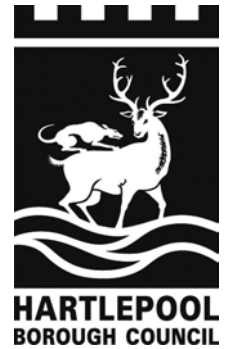


REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 3rd November 2011

at 3.00 pm

in Committee Room B

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Barclay, Cook, Cranney, Gibbon, Lawton, A Marshall, McKenna, Rogan and Turner.

Resident Representatives: Ted Jackson, Peter Joyce and John Maxwell.

- 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 29th September 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**

- 6.1 Regeneration and Planning Services: Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTF)
2012/13 to 2014/15 - Initial Consultation Proposals – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

No items

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 24th November at 3.00pm in Committee
Room B**

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES

29 September 2011

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Trevor Rogan (In the Chair)

Rob Cook, Kevin Cranney, Trisha Lawton, Ann Marshall, Chris McKenna and Mike Turner

Resident Representatives:

Ted Jackson and John Maxwell

Also present:

Christine Blaney and Graham Cadas, Job Centre Plus
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher

Officers:

Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
Mark Smith, Head of Integrated Youth Support Services
James Sinclair, Connexions Team Manager
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

21. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allan Barclay and Steve Gibbon and resident representative Peter Joyce.

22. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

23. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2011

Confirmed.

24. Any Other Items which the Chairman considers are urgent

The Scrutiny Support Officer informed Members that in accordance with the Scrutiny Forum's investigation into Social Return on Investment, focus groups had been arranged for 17 October 2011 at 4.00pm in Committee Room C of the Civic Centre. Members were informed that it was anticipated that there would be five meetings and they were encouraged to attend all of the meetings.

25. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

None.

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

None.

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

None.

28. Scrutiny Investigation into Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults Aged 19-25 – Evidence from Jobcentre Plus (*Scrutiny Support Officer/Representatives from Jobcentre Plus*)

The representatives from Jobcentre Plus had been invited to the meeting to provide information in relation to the investigation into employment and training opportunities in Hartlepool for young adults aged 19-25. The representatives provided Members with a detailed and comprehensive presentation that examined:

- Spending Review
- Get Britain Working
- Recent Changes
- Future Plans
- Local Topics

During the discussions that followed, a number of issues were raised including:

- (i) A Member commented that in the current economic climate and reducing resources, it was proving more difficult for community and voluntary organisations to support people who were unemployed. The Jobseeker Opportunities Manager confirmed that Jobcentre Plus were aware of this and escalated these concerns as appropriate.
- (ii) There were concerns that some young people were not work ready or motivated to look for work. The Jobseeker Opportunities Manager indicated that there were intervention strategies in place for young people aged 18-24 and additional partner support was being sought to facilitate this. In addition, a number of events for young people within this age range had been organised through the flexible support fund.
- (iii) It was noted that some employers may feel that taking on inexperienced young people may decrease productivity due to the amount of time required to train them. The Jobseekers Opportunities Manager confirmed that Jobcentre Plus Advisors endeavoured to match caseloads and identify strong candidates for vacancies. In addition to this, if appropriate, mentors can be provided through the flexible support fund to ensure the employee was supported.
- (iv) A Member questioned whether employers may consider that taking on young people could be an insurance risk. The Jobseekers Opportunities Manager confirmed that insurance had to be in place for health and safety reasons and this was always checked out with employers.
- (v) The Employment Development Officer indicated that it was a really challenging time and the work Jobcentre Plus undertook to support volunteers was really good. In relation to the Flexible Support Fund which should provide services to help young people into long term employment, the reality was that the Fund should be more flexible to allow for differentiation on programmes that were not purely 'employment output' focussed.
- (vi) The Head of Integrated Youth Services commented that in relation to young people not being work ready, the responsibility for schools to provide the facility for pupils to undertake work experience had recently withdrawn. It was now difficult to arrange for local schools to release pupils. However, there was an aspiration that work related opportunities should be included within post 16 learning although this was still being developed.
- (vii) A Member expressed concerns at the lack of opportunities for young people aged 16-18, especially when they were not academically minded. It was noted that a lot of young people who might be better suited to undertake apprenticeships in manual trades, were unable to do so if they had not achieved grades A-C in English, maths and science. The Member commented that it was wrong to only include qualifications within the criteria for all opportunities for young people leaving school. The Jobseeker Opportunities Manager confirmed that there were some opportunities for young people with employers who did not seek qualifications. The key issue was to give young people a chance to prove themselves and build on their skills.
- (viii) A Member commented that whilst Jobcentre Plus was providing an excellent service and establishing partners, restricted funding was an

issue. In addition to this, enterprise clubs take a lot of 1:1 support and mentors do not always have the time or appropriate skills.

The representatives from Jobcentre Plus were thanked for their informative presentation and for answering Members' questions.

Recommended

The presentation and discussions were noted and would be used to inform Members during their investigation.

29. Scrutiny Investigation into Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults Aged 19-25 – Evidence from Hartlepool Borough Council Integrated Youth Support Services *(Scrutiny Support Officer/Representatives from Integrated Youth Support Services)*

The representatives from the Integrated Youth Support Services had been invited to the meeting to provide information in relation to the investigation into employment and training opportunities in Hartlepool for young adults aged 19-25. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which examined the following:

- Broader Support
- Delivery of Support
- Partnerships
- Support for people with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (13-25)
- Statistics for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (19-25)
- Key Challenges

During the discussions that followed, a number of issues were raised including:

- (i) A resident representative questioned what advice was given to young people when choosing GCSE subjects to avoid the wrong choices being made. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services confirmed that the responsibility for careers guidance would transfer from the local authority to schools from September 2012. However, currently advice and support was given to pupils at options evenings held within schools and a group of local careers advisors in schools meet regularly to examine ways of working. Members were asked to note that whilst the team endeavoured to provide the best support it could, recent significant reductions in resources had resulted in a reduction in the team.
- (ii) A Member sought clarification on how many times the advisors attended individual schools. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services confirmed that the service provided by Personal Advisors was offered

for two days per week for each secondary school. Members were advised that prior to the recent budget cuts, schools had been approached to contribute 50% of the Personal Advisors salary which would have resulted in dedicated Personal Advisors for each school. However, this was not agreed and the resulting redundancies occurred.

- (iii) The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services indicated that resources were targeted to certain cohorts who were likely to struggle, with a lot of emphasis being placed on young people with special educational needs, teenage parents, offenders etc. This was as well as providing an effective universal service. In addition to this, a One Stop Service was provided by the Connexions Service from the Windsor Offices in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre which was resulting in over 40 visits per day by young people seeking advice and support. An annual choices event was provided with all local post 16 learning providers and training providers in one place along with employers and uniformed services providing advice and guidance to young people and parents. It was noted that a lot of the support currently provided relied on social funding programmes.
- (iv) A resident representative sought clarification on how the provision of the careers advice guidance may change when responsibility was transferred to the schools. The Head of Integrated Youth Support Services confirmed that the local authority would still have responsibility for young people who are at risk of not achieving employment, education or training post 16. However, the schools would provide universal career guidance and highlight to the Integrated Youth Support Service any young people that may struggle.
- (v) A Member raised concerns that a lot of young people who do progress through post 16 training and educate themselves to aspire to something better, may leave the town looking for opportunities. The importance of encouraging business to stay or relocate to the town was emphasised to avoid this happening too much in the future.
- (vi) The number of people visiting the One Stop Shop was noted and a Member questioned whether this was an increase or decrease since the relocation to the Windsor offices. The Connexions Team Manager confirmed that the number of visitors had increased dramatically from averaging from around 9 visits per day to 40.
- (vii) A resident representative questioned what incentives were in place for companies to offer apprenticeships. The Connexions Team Manager indicated that the National Apprenticeship Service was responsible for promoting apprenticeships within the town and that young people get paid for undertaking apprenticeships. In addition work was being undertaken to embed in companies the advantages of progressing and training young people within their own companies. The Employment Development Officer added that around 95% of companies may not be fully aware of the benefits of the apprenticeship service. However, financial incentives were offered by the Skills Funding Agency offering a £2,500 grant to take on apprentices for six months, the issue was now that apprentices had to have 'employed' status which means the employer is responsible for the majority or all of the wages, which is a change from previous schemes.

The representatives from the Integrated Youth Support Services were thanked for their informative presentation and for answering Members' questions.

Recommended

The presentation and discussions were noted and would be used to inform Members during their investigation.

30. Scrutiny Investigation into Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults Aged 19-25 – Evidence from Hartlepool Borough Council Economic Development Team *(Scrutiny Support Officer/Economic Development Manager and Employment Development Officer)*

The representatives from the Economic Development Team had been invited to provide information in relation to the investigation into employment and training opportunities in Hartlepool for young adults aged 19-25. The report highlighted the statistical information on youth unemployment rates and the number of people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The key issues to tackling youth unemployment including the welfare to work and adult skills reforms which were outlined within the report.

In relation to supporting the skills agenda, it was noted that the Government had increased flexibility for local educational institutions to deliver provision which would be directly responsible to labour market changes. The report detailed the statutory responsibilities of Hartlepool Borough Council and how they were implemented. Included within the report were comprehensive details of the employment and training provision available for young people in Hartlepool. The report concluded by examining emerging employment opportunities including the Regional Growth Fund and Enterprise ones.

In response to a question, the Employment Development Officer confirmed that future reports would quote precise numbers as opposed to percentages to ensure clarity.

A Member questioned the provision of support as there appeared to be some duplication of services, particularly around those provided by Adult Education with regard to employment support. The Employment Development Officer indicated that Government funding was provided to Adult Education to support personal and social and community development. However, the Government were currently consulting on how the funding should be utilised in the future. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile inviting representatives from Adult Education to attend a future meeting to outline the services they provided.

Recommended

- (i) The report and discussions were noted and would be used to inform Members during their investigation.
- (ii) That representatives from the Adult Education Service be invited to attend a future meeting of the Forum to outline the services provision offered to support employment and training opportunities for young people.

31. Scrutiny Investigation into Employment and Training Opportunities for Young Adults Aged 19-25 – Update on the Progress of Actions from previous Scrutiny Reports *(Scrutiny Support Officer/ Economic Development Manager and Employment Development Officer)*

The Economic Development Manager and Employment Development Officer were invited to the meeting to provide Members with a detailed update on the progress of actions arising from previous scrutiny investigations into unemployment.

Members were informed that the Mayor had indicated he would write to businesses within the town to try and encourage them to take on apprentices and ascertain what support they would need to be able to do that. In response to a question, the Economic Development Manager commented that this would involve a mail drop to around 2200 businesses.

A Member questioned whether small local firms were informed that they need to be registered to participate in e-procurement with Hartlepool Borough Council. The Economic Development Manager confirmed that all firms were advised to register on the e-procurement site and that if any businesses needed any advice or guidance to contact the Economic Development Team.

Recommended

The progress update on actions arising from previous scrutiny investigations was noted.

32. Issues Identified from the Forward Plan

None

Meeting concluded at 4.38 pm

CHAIR

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

3 November 2011



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES:
MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTF)
2012/13 TO 2014/15 - INITIAL CONSULTATION
PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity, as part of the consultation process in relation to the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTF) for 2012/13 to 2014/15, for the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum to consider initial proposals in relation to those service areas of the Regeneration and Neighbourhood Department's budget that fall within its remit.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 23 September 2011 it was agreed that, as in previous years, consideration of the budget proposals would be split to enable each standing Scrutiny Forum to look in detail at the service areas that fall within their remit. Any comments / observations to then be fed back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 2 December 2011, to enable a formal response to be presented to Cabinet on 19 December 2011.
- 2.2 As a starting point for the 2012/13 budget process, Cabinet on the 10 October 2011 considered a detailed report in relation to the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTF) for 2012/13 to 2014/15 and approved details of the consultation process and timetable for consideration of the Executives proposals. In addition to this, it was also brought to the Cabinet's attention that, over and above dealing with core budget issues, the Local Authority will also have to deal with:

- A number of one-off strategic financial issues, around redundancy/early retirement costs, housing market renewal, land remediation costs and capital investment requirements; and
- The impact of Government Proposals for changing Business Rates and Council Tax funding arrangements; and
- Changes to Grant regimes.

2.3 Details of Cabinet's initial views on the pressures identified were expressed at the Cabinet meeting of 10 October 2011 and are attached as **Appendix A**.

2.4 Overview and Scrutiny involvement in the consultation process commenced at the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee meeting on the 14 October 2011, at which consideration was given to the report received by Cabinet on the 10 October 2011. The Committee looked in detail at the report and discussed at length the one-off strategic financial issues facing the Council and the impact of potential changes to Business Rate and Council Tax funding arrangements. The Committee also approved the submission of the initial proposals contained within the report to the relevant Standing Scrutiny Forums for further detailed consideration.

2.5 In accordance with the wishes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum is today being asked to look in detail at the initial proposals in relation to those service areas within the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department that fall within its remit. Details of these initial proposals are contained within the following appendices:-

Appendix B - Business Transformation (BT) Programme Targets;

Appendix C - Budget Pressures;

Appendix D - Budget Pressures which it is not recommended to fund;

Appendix E - Reserves; and

Appendix F - Grants.

2.5 To assist Members of this Scrutiny Forum in the consideration of the initial proposals, arrangements have been made for the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods to be in attendance and an invitation to this meeting has also been extended to the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) (attendance subject to availability).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum: -

- a) as part of the Budget and Policy Framework initial consultation proposals for 2012/2013, consider the (BT) Programme Targets, pressures, reserves and grants relating to the regeneration and planning services

areas of service provision within the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department; and

- b) formulates any comments and observations in relation to each to be presented by the Chair of this Scrutiny Forum to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 2 December 2011 to enable a formal response to be presented to the Cabinet on 19 December 2011.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Report of the Corporate Management Team entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 To 2014/2015' presented to Cabinet on 10 October 2011
- (ii) Minutes from Cabinet 10 October 2011
- (iii) Report of the Chief Finance Officer entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 To 2014/2015 – Initial Consultation Proposals' presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 14 October 2011

111. **Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/13 to 2014/15** *(Corporate Management Team)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to update the MTFS and to enable Cabinet to commence the budget process for 2012/13.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chief Financial Officer indicated that previous budget reports had advised Cabinet that the Government had provided detailed Local Government Grant allocations for only two years (2011/12 and 2012/13). For the second half of the spending review period (2013/14 and 2014/15) the Government had only provided details of the headline national cuts in Local Government funding. The consultation document published in July 2011 outlining the Governments proposals to re-localise Business Rates confirmed the headline cuts in Local Government funding for 2013/14 and 2014/15. Details of the cuts in individual councils funding for these years would not be known until after the Government had completed a review of the current funding system for councils.

For planning purpose the MTFS assumed that in 2013/14 and 2014/15 Hartlepool's grant would decrease in line with the National Grant cuts. As indicated previously this was likely to be an optimistic assumption and actual grant cuts were anticipated to be higher than the national cuts, for two reasons. Firstly, experience of the grant cuts in 2011/12 and 2012/13 indicated that local funding cuts were likely to be higher than the national average. Secondly, an assumption that the Government's review of the current funding system would have an adverse impact on areas with greater dependency on Government Grants and a lower proportion of expenditure funded from Council Tax, such as Hartlepool.

At this stage insufficient information was available to assess the potential impact of these changes. The position would need to be reviewed when more information was provided by the Government. In the meantime the known grant cut for 2012/13 and existing planning assumptions for 2013/14 and 2014/15 meant the Council would need to make further budget cuts before the start of 2014/15 (i.e. by March 2014) and in February 2011 these were estimated to total £14.7m.

The Chief Financial Officer stated that the forecast budget deficits also reflected the following planning assumptions:

- Council Tax is increased by 2.5% per year for 2012/13 to 2014/15.
- The national public sector pay freeze applies to Local Government employees in 2011/12 and from 2012/13 cost of living pay awards do not exceed the provision included in the MTFS.
- Demographic and unavoidable cost pressures do not exceed the

6.1 Appendix A

headroom provision of £1m per year included in the MTFS.

- Non-pay inflation pressures over the period of the MTFS do not exceed 2.5% per year.

The review of the MTFS needed to address the key financial issues and risks affecting the Council and the linkages between the following areas;

- The core revenue budget
- Funding of redundancy/early retirement costs and other decommissioning costs of reducing the core revenue budget
- Housing Market Renewal Exit strategy
- Capital receipts and potential capital investment
- Review of Reserves and financial risks

These issues needed to be considered as an overall strategic framework for developing a coherent financial strategy and short and medium term plans to address these.

The Chief Financial Officer reminded Cabinet that the existing planning assumptions indicated that the Council needed to make further budget cuts of £14.7m before the start of 2014/15 (this is on top of the £10m cuts implemented for the current year). As a result of the Government's decision to front load grant cuts the Council needed to make £6.6m of these additional cuts before the start of 2012/13 and this would be very challenging. If these cuts are not made in 2012/13 this would mean that cuts of £9.5m needed to be made in 2013/14. This situation needs to be avoided as the higher level of cuts in 2013/14 would be extremely challenging to manage and would significantly increase the financial risk the Council needs to manage. The remainder of the report therefore assumed that the Council would address the annual budget deficits by implementing permanent reductions in the budget over the next three years. This position is summarised below:

	2012/13 £'M	2013/14 £'M	2014/15 £'M
Gross Cumulative Deficit	7.8	11.7	18.2
Indicative Annual Council Tax increases of 2.5%	(1.2)	(2.2)	(3.5)
Gross Cumulative Deficit net indicative Council Tax increases	6.6	9.5	14.7
Ongoing cuts implemented in previous years	0	(6.6)	(9.5)
Annual deficit	6.6	2.9	5.2

The Chief Financial Officer outlined the revised budget pressures that the council faced from 2012/12 to 2014/15. For 2012/13 pressures total £1.711m, as detailed in Appendix B to the report. This was more than the £1m headroom included in the 2012/13 budget forecasts for potential pressures and therefore increased the budget gap as it was recommended these were funded. A number of other potential pressures had been identified, as detailed in Appendix C to the report and it was currently recommended that these items should not be funded.

For 2012/13 the revised planning assumptions provide a net benefit of £0.544m, which partly offsets the additional pressures identified above.

6.1 Appendix A

When account was taken of the increased pressures and the benefits of the revised planning assumptions the revised deficit for 2012/13 is £6.767m, compared to the original forecast of £6.6m. Assuming the planned departmental budget cuts of £5.387m were achieved the Council still needed to bridge a gap for 2012/13 of £1.38m.

The revised deficits for 2013/14 and 2014/15 assume that each year's budget would be balanced on an annual basis by making permanent cuts in expenditure. The 2012/13 pressures and revised planning assumptions marginally increase the overall deficit which needed to be addressed before the start of 2014/15 from £14.7m to £15.083m. The impact on annual deficits is summarised below:

	Original Deficits £'m	Revised Deficits £'m
2012/13	6.600	6.767
2013/14	2.900	3.118
2014/15	5.200	5.198
Total	14.700	15.083

The Chief Financial Officer moved on to outlining the strategy that would be required to manage the budget position of the council. The MTFS assumed that the 2012/13 budget was balanced on a sustainable basis through a combination of departmental cuts and project savings. The Council would then still face significant deficits in 2013/14 and 2014/15. There would not be a single approach to addressing these deficits and a range of measures would be required. Some proposals would have much longer lead in times running over more than one financial year. Some decisions would need to be taken by Cabinet and Council outside the traditional budget cycle to ensure financial benefits could be achieved within the required timescales.

Addressing future deficits would require the Council to adopt a range of measures including reassessing priorities and new ways of working. Details of these issues would be the subject of separate reports as more detailed proposals and issues for consideration were worked up to enable Cabinet to determine their agreed way forward.

In addition to managing cuts in the General Fund revenue budget the Council would also need to manage the following strategic financial issues:

- Redundancy and early retirement costs;
- Housing Market Renewal costs;
- Land Remediation costs;
- Capital investment requirements;

Given the scale of the budget deficits over the next three years of £15.083m reductions in the size of staffing establishments and staff would be unavoidable. The Council would continue to seek to minimise compulsory redundancies wherever possible.

6.1 Appendix A

The Government had now recognised that the complete withdrawal of HMR funding has left a number of councils with a difficult position to manage. In response the Government have decided to provide some transitional funding to assist councils to manage the position. The Government have stated that this funding was only designed to achieve a 'managed exit' not to complete schemes. Transitional funding is subject to a regional bidding process and Hartlepool's bid has been included in the Tees Valley submission. Nationally the Government are providing £30m and it is understood that bids significantly exceed this amount. If the bid was not successful the Council's funding shortfall will increase by £2m.

Officers from the Council and the Environment Agency have recently completed investigation of land contamination at the former Leathers chemical site. This investigation indicates some remediation works are needed to make this site safe, although there is no risk to public health. It is estimated these works will cost £1m. These costs are not eligible for Government funding and will need to be funded from the Council's own resources.

In previous years the Council has used Prudential Borrowing to provide an annual budget for a 'Council Capital Projects'. The repayment costs of using Prudential Borrowing had then been included as a budget pressure. Given the size of the budget deficits over the next few years this approach is less appropriate and an alternative strategy was needed to avoid an ongoing budget pressure. It was therefore suggested that a one-off 'Council Capital Projects' budget of £1m is established on a contingency basis from one-off resources.

The one-off Strategic Financial issues were in addition to the General Fund budget deficit and had a total value of £14m, which consisted of one-off revenue and capital items as summarised below:

	Revenue Costs £'m	Capital Costs £'m	Total Costs £'m
Redundancy/ Early Retirements costs	7.5	0.0	7.5
Housing Market Renewal	0.0	4.5	4.5
Land Remediation costs	0.0	1.0	1.0
Capital Investment Requirements	0.0	1.0	1.0
Total	7.5	6.5	14.0

As detailed in the following table the estimated one-off costs exceed available resources by £4.47m. The forecasts in the table assumed that costs would be phased over the next three years. For financial planning purposes redundancy and early retirement costs were expected to follow the annual budget deficits, although in practice there will be some variation between years.

6.1 Appendix A

Summary one-off commitments and proposed funding

	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000	Total £'000
<u>Expenditure Commitments</u>				
<u>Revenue</u>				
Redundancy and Early Retirement costs	3,300	1,500	2,700	7,500
<u>Capital</u>				
Housing Market Renewal	1,400	2,700	400	4,500
Land Remediation costs	1,000	0	0	1,000
Council Capital Fund	1,000	0	0	1,000
Total forecast expenditure commitments	6,700	4,200	3,100	14,000
<u>Less Available Funding</u>				
<u>Revenue</u>				
Review of reserves	(2,250)	(1,100)	(2,700)	(6,050)
2011/12 Forecast Outturn	(1,650)	(330)	0	(1,980)
	(3,900)	(1,430)	(2,700)	(8,030)
<u>Capital</u>				
Capital Receipts already achieved	(1,500)	0	0	(1,500)
Total available funding	(5,400)	(1,430)	(2,700)	(9,530)
Unfunded forecast expenditure commitments	1,300	2,770	400	4,470

At this stage bridging the estimated residual gap would be wholly reliant on achieving capital receipts over the next three years. Achieving the required capital receipts would be based on the asset sales identified in Appendix E to the report. These proposals should begin to generate capital receipts in the current year and phasing in future years should ensure further capital receipts are achieved to fund the annual commitments

The Chief Financial Officer indicated that a review of the reserves and risks had been undertaken as an integral part of the process. At the 31st March 2011 the Council had total reserves of £39.023m. This included reserves held in trust for schools which could not be spent by the Council and capital reserves earmarked to fund capital expenditure commitments re-phased into 2011/12. When account is taken of these amounts and an amount that needed to be included back into the reserves to reflect the Transitional Grant that was used to meet redundancy costs, the net reserves available for review was £25.379m. Appendix F to the report provided an explanation of the risk individual reserves.

The review of reserves was based on a detailed re-assessment of the risks individual reserves were originally earmarked for. This re-assessment of risk identified which reserves need to be maintained, those that could be scaled back and those that were no longer needed. In total the re-assessment of risks had identified £6.044m of reserves which could be released to partly fund the forecast one-off strategic costs.

6.1 Appendix A

The Council needed to retain reserves with a total value of £19.335m at 31st March 2011 to manage specific risks and to fund existing commitments. This included reserves allocated to manage Equal Pay/Equal Value claims, demand led risks relating to Looked After Children and older people, the Insurance Fund and the uncommitted General Fund Balance – which needed to be maintained to address emergency situations and would need to be repaid if used on a temporary basis.

The Chief Financial Officer reported that work is ongoing to estimate the first forecast outturns for the current year and details would be reported to a future Cabinet meeting. These initial outturns will be based on the financial position for the first six months of the financial year. At this stage a number of issues were beginning to emerge and initial outturns have been prepared. It is anticipated that these issues could provide a one-off net benefit in the current year of £1.980m, as detailed in Appendix G to the report.

The Chief Financial Officer highlighted the potential impact of Government proposals for changing Business Rates and Council Tax benefit funding arrangements. The existing MTFS forecasts take no account of these proposed changes as details had only recently been issued by the Government. These changes would have a fundamental impact on the system for funding local authorities and the financial positions of individual councils. Reports later on the agenda set out the significant implications of these two arrangements.

The Government introduced changes to a number of grant regimes from April 2011 covering the transfer of specific grants into the main Formula Grant and the introduction of the Early Intervention Grant, funded from existing grants. These arrangements were accompanied by reductions in the level of grants received by the Council. A separate report would be submitted to Cabinet detailing the draft Early Intervention Strategy and priority commissioning intentions. A second report would be submitted in November covering the outcome of consultation and restructures within services.

The Chief Financial Officer indicated that the report identified the key financial risks which would affect the Council. Internally these cover a range of issues and the report outlines proposals for managing and funding these risks, which cover:

- Implementing significant sustainable budget reductions in each of the next three years;
- Managing significant one-off costs, including redundancy/early retirement costs and HMR commitments;
- Continuing demand lead and demographic pressures.

External financial risks also arose from the Government's proposals to re-localise Business Rates and to transfer responsibility for Council Tax Benefits to councils. These proposals were fundamental changes in the

6.1 Appendix A

system for funding local authorities and would have a significant impact for 2013/14 and future years. The exact impact would not be known until the Government issue final proposals.

There were also potential external financial risks from other organisations seeking to maximise income, as part of their strategy for managing cuts in expenditure, which could pass costs on to councils. Non-financial risks were equally significant and would also need to be managed. These included the capacity of the organisation to manage the budget position over the next few years and the unavoidable budget reductions. This also includes capacity to set up new ways of working, such as trust and partnership working with other councils. Also, the capacity of the organisation to manage legislative changes, such as implementing a local Council Tax Benefit system and responding to other Government initiatives.

In concluding, the Chief Financial Officer stated that the financial challenges facing the public sector and councils were greater now than anything which had existed in the past 50 years. In recommending the initial questions to be put forward for consultation, the Chief Financial Officer also highlighted that government had announced in the past few days that there would be a Council Tax freeze for 2012/13. The grant for this was, however, only for one year, unlike the grant the government had given councils for the council tax freeze in 2010/11 which would be paid over the four years of the government. In light of this the question arose as to whether the authority took the grant for the council tax freeze or raised council tax by the 2.5% initially as projected in the MTFS. If the grant was taken, the Chief Financial Officer stressed that savings would need to be made in 2013/14 to replace the income not being generated from the forecast council tax rise.

Cabinet questioned what level of deficit gap would there be if the council tax increase was not approved and the grant taken. The Chief Financial Officer stated that the deficit gap would increase by a further £1m in 2013/14.

Cabinet commented that the capital receipts strategy would need to be developed and managed in the next few years to bring the additional income the authority needed. There were, however, risks to this, particularly in buying strategic land/property for future disposal. It may, however, be one way to bring additional income into the council.

The additional pressure on concessionary fares was also highlighted by Cabinet as a concern. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that government had set the increase in this grant above inflation to cover the increasing fuel costs but the grant simply wasn't high enough to cover the costs which were increasing mainly due to out of town travel.

Cabinet was aware of the issues surrounding Equality Impact Assessments that had also been included in the report and questioned if these were all completed. The Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer all the assessments had been completed.

6.1 Appendix A

There was concern at some of the properties that were/would incur costs for the authority in the next financial year. The rent increase for the offices in Park Towers was seen as unsustainable when the council had property of its own that could be utilised instead. The Director commented that a contribution towards the rent at Park Towers had been achieved from Housing Hartlepool.

The Brierton Sports Centre was a major concern and it was suggested that a partner organisation could be brought on board as soon as possible. Officers stated that this and other options were already being explored.

Concern was also voiced at the pressure on the Healthy Eating Grant which was considered to be short sighted in light of the national campaigns against child and adult obesity. The Director commented that the duty and allocations on this were being passed back to the schools though it was up to them how they spent the money. The wider issue of service buy-back from the schools was a major issue that could have significant implications should certain services reach a 'tipping point' through schools not buying them back from the authority. Most schools did understand the value they received from council services and at times came back to the authority after testing private sector provision.

The Mayor indicated that the report contained proposals that were appropriate at this point in time. Further work would continue on developing the MTFs and any ideas that could come forward for saving money would be welcomed. Through the consultation, while timescales were tight, as many people and groups should be consulted as possible. The Council was at the point where it was going to cut significant sections of service to the public and make lots of staff redundant. The public doesn't always accept the excuse that these cuts are due to the governments decisions and we need to explain to them why we were cutting some services while protecting others; not everyone understands the things the Council did in their community and what it had to spend on them.

There was a view in Cabinet that whatever consultation was undertaken, the backlash would be against the Council. Some groups had no intention of doing anything other than criticising the council so it had to be questioned as to what value there actually was in the consultation.

In promoting the consultation it was suggested that utilising case studies may assist in giving more understandable information to the public in particular.

Decision

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the issues/questions set out below, be approved for consultation –
 - Do you support the proposals to fund the pressures detailed in Appendix B?

6.1 Appendix A

- Do you support the proposal not to fund the issues detailed in Appendix C?
 - Do you support the proposed strategy to partly fund one-off strategic costs of £14m detailed in paragraph 4.31 by earmarking funding of £9.6m from a combination of:
 - (i) Review of Reserves £6.050m;
 - (ii) Forecast 2011/12 Outturn £1.980m as detailed in Appendix G;
 - (iii) Capital Receipts already received £1.500m
 - Do you support the proposal to fund the residual one-off strategic costs of £4.47m from planned capital receipts to be achieved over the next three years as detailed in Appendix E?
 - Are there any proposals you wish Cabinet to include in the final budget report to Council in February 2012 on the use of the saving from the establishment of a temporary post of 'Acting Chief Executive' and associated backfilling arrangements (minimum net savings of £70,400 as detailed in paragraph 5.24)? For example should this funding be allocated towards the one-off costs referred to above?
 - Do you have any comments on the Governments proposal to re-localise Business Rates (paragraph 6.5)?
 - Do you have any comments on the Governments proposal to transfers responsibility for Council Tax Benefits to councils (paragraph 6.12)? Note detailed consultation on this issue and the design of a local Council Tax Benefit scheme will be undertaken if the Government implement this change and provide further details of how this will operate.
 - Should the Council look to increasing Council Tax by 2.5% as originally anticipated under the MTFS or take the government's one-year grant to maintain a council tax freeze accepting the consequent savings that would be required in 2013/14.
3. That the Corporate Management Team and Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer be authorised to proceed with formal redundancy consultations on the basis of the proposals set out in this report. The outcome of consultations to be incorporated into further reports presented to Cabinet;
4. Cabinet notes that a without prejudice voluntary redundancy sweep will be undertaken to determine the level of employee interest and whether there is scope for this to help manage the position for 2012/13;
5. That the development of a capital receipts disposal strategy be approved, including the purchase of land for resale within the next three years where there is a robust business case and this does not increase financial risk to the authority, based on the proposed land sales detailed in Appendix E to the report and officers be authorised to progress these sales, subject to the Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder approving individual land sales.

Dept	Project name (Title)	Target	Project scope (Description)	Final decision
R&N	Community Safety (Service Review)	£50,000	Review of existing management structures following legislative and Government Policy Consultation	Cabinet
R&N	Management Savings	£75,000	Management Savings within R&N Department	Cabinet
		£125,000		

SCHEDULE OF 2012/13 BUDGET PRESSURES - Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

Budget Area	Value of Pressure £'000	Description of Pressure	Comment
Domestic Violence Co-ordinator	17	SBC previously contributed towards the funding of the DV Co-ordinator as part of their efficiency drive they have revisited their structure and will no longer contribute towards this post.	
	17		

SCHEDULE OF 2012/13 BUDGET PRESSURES WHICH IT IS RECOMMENDED ARE NOT FUNDED - Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department

Budget Area	Value of Capital Pressure £'000	Value of Revenue Pressure £'000	Description of Pressure	Comment
Economic Development - Regeneration & Planning	0	32	Newburn Bridge Industrial Estate / Park West Industrial Estate and Hartlepool Enterprise Centre (HEC)	These budgets are partly dependent on realising rental income from business premises. With the current economic climate there is a significant risk that target rental will not be achieved.
	0	32		

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL - RESERVE BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

RESERVES TO BE REVIEWED (NOT COMMITTED NOR HELD IN TRUST)

Created 2010/11 as per Outturn Strategy £'000	Department	Reserve	Actual Balance 31/03/2011 £'000	Reason for/purpose of the Reserve	Total Value of Reserve to be released for Redundancy Costs £'000	Value of Reserve to be retained £'000	Reason for retention of reserve
£000			£000		£000	£000	
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Jobs and the Economy	380	ABG Funding received at the end of 2009/10.	200	180	Funding needed to cover the continued commitment to projects including ILM, Hartlepool Working Solutions and Business Incubation until March 2012.
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods MRU	243	Funding set aside to support the ISQ Gateway Project, Vehicle Trackers and a temporary Planning Officer Post.	78	165	Commitment for a Planning Officer Post, Financing of Vehicle Trackers already purchased and funding to support the ISQ Gateway Project.
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Earmarked Grant Funding	222	Mainly balances remaining in 09/10 which relate to funding given for a specific purpose over more than one year.	104	118	Funding carried forward to fund ITU Management Consultant, Hart Graffiti removal project, Selective Licensing, and Regeneration grant funded schemes which run for more than one year. £10k redundancy provision transferred to Corporate Redundancy Reserve.
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Seaside Grant	200	Funding set aside to fund expenditure commitments on a Capital Project.	0	200	Capital grant to be used as part of Seaton redevelopment.
154	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Economic Development	154	Completion of various ongoing commitments including the Employment and Integration Scheme, Training Placements, Connect to Work, Jobsmart.	13	141	Grants carried forward to support the ESF Going Forward project.
132	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Community Safety	132	Local Public Service Agreement Phase 2 reward grant for committed projects approved by Safer Hartlepool Partnership - Domestic Violence.	0	132	Grant administered and controlled by SHP and contractually committed.
112	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Licensing	112	Licence Fee Income in Advance - previously this was included on the Balance Sheet as Income in Advance and is now required to be carried forward as an 'Earmarked Reserve' under the new IFRS Code of Accounting Practice. The reserve will cover expenditure	100	12	Needed to support Licensing running costs in 2011/12.

Created 2010/11 as per Outturn Strategy £'000	Department	Reserve	Actual Balance 31/03/2011 £'000	Reason for/purpose of the Reserve	Total Value of Reserve to be released for Redundancy Costs £'000	Value of Reserve to be retained £'000	Reason for retention of reserve
£000			£000		£000	£000	
46	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Community Safety	46	Completion of various contractual/committed projects including 'Target Hardening' & 'Local Volunteering'.	0	46	Contractual obligations.
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Economic Development	45	To fund Economic Development staff as temporary programme money ceases.	45	0	N/A
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Local Plan	32	To part fund the Local Development Framework within Planning.	0	32	Strategic studies needed to support the Local Development Framework.
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Regeneration Reserve - Specific	21	Mainly grant funding earmarked for future use.	21	0	N/A
15	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Economic Development	15	Managed Revenue Underspend earmarked for development of Hartlepool's Economic Regeneration Strategy.	5	10	Has to be carried out.
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Village Green Hearings etc.	10	Fund legal costs associated with public inquiries in relation to village green applications.	0	10	2 applications already received.
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Equine Enforcement	10	An increasing problem of unregulated tethering of horses on council land.	0	10	Member decision to implement equine enforcement policy.
459			1,621		565	1,056	

6.1 APPENDIX F

Schedule of Grants which transferred into Formula Grant

	Specific grant or ABG	ABG and Specific Grants transferred into Formula Grant £'000
Formula Grant		
Economic Assessment Duty	ABG	65
Adjusted Formula Grant		65

2011/12 Approved allocation £'000	Reduction in Funding £'000
56	9
56	9

2012/13 Proposed allocation approved by Council 10.02.11 £'000	Reduction in Funding £'000
53	4
53	4

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

3 November 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 (November 2011 – February 2012) 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 November 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 December 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 December 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 December 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 December 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 77/11 - WYNYARD MASTER PLAN**Nature of the decision**

To seek approval to progress a master plan study for the Wynyard area to help guide the development of this key location

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

Elwick Ward

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in November 2011

Who will be consulted and how?

The intention is to carry out the master plan study in partnership with Stockton Borough Council and to include relevant land owners. The study is likely to involve consultation with major infrastructure providers and statutory consultees such as Natural England and the highways Agency. On completion and subject to agreement by Cabinet the master plan would be subject to public consultation.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The emerging Core Strategy allocates Wynyard Business Park as a Prestige Employment Location but also identifies land both within the Business Park and to the south of the A689 for executive housing, whilst also recognising the aspiration for the development of a new hospital within the area. The Business Park straddles the boundary with Stockton BC who are also looking at sites within their area with the potential for housing development. In order to ensure a coordinated approach to the development of the Wynyard area, to consider development options, ensure that the development proposals are compatible with other development and regeneration priorities and to maximise sustainability, it is considered that the development of a master plan for the wider Wynyard area would be an appropriate way forward.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523400. E Mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Derek Gouldburn, Urban and Planning Policy Manager, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523276. Email Derek.gouldburn@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 78/11 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**Nature of the decision**

Key decision

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Joint Portfolio Holders (The Mayor and Cllr Robbie Payne).

Ward(s) affected

All, it is a Council wide policy.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in November 2011.

Who will be consulted and how?

The draft policy has been discussed and agreed by the Corporate Management Team Support Group.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

There is an increasing requirement in tenders and pre-qualification questionnaires the Council is responding to, for the Council to confirm the existence of its environmental or sustainability policies. The draft sustainability policy has been produced to cover both requirements. The existence of this

new policy does not alter the way the Council operates, it summarises the Councils long standing commitment to sustainable development.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), 01429 523400, damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), 01429 523400, damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN88/11 – IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO THE COMMON ALLOCATIONS POLICY GOVERNING THE TEES VALLEY CHOICE BASED LETTINGS SCHEME

Nature of the decision

To update members on progress with implementing the approved changes to the Common Allocations Policy that governs the Tees Valley Choice based Lettings scheme.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

All wards in Hartlepool will potentially be affected by the changes to this policy.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in November 2011, to ensure the revised policy can be implemented across all Tees Valley authorities by 1st April 2012.

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation has been carried out throughout the Tees Valley by all partners to the Common Allocation Policy; this has included tenants, applicants, stakeholders and elected members. Various methods of consultation have been used including workshops, questionnaires, members' seminars and stakeholder events.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The following proposed amendments to the Tees Valley Choice Based Letting policy were presented to Cabinet at their meeting of 7th March 2011;

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Clarification of why and how local lettings policies will be used | Agreed |
| 2) The removal of cumulative need | Not Agreed |
| 3) Restriction of Band 1+ to main householder only in regeneration schemes | Not Agreed |

4) Clarification of Band 1 for HM forces applicants	Agreed
5) Removal of 'Property of the Week'	Agreed
6) Amendment of Local Connection definition	Agreed

Members approved, in principle, the proposed amendments with the exception of;

- The removal of 'cumulative need', members indicated that they would like to see this retained for applicants in bands 1 and 2.
- Restriction of band 1+ to main householder only in regeneration schemes, members proposed the existing policy be retained as a local variation applicable only for applicants from Hartlepool needing to be rehoused in Hartlepool.

Members also agreed to delay implementation of these amendments until the outcome of the Governments proposals on social housing reform were known as further changes may be forthcoming and to reduce costs on any necessary IT amendments. This report will update members on progress with the implementation of the policy amendments and provide advice on the implications of varying the policy in Hartlepool on these two issues.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel: 01429 523400. Email: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Lynda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer, Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Department, Park Towers, Park Road, Hartlepool. Tel.01429 284177. Email: lynda.igoe@hartlepool.gov.uk

- 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 – November 2011 – February 2012

8.1 Appendix A

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 NOVEMBER 2011

CE 44/11 (page 6) Workforce Arrangements Cabinet
CE45/11 (page 7) Strategy for Bridging the Budget Deficit 2012/13 – ICT, Revenues and Benefits Service Cabinet
CE 48/11 (page 13) Corporate Strategy Service Review Cabinet
CAS 95/11 (page 16) Hartlepool Community Pool Grants review Cabinet
CAS 102/11 (page 20) Early Intervention Strategy: Service Restructure Cabinet
CAS 103/11 (page 22) Special Educational Needs (SEN) Pathfinder Cabinet
CAS 104/11 (page 24) Moving Forward Together: The Vision for Adult Social Care in Hartlepool Portfolio Holder/Cabinet
CAS 106/11 (page 27) Priority Schools Building Programme Cabinet
CAS 108/11 (page 30) Cost of Care for Older People's Care Homes Cabinet
RN 13/09 (page 41) Disposal of Surplus Assets Cabinet / Portfolio Holder
RN 53/11 (page 44) Sustainable Construction Strategy Portfolio Holders
RN 57/11 (page 46) Dog Control Orders Portfolio Holder
RN 58/11 (page 48) Allotments Portfolio Holder
RN 60/11 (page 51) Hartlepool Housing Strategy 2011-2015 Cabinet
RN 61/11 (page 53) Selection of Preferred Developer for sites in Seaton Carew Cabinet
RN 62/11 (page 55) Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy Northern Management Unit Phase 2 Cabinet / Council
RN 74/11 (page 63) Former Leathers Chemical Site Cabinet
RN 77/11 (page 65) Wynyard Master Plan Cabinet
RN 78/11 (page 67) Sustainability Policy Portfolio Holders
RN 88/11 (page 70) Implementation of Changes to the Common Allocations Policy Governing the Tees Valley Choice Based Lettings Scheme Cabinet
RN 89/11 (page 72) Former Brierton School Site Cabinet / Council
RN 91/11 (page 76) Property Services Proposed Budget Savings Cabinet
RN 95/11 (page 82) Proposed Migration from the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme to the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Portfolio Holder
RN 97/11 (page 86) Transportation and Engineering Services Proposed Budget Savings Cabinet
RN 98/11 (page 87) Acquisition of Assets Cabinet / Portfolio Holder / Council

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN DECEMBER 2011

CE 47/11 (page 12) Customer and Support Services – Service Review Cabinet
CE 49/11 (page 14) Financial and Transactional Shared Services – Business Transformation 2 Programme Savings Cabinet
CAS 97/11 (page 17) Community Services Service reviews Cabinet
CAS 101/11 (page 18) Review of Children's Social Care Commissioning and 2012/13 Savings Proposal Cabinet
CAS 107/11 (page 29) Adult Social Care 2012/13 Savings Cabinet
CAS 109/11 (page 32) Support Services Savings Cabinet
CAS 110/11 (page 33) Home to School Transport Savings Cabinet
CAS 111/11 (page 34) Education Services and Out of School Activities Savings Cabinet
RN 29/10 (page 43) Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy Cabinet
RN 68/11 (page 57) Community Cohesion Framework Portfolio Holder
RN 69/11 (page 59) Flexible Support Fund Cabinet
RN 70/11 (page 60) Innovation Fund Cabinet
RN 71/11 (page 61) Families with Multiple Problems Cabinet
RN 87/11 (page 68) Consultation on Denominational Home to School Transport and Post 16 College Transport Cabinet
RN 92/11 (page 77) Asset Management Proposed Budget Savings Cabinet
RN 93/11 (page 79) Additional Highway Maintenance Works 2011-12 Portfolio Holder

8.1 Appendix A

3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN JANUARY 2011

RN 90/11 (page 74) Mill House Site Development and Victoria Park Cabinet / Executive Committee

RN 96/11 (page 84) Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy and Compact Cabinet

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN FEBRUARY 2012

CE 46/11 (page 9) Review of Community Involvement and Engagement (including LSP Review): Update on decisions taken 'in principle' Cabinet / Council

CAS 105/11 (page 26) Hartlepool School Admission Arrangements for 2013/14 Portfolio Holder

RN 94/11 (page 80) Review of Concessionary Fare Payments to Bus Operators for 2012-2013