff who deal with local businesses can signpost people to appropriate sources of information and advice at the first point of contact.
- (c) That to encourage and support local businesses in Hartlepool:-
 - (i) The use of local providers to supply goods and services to Hartlepool Borough Council, where economically sensible, is explored; and
 - (ii) The e-quotations system is prominently highlighted to all relevant local businesses.
- (d) That the development of a 10 year jobs and the economy strategy for Hartlepool be explored and that at the outset of this, a working group of voluntary and private sector organisations is established;
- (e) That work is undertaken to establish a jobs and the economy themed social enterprise building on the work of Hartlepool Works, encompassing a partnership between the local authority, private

enterprises and the voluntary sector, to bid for and commission services to support people into employment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of our investigation. We would like to place on record our appreciation, in particular of the willingness and co-operation we have received from the below named:-

Hartlepool Borough Council:

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves - Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

Dave Stubbs - Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Damien Wilson – Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning

Antony Steinberg – Economic Development Manager

Mick Emerson – Principal Economic Development Officer (Business)

Patrick Wilson – Employment Development Officer

Jackie McGarry - Economic Development Officer

External Representatives:

Keith Bayley – Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency

Ilse Bray – Wharton Trust

Carl Crossman – Wharton Trust

Jan Hollis – Hartlepool Carers

Tracy Jefferies – Hartlepool Carers

Julie Marshall – Owton Manor West

Jimmy McKenna – Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency

Dave Thompson – DISC – STEP Project

David Simpson – Owton Manor West

Catherine Wakeling – Hartlepool MIND

Chris Wise – West View Project

Dave Wise – West View Project

**COUNCILLOR KEVIN CRANNEY
CHAIR OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SCRUTINY FORUM**

MARCH 2011

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were consulted or referred to in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Scoping Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 12 August 2010.
- (ii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Setting the Scene – Covering Report' Presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 9 September 2010.
- (iii) Report and Presentation of the Economic Development Manager entitled 'Working Neighbourhood Fund' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Service Scrutiny Forum of 9 September 2010.
- (iv) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Working Neighbourhood Fund – Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development – Covering Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum 14 October 2010.
- (v) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Evidence from Voluntary Organisations – Covering Report' presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 14 October 2010.

- (vi) Report and Presentation of the Manager of the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 14 October 2010.
- (vii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into the Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Evidence from the Regeneration and Planning Department – Covering Report presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010.
- (viii) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation onto the Working Neighbourhoods Fund' – Evidence from WNF Providers – Covering Report presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010.
- (ix) Presentation of the Employment Development Officer entitled 'Working Neighbourhood Funding' delivered to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 25 November 2010.
- (x) Northumberland County Council WNF 2009 – 2011 Guidance for Applicants.
- (xi) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum of 12 August 2010, 9 September 2010, 14 October 2010, 25 November and 20 January 2011.

Appendix A – Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (Key Economic Statistical Data)

The table below shows the latest key statistics for the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA) and is measured against the performance of Great Britain, regional, sub-regional and local rates. Unless otherwise stated, the data below relates to working-age adults and is sourced from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), mid-year estimates from 2009 with Tees Valley Unlimited providing an estimation for the neighbourhood figures.

Area	No of Working Age Pop.	% Employed Status	% Self Employed Status (2001 Census % of 16-74s)	% Worklessness	% Unemployed	% on IB	% on IS	% Children in Poverty (HMRC Data)
Burbank	795	42.8	2.6	57.2	14.5	22.6	21.0	61
Dyke House / Stranton / Grange	4350	57.4	3.1	42.6	11.1	14.2	19.3	50
Hartlepool NDC	6185	55.1	3.4	44.9	12.8	14.1	18.7	53
North Hartlepool	7420	58.2	3.2	41.8	8.5	14.7	17.3	41
Owton	4115	55.3	2.8	44.7	10.3	14.3	21.6	50
Rift House / Burn Valley	3190	60.0	2.7	40.0	9.5	13.4	13.4	35
Rossmere	3215	63.8	3.1	36.2	8.0	11.5	12.1	31
Throston	1115	61.9	2.6	38.1	6.8	15.9	11.2	20
Hartlepool	55200	66.8	4.3	33.2	7.1	10.0	11.3	30
Tees Valley	404200	68.3	4.8	31.7	6.3	8.0	10.0	26
Northeast	1601600	-	5.3	-	-	-	-	24
GB	33882200	74.0	8.3	26.0	4.1	6.5	7.3	22

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

1 September 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG
ADULTS AGED 19 - 25 – SETTING THE SCENE
PRESENTATION - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that members of the Economic Development Team have been invited to attend this meeting to provide information in relation to the investigation into employment and training opportunities in Hartlepool for young adults aged 19-25.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 21 July 2011, Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum determined their work programme for the 2011/12 Municipal Year. The issue of employment and training opportunities for young adults aged 19 - 25 was selected as the topic for investigation.
- 2.2 In accordance with the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Scrutiny investigation, as outlined in the scoping report detailed at item 7.1 on today's agenda, officers from the Economic Development Team from Hartlepool Borough Council have agreed to attend this meeting to provide a presentation to outline the following in relation to employment and training opportunities for young adults in Hartlepool aged 19 - 25:-
- (i) The number of young people who fall into this category in Hartlepool;
 - (ii) A brief overview of employment and training service available;
 - (iii) Local economic trends and factors which affect the issue; and
 - (iv) Where Hartlepool sits in comparison to regional and national figures.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence of the Economic Development Team from Hartlepool Borough Council in attendance at this meeting and seek clarification on any relevant issues where required.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults Aged 19-25 – Scoping Report' Presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 1 September 2011.
- (ii) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum 21 July 2011.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

1 September 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

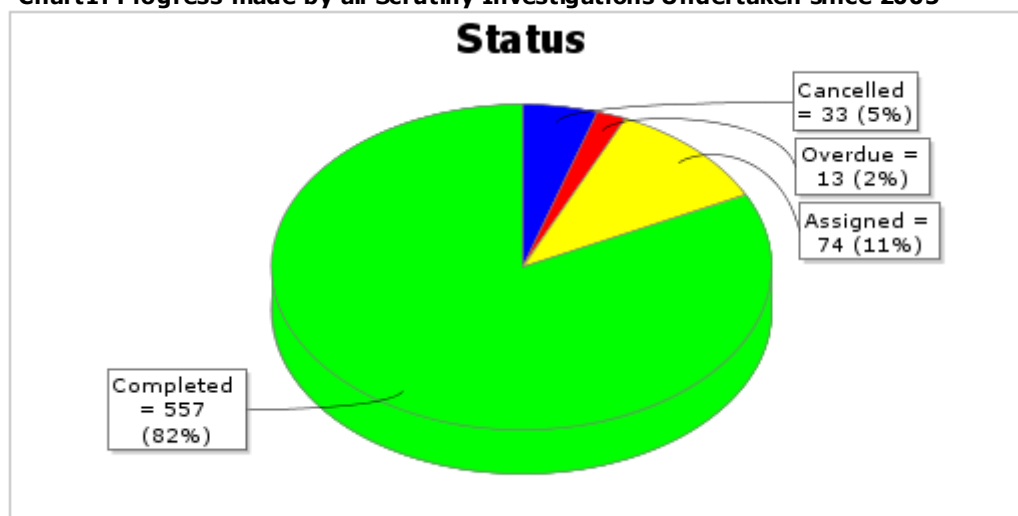
Subject: SIX MONTHLY MONITORING OF AGREED
REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the six monthly progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations of this Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In November 2007 the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee approved the introduction of the Scrutiny Monitoring Database, an electronic database, to monitor the delivery of agreed scrutiny recommendations since the 2005/06 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 In March 2010 Scrutiny Chairs noted and agreed for the movement of the Scrutiny Monitoring Database into the Covalent, which is the Council's Performance Management System. Members are asked to note that during May 2011 all call-in's and referrals since the 2005/06 Municipal Year were added to Covalent, therefore, although actions may have been completed as far back as 2005/06 they will appear in Appendix A.
- 2.3 In accordance with the agreed procedure, this report provides for Members details of progress made against each of the investigations undertaken by the Forum. **Chart1** overleaf is the overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005 and **Appendix A** provides a detailed explanation of progress made against each scrutiny recommendation agreed by this Forum since the last six monthly monitoring report presented in March 2011.

Chart1: Progress made by all Scrutiny Investigations Undertaken since 2005

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members:-

- (a) Note progress against the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations, since the 2005/06 Municipal Year, and explore further where appropriate; and
- (b) Retain **Appendix A** for future reference.

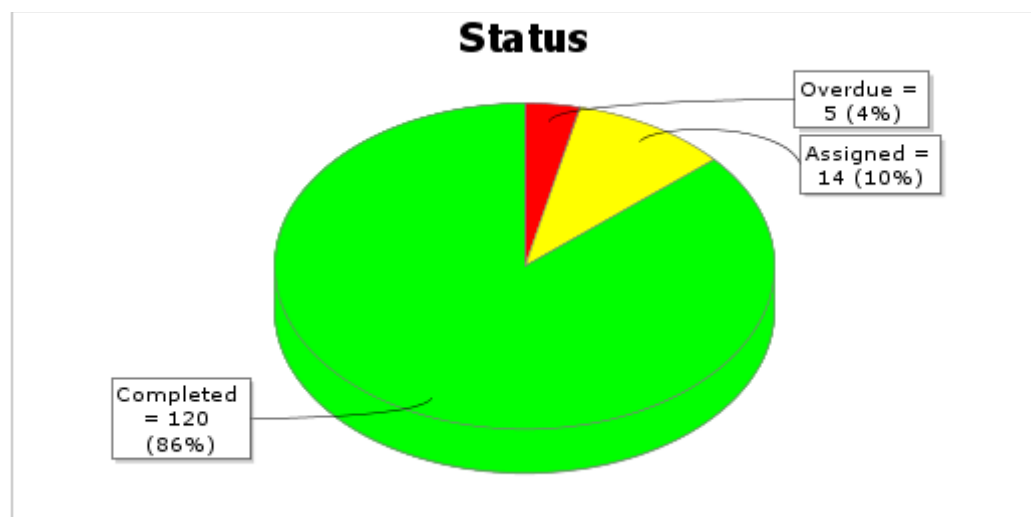
Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Regeneration & Planning Services Scrutiny Forum - All

Generated on: 17 August 2011



Year 2005/06

Investigation Partnerships

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/1a/i That the Council seeks to strengthen the feedback mechanisms (to the Local Authority) for its representatives on the Regional	SCR-RP/1a/i The Constitution Working Group should consider establishing feedback mechanisms from its representatives on Partnerships to Council.	Peter Devlin	31-Dec-2006	31-Dec-2009	09-Aug-2011 The Constitution Committee through the review of the Council's Constitution, include within that remit a consideration of available feedback	<div> <div>50%</div> <div>Overdue</div> </div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
Assembly and that substitute arrangements for those representatives should be clarified.					mechanisms from its representatives on partnership and other collaborative bodies. 23-Feb-2010 The "Reporting of Partnerships" to the Authority to be included through the Constitution Working Group's 'Work Programme' 2009/10.	

Year 2007/08
Investigation Seaton Carew - Regeneration Needs and Opportunities

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/5g That pending the outcome of Seaton Carew's Coastal Strategy Study, consideration be given to delaying the establishment of interim arrangements for the marketing and planning activity for land susceptible to flooding in and around Seaton Carew.	SCR-RP/5g/ii Other sites in Seaton brought forward for development will be subject to the standard flood risk analysis as part of the planning application process.	Dennis Hancock	31-Jan-2010	31-Dec-2011	04-Mar-2011 Consultation currently ongoing to ensure that the coastal strategy for Seaton complements the regeneration proposals and appropriate contributions to the coastal upgrades are secured from all beneficiaries. 25-Feb-2010 Expected to achieve target.	<div> <div>50%</div> Assigned </div>

Year 2009/10
Investigation Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-RP/9a/ii That due to long-term sustainability problems of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) - (ii) Seeks innovative ways of attracting sustainable income to support and develop the Business Incubation System in Hartlepool.	SCR-RP/9a/ii As a service, opportunities to develop the property portfolio will be sought which has the potential in the medium term to provide income which could be utilised to support Hartlepool's Incubation system.	Mick Emerson	31-Mar-2013	31-Mar-2013	<p>07-Mar-2011 Continuing with the potential Crown House Development although decisions about the most appropriate "vehicle" and potential funding are still outstanding</p> <p>10-Jan-2011 Continuing to investigate most appropriate mechanisms and seek funding</p> <p>17-Sep-2010 The change in government has led to delays in funding across the region. At the present time indicative costings are in the process of being sought although approval is required from ONE.</p> <p>08-Jul-2010 Preparation of brief for Crown House being prepared</p>	<div> <div>60%</div> </div>	Assigned

Year 2009/10

Investigation The Hartlepool Transport Interchange

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-RP/8d That a process is put in place to regularly review and keep Members informed of the development of the Hartlepool Transport	SCR-RP/8d Circulation update to be provided to Members, including:- plans, progress report and timeline performance.	Peter Frost; Alastair Smith	30-Apr-2010	30-Apr-2011	15-Aug-2011 No increase in services following Town Wide Transport Provision meetings, although Scrutiny investigation is still ongoing. Update on current Interchange	<div> <div>75%</div> </div>	Overdue

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
Interchange with particular reference to usage and transport operator linkage.					situation will be provided to Members by the end of August.	
					19-Apr-2011 Town Wide Transport Provision meetings have taken place in March and April. The removal of supported bus services has also led to this issue being referred through Scrutiny, and Members have been updated through this process.	
					07-Mar-2011 The removal of supported bus services from the end of March means that a number of operators will no longer be running buses through the Interchange. It has therefore proved even more difficult to arrange a meeting with the operators. A date will be booked during April and all appropriate operators invited to attend, despite the lack of interest so far.	
					19-Jan-2011 No update to report as yet. There has been a delay arranging the meeting due to lack of interest at first, but this is now expected to take place by the end of January. An update based on the	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					findings from the meeting will be circulated shortly afterwards.	
					21-Oct-2010 A meeting is arranged with all current and potential operators using the Interchange. Update to Members will be issued following this meeting.	
					18-Aug-2010 Interchange official opening took place at end of July. Next quarterly update to Members due at end of October.	

Year 2010/11
Investigation Services Available to Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/11a/i That promotion of support and assistant available to male victims of domestic abuse is undertaken to encourage more male victims to engage with services, including:- (i)Utilisation of appropriate promotional and awareness raising activities	SCR-RP/11a/i This campaign will be included in Harbours promotional strategy for 2011/12 in conjunction with the DV Forum, Reducing Violence group & Safer Hartlepool Partnership. As a result of the loss of the Funding for publicity and marketing the SHP will rely heavily on cross departmental support in highlighting services linked to male victims of domestic	Brian Neale	31-Oct-2011	31-Oct-2011		<div>77%</div> Assigned

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
		abuse, and therefore utilising any existing and available material by the Home Office/other sources.					
SCR-RP/11a/ii That promotion of support and assistant available to male victims of domestic abuse is undertaken to encourage more male victims to engage with services.	SCR-RP/11a/ii	In relation to (a)(ii) steps will continue to be taken in ensuring dissemination of information to the public is achieved by a range of methods and not relying solely upon internet.	Brian Neale	31-Oct-2011	31-Oct-2011		<div>100%</div> Assigned
SCR-RP/11b That the provision of a helpline specifically for male victims of domestic abuse is investigated with the Safer Hartlepool Partnership	SCR-RP/11b	Harbour already have an 0845 number which is promoted for both male and female victims, ensuring a single point of contact for all support services. The SHP will investigate this, but given financial constraints it may be sensible and appropriate to consider the promotion of the 0845 number as outlined above as an appropriate helpline number.	Brian Neale	31-Oct-2011	31-Oct-2011		<div>100%</div> Assigned
SCR-RP/11c/i That following the refresh of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership website a review of the Hartlepool Borough Council website is undertaken to assess whether:- (i)The website contains sufficient	SCR-RP/11c/i	As Avanticom, are no longer involved as the result of contract termination due to financial constraints, steps are being taken through HBC links to manage the SHP website. Harbour have agreed to provide appropriate information targeted at male victims. Once the management of	Brian Neale	31-Aug-2011	31-Aug-2011		<div>100%</div> Assigned

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
information		the website is clearly understood by all parties, then the Community Safety Manager will ensure that this action is fulfilled and links made.					
SCR-RP/11c/ii That following the refresh of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership website a review of the Hartlepool Borough Council website is undertaken to assess whether:- (ii)Information can be accessed with limited searching.	SCR-RP/11c/ii	In relation to recommendation (ii) information can be accessed at the present time with limited searching, however in the spirit of review it will be examined more closely to see if we can improve this process.	Brian Neale	31-Aug-2011	31-Aug-2011		<div><div></div></div> Assigned
SCR-RP/11d That work is undertaken in conjunction with the Child and Adult Services Department to investigation the potential to deliver non gender specific domestic abuse prevention programmes at a school level.	SCR-RP/11d	The Community Safety Manager will ensure discussions take place with Child & Adult Services and appropriate partners, to establish the level of delivery re non gender specific domestic abuse issues in schools and if this needs to be improved an appropriate action plan will be developed.	Brian Neale	30-Nov-2011	30-Nov-2011		<div><div></div></div> Assigned
SCR-RP/11e/i That work is undertaken with other local authorities in the northern region to consider:- (i)Support for a cross authority male domestic abuse worker to develop	SCR-RP/11e/i	The Safer Hartlepool Partnership will explore this opportunity but financial constraints must be taken into consideration. Links have already been made on a regional basis to key partners and this will be explored further.	Brian Neale	31-May-2012	31-May-2012		<div><div></div></div> Assigned

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
and promote services available throughout the northern region;							
SCR-RP/11e/ii That work is undertaken with other local authorities in the northern region to consider:- (ii)Undertaking a cross authority review to determine the demand for a male refuge.	SCR-RP/11e/ii	Harbour is happy to contribute to the review but our research and experience suggests that support for male victims will be best met through community based services, including accommodation provided in individual properties	Brian Neale	31-May-2012	31-May-2012		<div> <div></div> <div>100%</div> </div> Assigned

Year 2010/11
Investigation Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-RP/10a That where organisations can independently apply for funding that Hartlepool Borough Council should provide assistance with this process.	SCR-RP/10a	Where applicable and where resources allow, Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Development Team already provides assistance to organisations to submit funding applications. In addition, ED tends to lead on writing consortium applications on behalf of key agencies across Hartlepool and will continue to do so. Economic Development will support voluntary community sector to develop capacity to	Patrick Wilson	31-May-2011	31-May-2011	<div> <div></div> <div>00%</div> </div> Overdue	

Recommendation	Action		Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
		undertake bid writing for funding opportunities.						
SCR-RP/10b/i That promotion of support and assistance available for local businesses is undertaken including:- (i)Increasing the awareness of hardship assistance available to businesses from Hartlepool Borough Council.	SCR-RP/10b/i	<p>This support is ongoing working in partnership with the business rates section. Businesses that contact the Council stating that they are having difficulties with rates payments due to the general economic downturn are referred to the business rates section. The rates team will seek to maximise entitlements to small business rates relief and consider rescheduling rate instalments over longer periods. The small business rate relief scheme is actively promoted by inclusion of information leaflets within rate demands. Businesses are visited by ED officers and if deemed to be in severe hardship then an application may be considered for Hardship Relief as a last resort.</p> <p>The hardship rate relief system is funded at a rate of 25% by the Council. Currently a temporary pressure of £70k has been allocated in each of the three years 2010/11 to 2012/13 and the budget for 2010/11 has already been fully committed.</p> <p>The Council can promote</p>	John Morton; Antony Steinberg	31-Mar-2012	31-Mar-2012	<p>12-Jul-2011 Availability of Business Rate reduction and reliefs promoted by Revenues staff and via the Council website. ED and Revenue Teams are working together on ongoing basis on payment holidays, revised investments etc in appropriate cases.</p> <p>05-Jul-2011 Continued joint working on a case by case basis.</p>	<div> <div></div> 25% </div> Assigned	


Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	the availability of hardship relief with rate demands however the ability to provide financial support will be constrained by the available funding. The expansion of support beyond the current budget would require the identification of compensatory savings and a report to Council as a departure from the approved budget for 2011/12.					
SCR-RP/10c/i That to encourage and support local businesses in Hartlepool:- (i)The use of local providers to supply goods and services to Hartlepool Borough Council, where economically sensible, is explored	SCR-RP/10c/i/1 The Council's procurement procedures have in place the consideration for all tenders to consider local businesses if applicable.	Mick Emerson	31-Mar-2012	31-Mar-2012	15-Jul-2011 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules and guidance require at least two local businesses are approached for quotations [where local suppliers are available]. A guide for supplying goods and services is promoted to local businesses through a specific webpage on the investinhartlepool.com website and the main Council website also has a section entitled "Selling to the Council" providing further information to current and potential suppliers. Businesses are supported by Economic Development to engage with the Council on procurement	<div> <div>70%</div> Assigned </div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					opportunities. E-quotation system is currently being piloted around buyers in the Council and the Contract Procedure Rules have been amended to support the mandatory use of this system once implemented.	
SCR-RP/10c/i That to encourage and support local businesses in Hartlepool:- (i)The use of local providers to supply goods and services to Hartlepool Borough Council, where economically sensible, is explored	SCR-RP/10c/i/2 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Guidance will reflect encouragement of the local economy, including the voluntary and community sector wherever possible.	David Hart	31-May-2011	31-May-2011		<div><div></div></div> Overdue
SCR-RP/10c/ii That to encourage and support local businesses in Hartlepool:- (ii) The e-quotations system is prominently highlighted to all relevant local businesses.	SCR-RP/10c/ii A guide for supplying goods and services to the Council are promoted to local businesses through a specific webpage on the investinhartlepool.com website. Businesses are signposted by ED officers to this procurement guide and the ability for them to tender online. E-quotation system will be publicly launched so as to reach local businesses and the voluntary and community sector.	David Hart	30-Jun-2011	30-Jun-2011		<div><div></div></div> Overdue

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-RP/10d That the development of a 10 year jobs and the economy strategy for Hartlepool be explored and that at the outset of this, a working group of voluntary and private sector organisations is established.	SCR-RP/10d Following on from the recently produced Economic Assessment, a new Economic Regeneration Strategy will be produced in 2011. This document will provide a ten year vision and objectives to support the growth of Hartlepool's economy. Public, private and third sector groups will be invited to workshops to be consulted on what should be included within the Strategy.	Antony Steinberg	30-Nov-2011	30-Nov-2011	08-Jul-2011 The Economic Assessment has been completed and is providing the base line evidence to develop a new 10 year Economic and Regeneration Strategy by November 2011. Three workshops have been held that have been facilitated by Durham University Business School. This work has identified a range of issues to consider within the development of the strategy.	<div><div>35%</div></div>	Assigned
SCR-RP/10e That work is undertaken to establish a jobs and the economy themed social enterprise building on the work of Hartlepool Works, encompassing a partnership between the local authority, private enterprises and the voluntary sector.	SCR-RP/10e Reviews are ongoing within the Hartlepool Works (HW) Steering Group to identify the benefits, including financial, of establishing a social enterprise. This proposed action will be developed in consultation with representatives from the HW Steering Group and wider HW consortium members which consists of over 40 organisations. Each of these groups would potentially have an interest in being involved in this proposed social enterprise and would need to be consulted with.	Diane Martin	31-Mar-2012	31-Mar-2012	11-Jul-2011 Initial meeting pre April 2011 gained general agreement to look into the scope of developing a social vehicle. This has been on hold due to changes to organisation sturcutres and which third sector organisations would be able post March 2011 to work in partnership on the development. The discussion will be picked up at the next Hartlepool Works Partnership meeting, 27th July 2011.	<div><div>25%</div></div>	Assigned

Year 2006/07

Investigation Railway Approaches

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/2d That the Authority uses its Planning and Development Control powers proactively to enhance the Railway Approaches into the town.	SCR-RP/2d	Planning & Development Control powers to be used as appropriate, including reporting mechanisms via Planning Committee, subject to individual site considerations.	Matthew King	01-Jun-2007	01-Jun-2011	<p>19-Apr-2011 Targets have been achieved, future progress will be monitored through the officer working group.</p> <p>10-Mar-2011 The works to the public transport interchange are complete and have had a very successful impact on the environment within this area. Network Rail have completed the refurbishment of the railway station including the canopy roof and platform improvements which will help to facilitate the Tees Valley Metro system in the future. In relation to the CJC Site an application to change a number of the conditions relating to the planning permission has been received. No development or remediation has yet begun on site. The Council has continued to liaise with the owners of the Newburn Bridge premises and is encouraged that the levels of this site have reduced towards the agreed height. Officers</p>
						 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					will continue to monitor the railway corridor through an officer working group.	
					13-Apr-2010 Secretary of State's decision letter of 27 March 2010 granted permission for the CJC site so that the remediation of the land can now proceed within the terms if the S106 legal agreement. Discussions with owners of Newburn Bridge premises continuing at April 2010 with the owners and with the Environment Agency.	
					23-Feb-2010 Planning application for CJC site minded to approve by Committee June 2008: called in by Sec. of State Nov.08. Public Inquiry Nov 2009. Untidy Users at New Burn Bridge subject to discussions on planning conditions. Screening of site commenced July 2009 [update]Public Inquiry held 10-17 November 2009. S106 Legal agreement signed 3 December 2009. Inspector's decision awaited in January-February 2010. Legal agreement requires site clearance to be	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					commenced within a specified time from any planning permission. Discussions with owners of Newburn Bridge premises continuing December 2009 with the owners and with the Environment Agency.	

Year 2007/08

Investigation Seaton Carew - Regeneration Needs and Opportunities

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/5g That pending the outcome of Seaton Carew's Coastal Strategy Study, consideration be given to delaying the establishment of interim arrangements for the marketing and planning activity for land susceptible to flooding in and around Seaton Carew.	SCR-RP/5g/i	Dennis Hancock	31-Jan-2010	30-Apr-2011	16-Aug-2011 Report regarding marketing taken to Cabinet in Jan 2010. Cabinet report regarding coastal strategy considered 9 May 2011, coastal strategy adopted.	<div>100%</div> Completed
					04-Mar-2011 Cabinet Report currently on the forward programme and is expected to be presented in April 2011.	
					25-Feb-2010 The consultants are progressing the Strategy Study and a second public consultation was held in November 2009. The study is due to be complete and formally presented to the Environment Agency's	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					National Review Group in April 2010. It is expected that the Environment Agency's review and approval.	

Year 2008/09

Investigation The Marketing of Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/7d/ii That the signage into and around Hartlepool be:- (ii) Re-examined in relation to the use of an intermediary company who charges the Council for signage on roundabouts in Hartlepool with consideration about bringing 'in-house'.	SCR-RP/7d/ii Roundabout sponsorship arrangements to be reviewed.	John Brownhill	31-Oct-2009	31-Oct-2011	<p>19-Apr-2011 No decisions have been made in relation to future procurement of roundabout sponsorship. Further discussions will be held with procurement to look at joint working with other Authorities.</p> <p>21-Jan-2011 Discussions are still ongoing with Procurement</p> <p>21-Oct-2010 Procurement have looked into roundabout sponsorship, however Middlesbrough Council tendered under their own agreement and not Tees Valley therefore HBC are unable to tag onto that agreement. Further discussions will be taking place to look at possibility of tendering the</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>sponsorship of roundabouts via Procurement</p> <p>16-Jul-2010 Contact with neighbouring Authorities has highlighted that there are a number of different schemes in operation. Middlesbrough Council has recently re-tendered the management of sponsorship of roundabouts and the agreements are more in favour of the Council in relation to the revenue percentage than is currently operating within Hartlepool. HBC Procurement are currently looking at the possibility of HBC tagging on to this contract under the Tees Valley arrangements.</p> <p>25-Feb-2010 Income generation is being considered across the Regen & Neighbourhood dept, of which signage on roundabouts will be one aspect. Income generation will be looking at maximising future income to the council.</p>	

Year 2009/10

Investigation Hartlepool's Business Incubation System

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/9a/i That due to long-term sustainability problems of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) - (i) Reviews where gaps are in financial provision with the aim of prioritising grant support aid	SCR-RP/9a/i A review will be undertaken to take into account the existing grant provision across the region and emerging assistance through the Tees Valley Industrial Programme. Through the Tees Valley Finance for Business Group, issues about gaps in provision will be discussed and also opportunities for Hartlepool Businesses to integrate with Regional Funders will be developed.	Mick Emerson	31-Dec-2010	31-Dec-2011	<p>20-Apr-2011 Finance for Business Forum meeting arranged for May to ensure that the regional funding is more integrated with the Tees Valley. Also launch of North East Micro Loan Fund at this event which aims to provide seed funding, alongside a capacity building project. The loss of WNF together with the difficult financial situation of the council means that additional grant funding is unlikely to be forthcoming</p> <p>07-Mar-2011 The Tees Valley Finance for Business Forum continues to meet to consider how best to integrate finance providers with clients. In addition the potential provision of finance Tees Valley wide is also being considered in conjunction with Heads of Economic Development - with the potential to consider a bid for Regional Growth Funding to provide the necessary capital.</p> <p>17-Sep-2010 Ongoing</p>	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					development of Incubation system is continuing in view of the anticipated funding difficulties. Actions to enable the provision of financial assistance to be able to still be provided are being considered, although this may need to be in a form other than grants.	
					02-Aug-2010 Actions agreed	
SCR-RP/9b/i That in order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation, that - (i) Where empty properties exist in the Town, investment is sought to convert them into appropriate facilities.	SCR-RP/9b/i/ii Single Programme funding has been secured for the purchase and demolition of the Crown Buildings in Surtees Street with the potential of a new build centre in the future (subject to funding) which would effectively form the 3rd stage in terms of development for the Incubation Strategy.	Mick Emerson	31-Mar-2011	31-Mar-2011	21-Apr-2011 Feasibility Study now being tendered for Crown House with options to seek funding going forward	<div>100%</div> Completed
					10-Jan-2011 The project is ongoing and the development brief being prepared, along with considering options for alternate delivery mechanisms	
					17-Sep-2010 Ongoing development of the brief is being undertaken - progress is on track, but slow due to the changes in the wider regeneration landscape	
					02-Aug-2010 Consideration of the type of facilities being developed	
SCR-RP/9b/ii That in	SCR-RP/9b/ii s106 are already being	Mick Emerson	31-Mar-2011	31-Mar-2011	20-Apr-2011 The TRT	<div>100%</div> Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
<p>order to provide more premises for business incubation and move-on accommodation, that - (ii) The feasibility of utilising Section 106 Agreements for the development of appropriate facilities is investigated.</p>	<p>utilised where appropriate and could be considered within the Incubation System – although this needs to be considered in line with other strategic objectives which the Council seeks to address through the use of these agreements (worklessness, environmental improvements, security issues)</p>				pilot is now being rolled out which will aim to ensure strong links between physical developments and economic aims.	
					07-Mar-2011 Live run of the workflow now in final preparation - to be completed by end March	
					10-Jan-2011 Roll out of the pilot system continues	
					17-Sep-2010 Pilot system now developed and introduced to relevant council officers in advance of roll out	
					02-Aug-2010 System being piloted through NEIP	
<p>SCR-RP/9c/ii That local schools are encouraged to embrace incubator business opportunities through - (ii) Investigating the role of local business representatives as e-mentors.</p>	<p>SCR-RP/9c/ii</p> <p>As a means of maintaining momentum, consideration of if a system of e-mentoring could be successful with the aim of piloting activity within one of the schools.</p>	<p>Mick Emerson</p>	<p>31-Mar-2011</p>	<p>31-Mar-2011</p>	<p>20-Apr-2011 The whole landscape around enterprise support is changing under the new Government with greatly reduced resources. In particular the reduced assistance for pre-start businesses from the regional BusinessLink programme has meant that priority in this field has had to be given to individuals who are enterprise ready.</p> <p>10-Jan-2011 Activity needs to be considered</p>	<p>100% Completed</p>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					in the wider landscape of enterprise support	
					17-Sep-2010 Tall Ships now completed - looking to develop pilot activity	
					02-Aug-2010 Plans to be developed post Tall Ships	

Year 2010/11
Investigation Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-RP/10b/ii That promotion of support and assistance available for local businesses is undertaken including, ensuring Hartlepool Borough Council staff who deal with local businesses can signpost people to appropriate sources of information	SCR-RP/10b/ii Council officers in particular Business Rates and Contact Centre staff are aware of the business support services offered by ED and regularly signpost businesses for information, advice and guidance.	John Morton; Antony Steinberg	30-Apr-2011	30-Apr-2011	12-Jul-2011 As part of to joined up services Hartlepool Connect & Revenues (Billing & Recovery staff) have been instructed to, where relevant, signpost business to the support & advice available via ED. 05-Jul-2011 Full details of business support, employment and training provided to contact centre to enable them to effectively advise customers of the services offered by Economic Development.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

1 September 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum to consider whether any item within the Executive's Forward Plan should be considered by this Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 One of the main duties of Scrutiny is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Executive's Forward Plan) and to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process in advance of the decision being made.
- 2.2 This would not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 As you are aware, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny, as it thinks fit, and if appropriate can exercise or delegate to individual Scrutiny Forums. Consequently, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee monitors the Executive's Forward Plan and delegates decisions to individual Forums where it feels appropriate.
- 2.4 In addition to this, the key decisions contained within the Executive's Forward Plan (September – December 2011) relating to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum are shown below for Members consideration:-

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 29/10 HARTLEPOOL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY

Nature of the decision

To seek approval and support for the Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

All wards will be affected.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be considered by Cabinet in December 2011

Who will be consulted and how?

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Reducing Violence group and its sub-group, the domestic violence forum will assist with development and consultation. The Children's Trust Board and Local Safeguarding Children's Board will also be invited to comment during the consultation period. Local stakeholders and service users will be the key consultees. A seminar will be held to consult Elected Members.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The first Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy was published in 2007. The revised and updated strategy will utilise local statistical evidence gathered from a range of partner organisations such as Police, Harbour, Children's Services, Courts, Housing Hartlepool, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and Probation.

The strategy will focus on support for victims, perpetrators and children and young people; awareness raising of the extent and impact of domestic violence and greater emphasis on high risk cases.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Denise Ogden Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, TS24 8AY. Tel: 01429 523201 Email: denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Sally Forth, Community Safety Manager, Police Office, Avenue Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BB, Tel: 01642 302589. sally.forth@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 60/11 HARTLEPOOL HOUSING STRATEGY 2011-2015

Nature of the decision

Key decision to endorse the implementation of the Housing Strategy for 2011 – 2015 and the associated Action Plan.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

All Wards

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in September 2011

Who will be consulted and how?

There has been early engagement in the development of the Housing Strategy from all our partners, including Registered Providers, residents, voluntary organisations, private sector etc.

Ongoing consultation will also take place with our key partners, stakeholders and residents during the development of the final Strategy and Action Plan and throughout the lifetime of the Strategy.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet will consider how the Housing Strategy and Action Plan will meet the key housing priorities for Hartlepool for the period to 2015. The priorities identified are clearly linked to other strategies and plans and will be achieved through challenging but deliverable actions. The report will address financial and delivery arrangements for the Strategy's objectives. The Strategy has been developed during a period of challenging economic conditions and whilst it sets out a longer term vision it recognises that short and medium term actions are needed to address issues facing the current housing market.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523301 e-mail: dave.stubbs@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be sought by contacting Karen Kelly (Housing Strategy Officer) 01429 284117 or Amy Waller (Principal Housing and Regeneration Officer) 01429 523539.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 68 / 11 - COMMUNITY COHESION FRAMEWORK

Nature of the decision

The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the adoption of a Community Cohesion Framework.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Housing

Ward(s) affected

The Community Cohesion Framework covers all Wards of the Town

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in November 2011

Who will be consulted and how?

The Draft Community Cohesion Framework will be presented to the following:

- SHP Executive
- Community Safety and Housing Portfolio
- Both the Statutory and Voluntary Organisations: including - HVDA, Salaam Centre, Hart Gables, Access Group, Places of Worship, Police, Adult and Child Services, Fire Brigade, Health and Social Housing Providers.

After consultation on the Draft Framework the final document will be ratified by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The issue of Community Cohesion has risen up the national political agenda in recent years. Equality and diversity are key concepts for all of us as they aim to ensure a fair society where everyone has the same opportunities, and their different needs and aspirations are recognised and respected. The framework will be a resource which keeps developing and whose elements are constantly renewed as our knowledge and understanding continues to develop in relation to building well integrated and cohesive communities.

There are already lots of strategies and plans, locally and nationally, which talk about how the Council and others will work to promote Community Cohesion.

To strengthen the overall approach it will be essential that this framework and the issues involving community cohesion must be specifically addressed by drawing on the strategies already in place, such as Neighbourhood Management and Community Empowerment, SHP Crime and Disorder Strategy and Volunteering etc. The aim is that cohesion is not seen as an 'add on' to these existing strategies but as an integral part of everything that we do.

Nationally it also will reflect the Coalition's recent initiatives around 'Big Society' and the Localism Bill.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Denise Ogden Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, TS24 8AY. Tel: 01429523201 Email: denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Management (North), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Hartlepool Borough Council, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool. TS24 7BT. Telephone 01429 523860. E-mail: karen.oliver@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 69/11 - FLEXIBLE SUPPORT FUND

Nature of the decision

To seek approval to deliver pre Work Programme employability programmes for unemployed active clients of all working age.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

Potentially all wards but particularly impacting on the most deprived wards in the Town.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in September 2011.

Who will be consulted and how?

Key stakeholders and partners, one workshop has already been held involving Council Departments and the voluntary/community sector, which was held on the 13th July 2011.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Job Centre Plus have announced £1.8m of Flexible Support Funds for Tees Valley and Durham to implement employability programmes to support unemployed clients of all working age who are not eligible for the DWP Work Programme. Essentially the scheme is aimed at pre Work Programme Job Centre Plus clients to deliver employment outcomes to avoid significant flows onto the Work Programme.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square Hartlepool, TS247BT, telephone 01429 523503, email antony.steinberg@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Antony Steinberg, contact details noted above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 70/11 - INNOVATION FUND

Nature of the decision

To seek approval to deliver a programme to support young people 14 years plus to improve employability prospects and in addition deliver employment outcomes for young people aged over 18. This will be subject to a successful bidding process via DWP.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

Potentially all wards but particularly focusing on the most deprived wards.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in September 2011

Who will be consulted and how?

Key stakeholders and partners, one workshop has already been held involving Council Departments and the voluntary/community sector, which was held on the 13th July 2011.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The Government has announced £30m of support to assist the most disadvantaged young people from 14 years plus to improve employability and in addition deliver employment outcomes for young people over 18 years old. DWP is inviting bids for organisations to deliver appropriate programmes and is based on an outcome payment model.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square Hartlepool, TS247BT, telephone 01429 523503, email antony.steinberg@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Antony Steinberg, contact details noted above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 71/11 - FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE PROBLEMS

Nature of the decision

To seek approval to enter into partnership or sub contracting arrangements with a DWP Prime Provider to deliver the ESF funded Families With Multiple Problems. This is subject to negotiations with the successful Prime Provider to be appointed by DWP.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

Potentially all wards but particularly impacting on the most deprived wards in the Town.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in September 2011.

Who will be consulted and how?

Key stakeholders and partners, one workshop has already been held involving Council Departments and the voluntary/community sector, which was held on the 13th July 2011.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

To negotiate and implement subcontracting arrangements with a DWP Prime Provider to deliver an ESF funded programme, Families with multiple problems.

The focus of the programme is to deliver employment outcomes and the programme operate over two years to support families with multiple barriers to employment including intergenerational worklessness.

The guidance from DWP stipulates that the Work Programme Prime Providers will be eligible to apply for the funding and that the successful Prime Provider must work closely with local authorities and all referrals of clients must be made via local authorities who will be responsible for identifying appropriate families.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square Hartlepool, TS247BT, telephone 01429 523503, email antony.steinberg@hartlepool.gov.uk

**DECISION REFERENCE: RN 76/11 RABY ROAD CORRIDOR -
GENERAL VESTING DECLARATION**

Nature of the decision

Key Decision to endorse the implementation of the Borough of Hartlepool (Land at Perth, Hurworth and Gray Streets, Turnbull Street (Nos. 47 to 68), West Hartlepool Rovers Amateur Quoits Club Grainger Street, Grainger Street (Nos. 1 to 21) Raby Road (Nos. 144 to 160 (even)) and No. 40 Brougham Terrace, North Central Hartlepool) Compulsory Purchase Order 2010 ("the CPO") by means of making a General Vesting Declaration and taking all related steps.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

Dyke House Ward.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in September 2011.

Who will be consulted and how?

The development and implementation of the housing market renewal programme in central Hartlepool to date has been informed by extensive rounds of community consultations and resident/stakeholder engagement in a range of forms.

Overall management of the programme of redevelopment in Dyke House is overseen by the North Central Hartlepool Steering Group, which has a Chair and Vice Chair who are both local residents. Ongoing community consultation and engagement with local residents will remain a key feature of the implementation of the wider regeneration and housing programme moving forward.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet will consider the making of a General Vesting Dedication in respect of all outstanding interests and new rights over land pursuant to the Borough of Hartlepool (Land at Perth, Hurworth and Gray Streets, Turnbull Street (Nos. 47 to 68), West Hartlepool Rovers Amateur Quilts Club Grainger Street, Grainger Street (Nos. 1 to 21) Raby Road (Nos. 144 to 160 (even)) and No. 40 Brougham Terrace, North Central Hartlepool) Compulsory Purchase Order 2010 ("the CPO"). Legal, financial and risk considerations of implementation will be considered and an update on scheme progress provided.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523301 e-mail: dave.stubbs@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be sought by contacting Nigel Johnson (Housing Services Manager) 01429 284339 or Amy Waller (Principal Housing and Regeneration Officer) 01429 523539.

- 2.5 A summary of all key decisions is attached as **APPENDIX A** to this report.
- 2.6 Copies of the Executive's Forward Plan will be available at the meeting and are also available on request from the Scrutiny Team (01429 5236437) prior to the meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum:-
 - (a) considers the Executive's Forward Plan; and
 - (b) decides whether there are any items where value can be added to the decision by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum in advance of the decision being made.

CONTACT OFFICER – Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
Email: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:

- (a) The Forward Plan – September – December 2011

TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

Decisions are shown on the timetable at the earliest date at which they may be expected to be made.

1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN SEPTEMBER 2011

CAS 98/11 (page 14) Hartlepool School Admission Arrangements for 2013/14 Portfolio Holder
RN 13/09 (page 22) Disposal of Surplus Assets Cabinet / Portfolio Holder
RN 53/11 (page 25) Sustainable Construction Strategy Cabinet / Portfolio Holders
RN 55/11 (page 27) Hartlepool Compact / Voluntary Sector Strategy Action Plans Cabinet
RN 60/11 (page 34) Hartlepool Housing Strategy 2011-2015 Cabinet
RN 61/11 (page 36) Selection of Preferred Developer for Sites in Seaton Carew Cabinet
RN 62/11 (page 38) Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy Northern Management Unit Phase 2 Cabinet / Council
RN 66/11 (page 42) Future Approach to Neighbourhood Management Cabinet
RN 67/11 (page 44) Purchase of Focus Unit Lynn Street and Sale of Land at Tanfield Road adjoining Stranton Cemetery Cabinet / Council
RM 69/11 (page 49) Flexible Support Fund Cabinet
RN 70/11 (page 50) Innovation Fund Cabinet
RN 71/11 (page 51) Families with Multiple Problems Cabinet
RN 72/11 (page 53) Selective Licensing of Privately Rented Houses Cabinet
RN 73/11 (page 55) Nature Improvement Areas Portfolio Holder(s)
RN 75/11 (page 59) Furniture Solutions Project Portfolio Holder
RN 76/11 (page 61) Raby Road Corridor – General Vesting Declaration Cabinet

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN OCTOBER 2011

CE44/11 (page 6) Workforce Arrangements Cabinet
CE45/11 (page 7) Strategy for Bridging the Budget Deficit 2012/13 – ICT, Revenues and Benefits Services Cabinet
CE 46/11 (page 9) Review of Community Involvement and Engagement (Including LSP Review): Update on Decisions taken in principle Cabinet/Council
CAS 99/11 (page 15) Early Intervention Strategy Cabinet
RN 57/11 (page 29) Dog Control Orders Portfolio Holder
RN 58/11 (page 31) Allotments Portfolio Holder
RN 65/11 (page 40) Review of Waste Management Services Cabinet

3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN NOVEMBER 2011

CAS 97/11 (page 13) Community Services Budget Reductions Cabinet
RN 68/11 (page 47) Community Cohesion Framework Portfolio Holder
RN 74/11 (page 57) Former Leathers Chemical Site Cabinet

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN DECEMBER 2011

CE47/11 (page 11) Customer and Support Services – Service Review Cabinet
RN 29/10 (page 24) Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy Cabinet