

# ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

## AGENDA



**Wednesday 1 October 2025**

**at 5.00pm**

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

MEMBERS: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Dodds (VCh), Hargreaves (C), Lindridge, Nelson, Riddle and Scarborough

Parish Council Co-opted Member:

S Smith (Greatham Parish Council)

S Lee (Headland Parish Council)

E Hurst (Wynyard Parish Council)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2025 (*previously circulated and published*).

**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

No items.

**5. KEY DECISIONS**

No items.

**CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE**

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone.

The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 6.1 Screen Industries Production Village Progress Update – *Assistant Director – Neighbourhood Services*

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Jobs and Skills Investment Programme – *Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)*
- 7.2 Plan for Neighbourhoods Update - *Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)*

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Date of next meeting – Tuesday 9 December at 9.30am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool**



**ECONOMIC GROWTH AND  
REGENERATION COMMITTEE**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2025**



**Subject:** SCREEN INDUSTRIES PRODUCTION VILLAGE  
PROGRESS UPDATE

**Report of:** Assistant Director- Neighbourhood Services

**Decision Type:** Non-Key

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**1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY**

<b>Hartlepool will be a place:</b>
- that is connected, sustainable, clean and green. (Place)
- that is welcoming with an inclusive and growing economy providing opportunities for all. (Potential)

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 To update Members on latest project progress and timeline for completion of the Screen Industries Production Village and to seek approval for the re-appropriation (repurposing) of land previously part of the Lynn Street Newmarket Housing Scheme.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 In March 2023 the Council successfully secured £18.65m for catalysing Hartlepool’s Screen Industries and delivering a range of pre and post production facilities to support the up-and-coming Film and TV industry at the existing Northern Studios.

- 3.2 The Screen Industries Production Village will provide supporting infrastructure within a transformed urban environment. Key assets were acquired in 2024, which will be transformed into flexible spaces for post-production, workshop facilities, back-office accommodation and wider support services for the Screen Industries. The intervention will support job creation, productivity, growth, enhanced environment and placemaking whilst setting the foundations for future market-led intervention in the emerging North-East Screen Industries hub.
- 3.3 A presentation at Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 provided an update on progress. Committee were also informed of the proposed £15m funding through the Investment Zone to provide expanded and extended production space at the Northern Studios.
- 3.4 Since March 2025, the project has continued to progress on programme and within budget, with some significant milestones achieved. In March 2025 the project completed RIBA stage 2 (Concept Design) including initial design, architectural solutions, and design reviews with all stakeholders completed. In May 2025, RIBA stage 3 was completed (Developed Design) including spatial planning, cost plan confirmation and early architectural plans.
- 3.5 In April 2025, pre planning public consultation was undertaken with in person events and online consultation which provided overwhelming public support for the proposals for expansion of the Northern Studio and delivery of production village facilities across nine assets including the Grade II listed Shades Hotel on Church Street. RIBA stage 3 has culminated in the submission of planning applications to Hartlepool Development Corporation on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025.
- 3.6 Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent was granted on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 representing a major milestone for the project.
- 3.7 The project now moves into RIBA stage 4 and technical design where full architectural and engineering details are finalised, detailed drawings are produced for procuring main contractors, branding and marketing material is developed and preparation for construction phases is completed. This includes continuing engagement with stakeholders, businesses and the public, and across project elements including production facilities and public realm.
- 3.8 The project remains within the cost and funding envelope and the developed design includes the delivery of vital workshop and unit base facilities on the Council owned Surtees Street/Lynn Street site, formerly the council's depot. The provision of these facilities is critical to the long term viability of a 'two production' studio and ensures financial sustainability of the production village as a whole.

3.9 The key milestone dates for the project are set out in Table 1.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Completion of outline design (RIBA Stage 3) and planning submission	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025
Planning Determination (HDC)	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
Immediate opening up works on Production Village assets, and Whitby Street Car Wash demolition	October 2025
Completion of technical design for all assets (RIBA Stage 4)	February 2026
Main tender procurement period	February – July 2026
Main manufacturing and construction period (The Northern Studios and Production Village) begins (RIBA stages 5 and 6)	August 2026
Construction completion	November 2027
Building Regulations final certificates and handovers	December 2027

- 3.10 The 0.64 ha Surtees Street/Lynn Street site is currently vacant and is shown hatched on the plan at **APPENDIX 1**, as well as on the plan at **APPENDIX 2** which formed part of the submitted planning application layout. This presents an opportunity to enhance the overall offer of the studios and Production Village.
- 3.11 Throughout the development of the design, the space afforded by the former depot site has become fundamental to the overall success of the scheme. This site was previously part of a former proposed council scheme to build 48 properties in and around this site known as the Lynn Street Newmarket housing scheme.
- 3.12 In light of Newmarket scheme not proceeding, consideration is being given as to possible uses of the remaining former Market Hotel site and the site on Reed Street.
- 3.13 Council led housing schemes are being considered across various sites within the Borough which will be brought before Finance & Corporate Affairs committee separately for approval.

- 3.14 Works have already been undertaken to remediate the site for development. This included the demolition of the Market Hotel which was structurally unsafe and the former council depot. It should be noted that the physical works undertaken to date, would have been required for the proposed repurposed site and therefore the costs would have been borne by the stakeholders of this project which include the TVCA and HBC. As such the council are in conversation with the TVCA to attribute these costs and funding to the wider project.

#### 4. PROPOSALS/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that Members note the progress made to date on the scheme and the proposed delivery timeline set out in Table 1.
- 4.2 It is proposed to proceed with the formal re-appropriation of the former depot site for the delivery and viability of the Screen Industries Production Village/ extended production space at Northern Studios.

#### 5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS

<b>RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>	Not including the Surtees Street site and not delivering critical unit base production facilities within the scheme, poses a risk to the viability of the Studios and wider village, as production facilities will not meet the recommended standard for TV, film and supply chain.
<b>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	As set out in paragraph 3.14, the council are in conversation with the TVCA to attribute incurred costs and funding associated with the previous Newmarket scheme to the wider project.
<b>SUBSIDY CONTROL</b>	The project has ensured that it is fully compliant with the Subsidy Control Act and has sought independent legal opinion and assessments against all seven principles. There are no subsidy control implications in relation to the decisions in this report.
<b>LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<p>The Council's Legal Services department are part of the Project Steering Group and independent Legal Title Reviews have been completed across all assets and the Production Village geography as a whole.</p> <p>This report ensure compliance with s122 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to the appropriation of land.</p>

<b>CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY</b> (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)	There are no child and family poverty considerations arising from the proposals in this report.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS</b> (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)	There are no equality and diversity considerations arising from the proposals in this report.
<b>STAFF CONSIDERATIONS</b>	There are no staff considerations arising from the proposals in this report.
<b>ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS</b>	The asset management considerations are already considered within this report.
<b>ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS</b>	The environment, sustainability and climate change considerations of the proposed development have been considered as part of the outline design and form part of the planning submission. The project is aiming to meet considerably high sustainability standards and it is a priority objective of the production industry. Biodiversity Net Gain has been considered and proposals submitted with the planning applications.
<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<p>(a) Significant internal consultation has been undertaken through the design and project process to date, including wide ranging officers represented across seven thematic workstreams such as digital, heritage and conservation, design and sustainability, as well as via the Steering Group with internal and external stakeholders. This will continue through the remainder of the project.</p> <p>(b) Public consultation has been undertaken through two events held at the Northern Studios and Middleton Grange Shopping Centre in April, online surveys through YourSay and regular consultation meetings with local businesses in the Church Street area.</p> <p>(c) Further consultation was undertaken formally over the summer of 2025 through the planning application process</p>

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that members note the progress made on the scheme to date.
- 6.2 It is recommended that members approve the reappropriation of the land for the delivery of the Screen Industries Production Village.

**7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The Surtees Street site will provide critical production facilities within the studio and production village scheme, that cannot be provided within the existing studios footprint due to the size of area required.

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

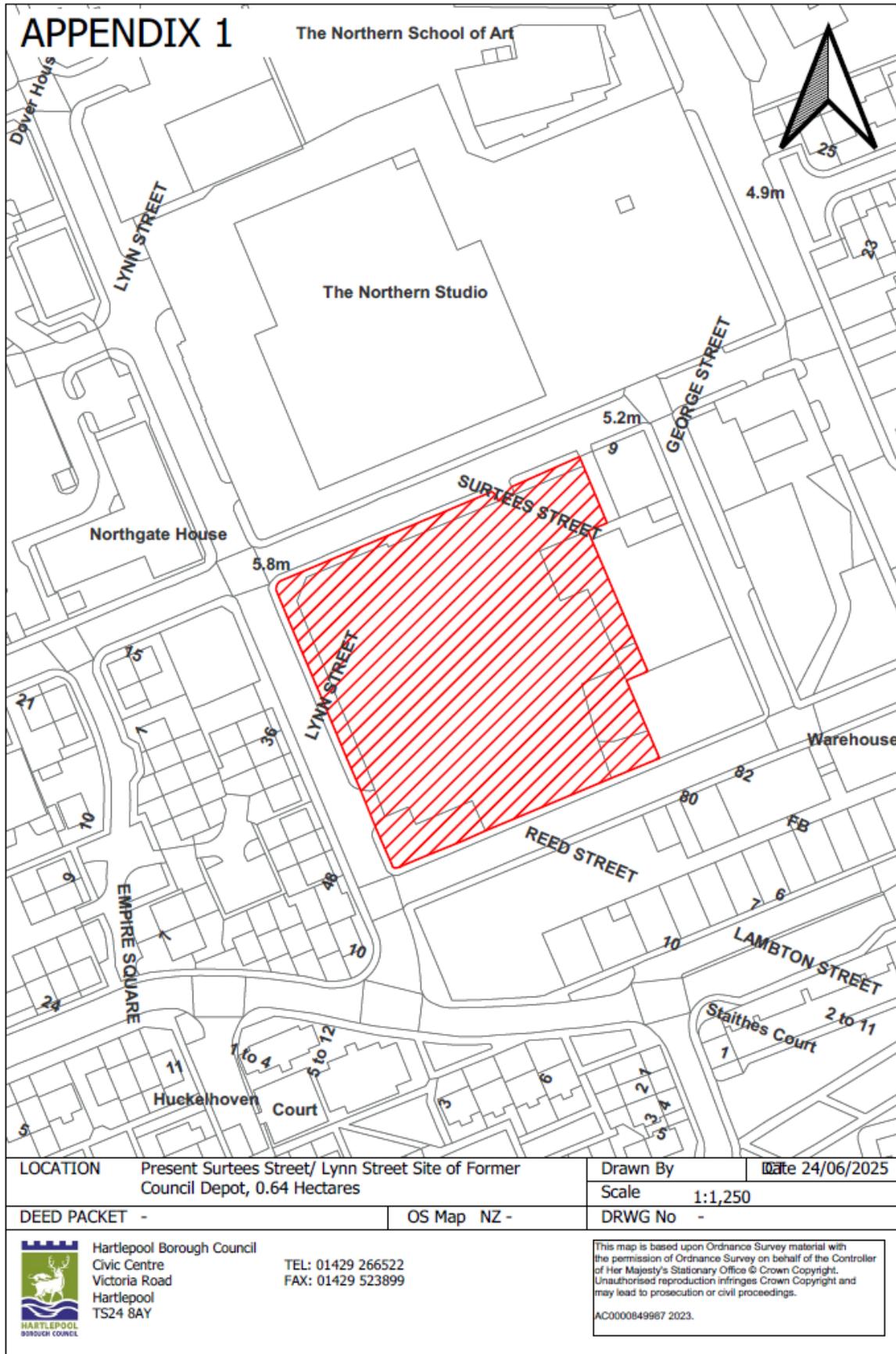
- 8.1 None

**9. CONTACT OFFICERS**

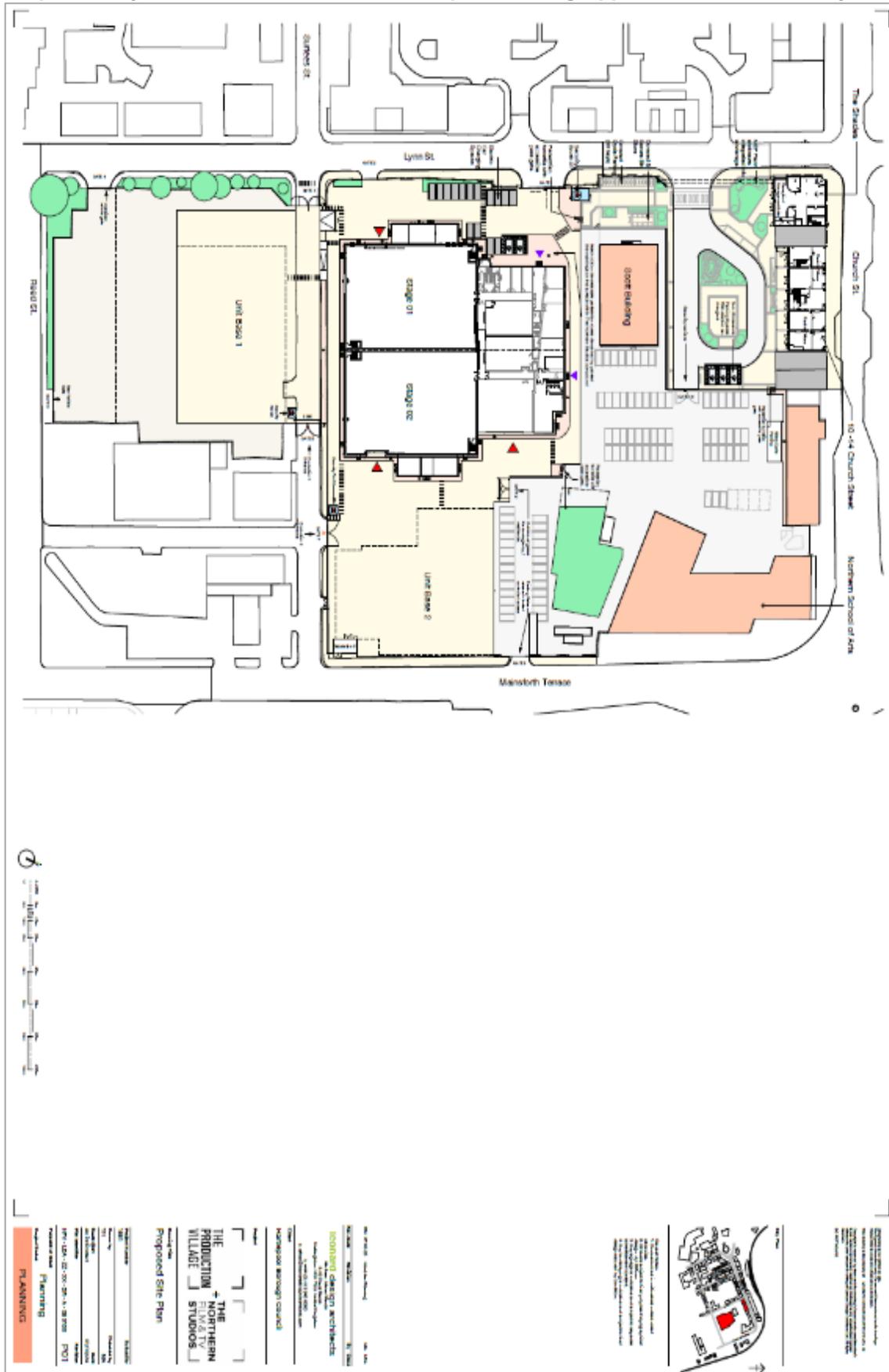
Kieran Bostock  
 Assistant Director- Neighbourhood Services  
 Civic Centre  
 Victoria Road  
 Hartlepool  
 TS24 8AY  
 Telephone 01429 284291  
 kieran.bostock@hartlepool.gov.uk

Sign Off:-

Managing Director	Date: 18 Sept 25
Director of Finance, IT and Digital	Date: 18 Sept 25
Director of Legal, Governance and HR	Date: 18 Sept 25



Proposed Layout of the Northern Studios as per Planning Application Made 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025



# ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

1 OCTOBER 2025



**Subject:** JOBS AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

**Report of:** Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)

**Decision Type:** For Information

## 1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

### Hartlepool will be a place:

- Where people live healthier, safe, and independent lives. (People)
- That is welcoming with an inclusive and growing economy providing opportunities for all. (Potential)

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Economic Growth & Regeneration Committee with a comprehensive update on external investment and key programmes which will be delivered by Hartlepool Jobs and Skills.
- 2.2 The report will also provide members of the Economic Growth & Regeneration Committee with a progress update on the roll-out of Employment Hubs.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Jobs and Skills Service is part of the wider Community Hubs and Wellbeing Service which is located within the Council's Preventative and Community Based Services function. The priorities of the Jobs & Skills Service are to provide access to high quality learning opportunities that respond to the needs of the whole community and meet the demands of employers and to support residents to progress closer and into sustained employment across Hartlepool.
- 3.2 To deliver these priorities, the service has developed and is actively investing in Employment Hubs which are located in the neighbourhoods which are in

greatest need and are co-located within Community Hubs. These are the front door for residents to access bespoke help and guidance from us or any of our partners such as employment support, impartial careers guidance, access to learning opportunities, qualifications, and work placements. The tailored support goes beyond work as it incorporates a range of services such as financial advice, health and wellbeing, childcare, and transport through the Employment Hubs.

- 3.3 This model of delivery has been highly effective with more than 1,480 residents supported and 2,500 interventions delivered in the last 12 months by our Employment Hubs. This tailored support has helped over 500 residents to move into work within Hartlepool.
- 3.4 An infographic highlighting the impact that Jobs & Skills has made over the last 12 months is shown as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The service is also currently working to expand the number of Employment Hubs across the town due to the success of the model and in response to the local need within Hartlepool. This includes creating a dedicated Employment Hub at Headland Library and expanding the existing Employment Hub within Community Hub South. The service is also delivering outreach at Seaton Carew Community Hub and West View Advice & Resource Centre.

#### **4. GET TEES VALLEY WORKING PLAN**

- 4.1 In November 2024, the Government published the Get Britain Working White Paper which aims to help people into employment across the UK. This will be achieved by reforming employment, health, and skills support to tackle economic inactivity, support people into work and fuel economic growth. The objective is for an inclusive and thriving labour market where everyone has the opportunity for good work and can progress in their career. The Government has set a long-term ambition of achieving an 80% employment rate for the UK. This approach is based on three pillars:
  - A modern Industrial Strategy and Local Growth Plans – to create high quality jobs within every part of the country.
  - Improving the quality and security of employment through the Plan to Make Work Pay.
  - The biggest reforms to employment support for a generation, bringing together Work, Skills and Health.
- 4.2 The current employment rate in Tees Valley is 71.9% and the employment rate in Hartlepool is 65.4%. To meet the Government's ambition of an 80% UK employment rate, this requires 34,000 more working-age residents to move into work over the next 10 years within Tees Valley and, as such, means over 8,000 more need to move into employment in Hartlepool. Currently, there are 2,725 residents unemployed and 17,400 economically inactive (this means a person is not in employment and is not actively seeking work) in Hartlepool.

- 4.3 The Get Britain Working White Paper sets out a requirement for all areas to develop local Get Britain Working Plans. These will identify labour market challenges and show how local areas can tackle these, and in doing so, contribute to economic growth and the ambition of an 80% employment rate. For Hartlepool, this is being led by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and will be branded the Get Tees Valley Working Plan which will incorporate:
- An evidenced-based analysis of the key local labour market challenges for the area and for different groups of people including those unemployed and those economically inactive, ensuring collective agreement on the key local priorities for Tees Valley.
  - An overview of the existing provision and support which is in place for both individuals and businesses, in particular around employment support, and the contributions different stakeholders have such as Local Authorities, VCSEs and Jobcentre Plus.
  - A clear plan of action for how partners will work together to develop support/services which address local priorities. This will cover actions for the next 12-24 months and longer-term objectives for what the employment support system should look like in Tees Valley.
- 4.4 Appendix 2 shows all of the core elements which must be included within the Get Tees Valley Working Plan.
- 4.5 The Government has set a deadline for all areas to publish their local Get Britain Working Plans by the end of September 2025. However, the plan will be iterative, evolving over time as progress is made and in response to changes with key programmes such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. To meet the deadline, TVCA have facilitated a number of workshops over the last three months involving key stakeholders including businesses, providers, educational institutions, and representatives from Local Authorities. The final Get Tees Valley Working Plan will be formally published following sign-off from TVCA Cabinet on Friday 26 September 2025.
- 4.6 The plan must be overseen by a formal partnership of key stakeholders which must include the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and all of the constituent Local Authorities. The established Tees Valley Education, Employment & Skills Advisory Group which includes membership from the Council will therefore govern the Get Tees Valley Working Plan.

## **5. PROGRAMMES AND INVESTMENT**

- 5.1 As part of the Get Britain Working White Paper, the Government is investing £240 million to trial new ways of getting people back into work across the UK. A range of new programmes were announced to test new approaches to tackle the root causes of ill-health related inactivity, help people improve their employment prospects and provide tailored support for young people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

5.2 Following negotiations over the last six months, the Council's Jobs & Skills Service will be responsible for the management and delivery of three key employment support programmes which will all positively impact on our residents and business across Hartlepool.

### 5.3 Youth Guarantee Trailblazer

5.3.1 The Government's Get Britain Working Plan included £45m to establish eight Youth Guarantee Trailblazer areas which aim to support young people aged 18-21 to move into education, training, or employment. The trailblazers were announced for one year (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026) and will inform the future national rollout of the Youth Guarantee.

5.3.2 Tees Valley was confirmed as an area for the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer and TVCA was able to access up to £5m. In March 2025, following a number of workshops, a set of proposed interventions were announced:

- 1: Convening partners and improving pathways in Tees Valley.
- 2: Providing paid and unpaid work placements for young people aged 18-21.
- 3: Extending tracking to identify those NEET young people aged 18-19.
- 4: Delivering preventative support to young people identified as NEET.
- 5: Mapping exercise to understand the current provision in Tees Valley.

5.3.3 In June 2025, confirmation was received by TVCA that the proposals had been approved and that grant funding would be provided to the five Local Authorities with Stockton Borough Council as Lead Local Authority. Hartlepool has been allocated £196k for the period to March 2026 which will provide extra capacity to support delivery of Interventions 2, 3 and 4.

5.3.4 A key element of the Tees Valley Youth Guarantee Trailblazer is high quality paid work placements for young people who are aged 18-21. In Hartlepool, more than 100 young people will benefit from this element which will provide:

- 16 Paid Work Placements (six months) and 48 Paid Work Placements (three months): These are for up to 25 hours per week and young people will be paid at the National Minimum Wage.
- 60 Flexible Unpaid Work Tasters: These can last up to two weeks and will allow young people to explore key sectors, industries, and occupational roles within Hartlepool.

5.3.5 The first placements will start at the end of September and the Council will act as a gateway to match young people with the right placement based on their skills, ambitions, and the role. All of the wages will be paid by the businesses who will then be reimbursed by Stockton Borough Council. Businesses will be able to ask young people to submit their CV and attend an informal interview before commencing any work placement.

5.3.6 In addition, there are grants available to help young people such as up to £2,500 for those on a paid placement to cover specialist training and support. These grants will be funded centrally but will be facilitated by the Council.

5.3.7 Each young person will receive support from a dedicated Youth Employment Coach who will offer pre-placement support to equip them with the necessary skills and confidence. They will also be on hand throughout the placement to offer support and will then help the young person afterwards so they can progress into sustained employment within Hartlepool.

5.3.8 In August 2025, it was announced by the Government that Youth Guarantee Trailblazers will be extended for a further year, and each area will receive up to £5m of additional funding including Tees Valley. There are ongoing conversations with TVCA, and it is proposed that all existing activities will be extended including paid work placements with a Delivery Plan being submitted to Government in September 2025.

#### 5.4 Connect to Work

5.4.1 Connect to Work was announced as part of the Get Britain Working White Paper in November 2024. The programme will help people with disabilities, health conditions and complex barriers to move into sustained employment. TVCA is the Accountable Body, working in partnership with the five Local Authorities, and will receive £17.7m to support 5,020 people for the five year period to 31 March 2030.

5.4.2 TVCA has been working closely with Local Authorities to develop the programme to meet local needs, alongside wider health, and skills support services. This is a voluntary programme, and the primary focus is on supporting people who are economically inactive 'Out-of-Work' lasting up to 12 months (85%) but will also provide support for people who are at risk of falling out of work 'In-Work Retention' lasting up to 4 months (15%). A key requirement is that it is delivered under the 'place, train and maintain' model of employment support which has two strands:

- Individual Placement and Support (IPS), traditionally used in health settings as a model to support those with complex barriers to work.
- Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF), traditionally used to help individuals with disabilities or health conditions.

5.4.3 TVCA are required to co-develop a Connect to Work Delivery Plan which will then be reviewed by DWP. There have been regular conversations over the last nine months with Local Authority officers from Employment & Skills and Public Health Teams including a workshop held in May 2025. This informed the design and delivery of the programme with the proposals then endorsed in June 2025 by TVCA Cabinet. This included agreement on:

- A mixed delivery model with grant awards to the five Local Authorities and the commissioning of specialist local services such as VCSEs.
- A 75/25% split of IPS and SEQF delivery
- A Lead Local Authority to be identified to coordinate the programme across the five Local Authorities.

5.4.4 Hartlepool Borough Council has been recommended to be the Lead Local Authority due to our extensive experience, capacity, capabilities, and a

successful track record of managing large-scale programmes in the Hartlepool Jobs & Skills Service.

- 5.4.5 The Tees Valley Connect to Work Delivery Plan was submitted to Government in August 2025. Following approval, the funding for Connect to Work will pass to TVCA via a grant from DWP. The table below highlights the overall funding allocation and key deliverables per year for the Tees Valley Connect to Work Programme.

Year	Maximum Funding	Expected Participants	IPS Volumes	SEQF Volumes
2025/26	£1.7m	132	99	33
2026/27	£3.1m	1,445	1,084	361
2027/28	£5.6m	1,897	1,423	474
2028/29	£5.3m	1,376	1,032	344
2029/30	£2.0m	170	128	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17.7m</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>1,255</b>

- 5.4.6 The Council is working closely with TVCA and the other four Local Authorities on an Implementation Plan for Connect to Work. There are regular weekly meetings which will ensure that resources are in place for the programme to be officially launched and go live by the end of 2025.

## 5.5 NHS Health & Growth Accelerator

- 5.5.1 The Government's Get Britain Working Plan included £45m for three Health & Growth Accelerators which aim to test the effectiveness of health measures in getting people back into work and retaining them in work. In December 2024, the ICB was confirmed as a site and allocated £18m of funding for 2025/26. The ICB will deliver a programme of interventions focused on improving population health outcomes and increasing economic growth by reducing health-related labour market inactivity with one of these programmes called Work Well.

- 5.5.2 In June 2025, the Council was approached by the ICB and asked to manage the Work Well programme as part of Health and Growth Accelerator on behalf of all Tees Valley Local Authorities. This was then approved by the ICB Place Committee in July 2025 to ensure the Health and Growth Accelerator and Connect to Work can be fully aligned. The programmes will collectively help to reduce the overall economic inactivity within Tees Valley.

- 5.5.3 Work Well will primarily focus on early intervention for adults who have been off work for 2-3 months and have a current FIT Note but will also support a small number who have recently been made unemployed. Evidence indicates that once off sick for 6 months only one in five people will ever return to work in the UK. The funding will provide dedicated Work Well Advisors who will:

- Ensure participants receive person-centred support, helping to remove barriers to returning to work and preventing individuals leaving work.

- Engage with a wide range of appropriate local support networks to address the complex and varied needs of the individual.
- Build effective relationships with specialist services including mental health, housing, benefits, debt, education, and MSK.
- Where appropriate, liaise with employers to facilitate workplace adjustments, and if needed find them alternative work in Tees Valley.

5.5.4 In addition, each Local Authority will be able to grant/fund additional support services as required by each person, based on the principles of personalised care. This will ensure that the service engages with and makes best use of available VCSE support services across the Tees Valley.

5.5.5 Work Well will be a 12 month pilot which will support 457 individuals, and it is expected that the programme will launch by the end of September 2025. There is funding totalling £1.3m across Tees Valley which will be received by the Council through a Section 256 Agreement. The table below provides a breakdown of the funding and proposed deliverables based on evidence of need across the Tees Valley.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% Economic Inactive</b>	<b>Target Deliverables</b>	<b>Delivery Allocation</b>
Darlington	63,000	18.3%	50	£133,409
Hartlepool	57,100	29.1%	73	£197,898
Middlesbrough	87,000	31.3%	119	£331,934
Redcar	79,900	23.2%	81	£221,923
Stockton	121,800	25.3%	135	£377,456

5.5.6 The Council is working closely with the ICB and other four Local Authorities on an Implementation Plan. It should be noted that, in addition to delivery funding of £198k, the Council will also receive circa £100k (7.5%) for management of the programme as the Lead Local Authority.

## **6. COLLABORATION**

6.1 To achieve an 80% employment rate will require a strong foundation of collaboration and partnership working within Hartlepool. This additional investment in employment programmes aims to tackle youth unemployment and economic inactivity but will only be successful if it leverages the collective strengths of Educational Institutions, Employers, and VCSEs Organisations. There will be significant opportunities through this investment, but it is important that any funding aligns to current provision and will develop positive partnerships with key local stakeholders within Hartlepool.

6.2 To maximise the employment and skills opportunities for both residents and businesses the Council is proposing to launch a Hartlepool Employment Partnership Group. The membership will include representatives from the key organisations involved in the employment and skills agenda. The group will

agree priorities with a focus on disadvantaged residents and neighbourhoods whilst encouraging greater collaboration across Hartlepool.

- 6.3 The Employment Partnership Group will provide a forum to share information and intelligence and provide leadership and strategic direction for employment and skills priorities in Hartlepool.

## 7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS

<b>RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are risks with the delivery of any externally funded programme, but the identified risks will be effectively managed, and a Risk Register is in place for the service.</li> <li>• The Council's Jobs &amp; Skills Service has an excellent track record of managing and delivering large-scale employment and skills programmes.</li> <li>• There will be a dedicated Work &amp; Health Steering Group which will ensure effective governance of the programmes across Tees Valley.</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Youth Guarantee Trailblazer will provide grant funding of £196k for the Council. This will provide additional capacity and resources for both the Council's Jobs &amp; Skills Service and Youth Support Service.</li> <li>• The Work Well Programme will provide grant funding of £198k for delivery and circa £100k for management. This will provide significant extra resources and will allow the alignment of work, health, and skills within the Service.</li> <li>• The Council is still awaiting confirmation of the split of the grant funding for Connect to Work. However, it is expected that Hartlepool will have 20% of the delivery based on evidence of need across Tees Valley.</li> <li>• The Employment Hubs are already funded through existing resources within both the Jobs &amp; Skills and Community Hubs Service. This additional funding will allow the expansion of the Employment Hubs.</li> </ul>
<b>SUBSIDY CONTROL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no Subsidy Control considerations identified at this time.</li> </ul>
<b>LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are legal obligations assigned to the three programmes which will be reviewed by the Legal Team in advance of sign off by the Council.</li> </ul>
<b>CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The service and these programmes positively contribute to tackling the longer-term causes and consequences of child and family poverty by preventing young people from becoming long term NEET and helping adults to move into work across Hartlepool.</li> </ul>

<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This service and these programmes will provide opportunities for young people and adults, particularly amongst vulnerable groups such as care leavers, those with a disability or health problem and those with health barriers or other complex barriers to work in Hartlepool.</li> </ul>
<b>STAFF CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's Jobs &amp; Skills Service has an existing Project Management Team that leads programmes such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Youth Hub. This will be enhanced with additional resources to manage Youth Trailblazer, Connect to Work and Work Well.</li> <li>• There will be four new dedicated Advisors and an additional Health Improvement Trainer to support the Youth Trailblazer and Work Well. This will also provide resources for the expansion of the Employment Hubs.</li> <li>• The staffing requirements are still being finalised for Connect to Work. This is being reviewed as part of the implementation of the programme alongside TVCA and the other four Tees Valley Local Authorities.</li> </ul>
<b>ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Service is working to expand the number of Employment Hubs across Hartlepool. The work is currently progressing to create a dedicated Hub within Headland Library and plans are being finalised to extend the Hub within Community Hub South.</li> </ul>
<b>ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no Environment, Sustainability or Climate Change considerations identified at this time.</li> </ul>

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Economic Growth & Regeneration Committee notes progress with the Employment Hubs and the proposed additional employment investment which has been secured by the Jobs & Skills Service.
- 8.2 It is also recommended that members note the wider employment and skills landscape including the emerging Get Tees Valley Working Plan.

## 9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Jobs & Skills Service will continue to maximise opportunities to ensure that local residents can progress closer or into work through our Employment Hubs. The service will also continue to maximise external funding

opportunities to expand our offer together with partners and community groups in Hartlepool.

- 9.2 The additional employment programmes are part of the wider Get Tees Valley Working Plan, and the Council will ensure that the investment is fully aligned to provide a coordinated offer for residents within Hartlepool.

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None

## 11. CONTACT OFFICERS

Gemma Ptak  
Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)  
Email [gemma.ptak@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.ptak@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01429) 523441

Scott Campbell  
Service Manager (Education, Employment & Skills)  
E-mail: [scott.campbell@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:scott.campbell@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01429) 284487

Sign Off: -

Managing Director	Date: 29 August 2025
Director of Finance, IT and Digital	Date: 31 August 2025
Director of Legal, Governance and HR	Date: 1 September 2025

# Hartlepool Jobs and Skills - Impact 2024/25



## Employment Hub



Our Local Hubs go beyond employment as they incorporate a range of services such as training opportunities, financial advice, health and wellbeing, family activities, transport and much more, to support local residents. We are expanding our Employment Hubs over the next year to cover the whole of Hartlepool.

## Headline



Hartlepool Jobs and Skills Service supports local residents to meet new people, enhance their skills, participate in learning, access volunteer opportunities, and provide tailored employment support to achieve their ambitions. Residents can take the first step towards their career goals by speaking with a member of the team or visiting an Employment Hub.

## Multiply



The Multiply Programme was funded by the Department for Education (DfE) with the aim of increasing the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population across the whole of the United Kingdom. Over the last 12 months, 390 residents have engaged in Multiply within Hartlepool.

## Adult Skills



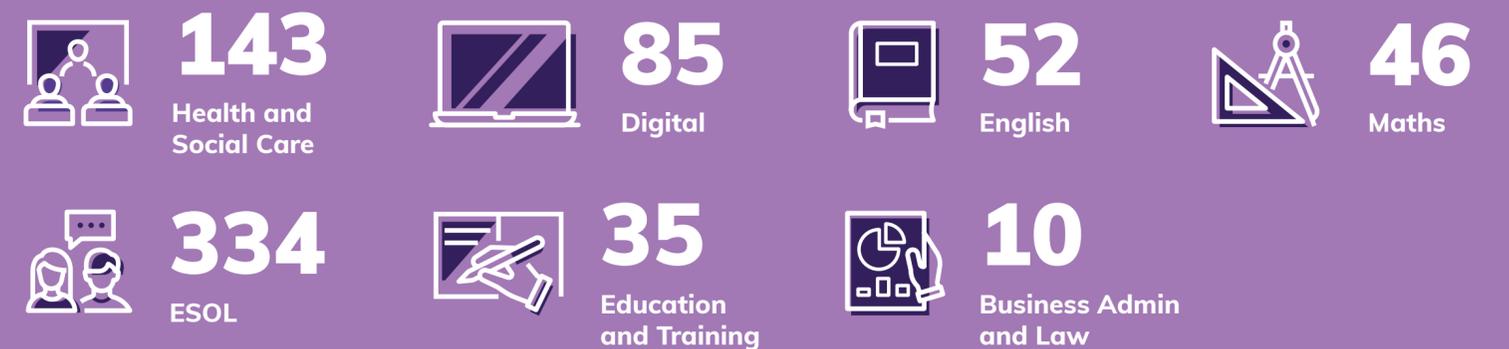
Adult Skills offers supportive and accessible training opportunities to make it as easy as possible for local residents to learn new life skills and enhance their career progression, including flexible learning options that work around busy lifestyles.

## Learning for Inclusion



Learning for Inclusion offers a wide range of exciting activities which have been developed for the local community. We cover a variety of subjects such as Maths, English, Health and Wellbeing, Cookery and Digital Skills.

## Adult Skills Enrolments



## Local Get Britain Working Plans – core elements

### Local Get Britain Working Plans should include:

1. Labour Market Analysis	2. Drivers and causes of supply and demand side labour market issues	3. Current system and offer	4. Working with partners	5. Systemic changes	6. Priority Actions and Longer-Term Goals	7. Governance, local engagement, and future iterations
<p>Analysis of key local labour market challenges and drivers for different groups of people across the economy, ensuring collective agreement on these key local issues</p>	<p>An overview of the current landscape of support (for individuals and employers) and the differing responsibilities and contributions of different stakeholders</p>	<p>Detail the existing systems and support mechanisms available for the key groups and areas identified across organisations including through the health service, local government, and Jobcentre Plus.</p>	<p>A clear plan of action for how partners will work together to develop support and services that address local priorities, improve local outcome indicators in line with Get Britain Working outcome metrics</p>	<p>Outline the changes which are required to local systems to improve outcomes and enhance the effectiveness of the system as a whole. This should include an assessment of current capacity and capability challenges of different stakeholders.</p>	<p>Actions for the next 12-24 months and steps towards achieving longer-term objectives.</p>	<p>Detail the governance arrangements in place locally which will maintain oversight of local Get Britain Working plans and which will support alignment with future initiatives and strategies across relevant stakeholders.</p>

<h1 style="margin: 0;">ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE</h1> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>1 OCTOBER 2025</b></p>
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**Subject:** PLAN FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS UPDATE

**Report of:** Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)

**Decision Type:** For Information

**1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY**

<b>Hartlepool will be a place:</b>
- Where people live healthier, safe, and independent lives. (People)
- That is connected, sustainable, clean, and green. (Place)
- That is welcoming with an inclusive and growing economy providing opportunities for all. (Potential)

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Economic Growth & Regeneration Committee with an update on the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme including the strategic objectives, key themes, and the submission requirements for the 10-year Regeneration Plan.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Long-Term Plan for Towns programme was launched by the Government in early 2024 and identified 55 towns including Hartlepool that would be awarded up to £20 million over a 10-year period.

3.2 Following the General Election on 4 July 2024, the programme was paused by the Government pending the Autumn Budget. This confirmed the Long-Term Plan for Towns would be retained but that it would be reformed into a new community regeneration programme to be announced in early 2025.

- 3.3 On 4 March 2025, the reformed Plan for Neighbourhoods programme was launched which continues to provide £20 million of funding over 10-years to improve local communities within Hartlepool. The programme reinforces the approach of placing communities at the heart and commits to the funding being governed by a dedicated Neighbourhood Board. The Hartlepool Board was established earlier this year and has cross-sector membership with a prominent focus on community representatives with a deep connection to Hartlepool. The Board includes a wide range of representatives covering local businesses, educational institutions, faith and community leaders, Cleveland Police, NHS, and the Member of Parliament.
- 3.4 Additional capacity funding of £200k was made available in 2025/26, which is in addition to the £250k already provided in 2024/25. This aims to help build local capacity, support communities to develop priority plans and provide an opportunity to hear from groups who may typically struggle to make their voices heard across Hartlepool.
- 3.5 The prospectus from Government confirmed that the Plan for Neighbourhoods should be managed through a partnership between:
- Hartlepool Board – Responsible for co-producing a 10-year Regeneration Plan for the town and managing the funding to improve communities in Hartlepool.
  - Local Authority – Accountable body for the funding with overall responsibility for the programme and a key remit around providing dedicated support to the Hartlepool Board.
  - Local Community – Residents should be at the heart of the programme and engaged throughout to ensure the investment is delivered in line with the priorities of local people within Hartlepool.
- 3.6 There was a requirement to confirm board membership and place boundary by 22 April 2025. As such, a request was submitted for our boundary to be amended so that it covered the whole of Hartlepool to ensure all communities are included whilst providing a legacy for the Board. On 18 July 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) confirmed that this request had been approved and our boundary for the Plan for Neighbourhoods now covers the whole Borough of Hartlepool.

#### 4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY THEMES

- 4.1 The first stage of the programme is for the Hartlepool Board to produce a 10-year Regeneration Plan which needs to be in line with the three strategic objectives for the Plan for Neighbourhoods:
1. Thriving Places: To have vibrant neighbourhoods and communities with busy high streets, a good range of local amenities, and high-quality physical infrastructure.

2. **Stronger Communities:** To empower Boards to tackle the root causes, rebuild relationships, and bring people together so they can feel proud of their area and safe in their neighbourhood.
3. **Taking Back Control:** To empower people to enter the workplace, workers to progress, and businesses to grow. People want to be empowered and have a say over the future of their community.

4.2 Plan for Neighbourhoods provides the scope to invest across a wide range of areas, which is why it is important that the local community is engaged to identify their priorities. The Government have provided a list of pre-approved interventions covering eight broad investment themes:

- Regeneration, High Streets, and Heritage
- Safety and Security
- Transport
- Housing
- Work, Productivity, and Skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Education and Opportunity

4.3 It is paramount that there is meaningful engagement with the community to support the development of the 10-year Regeneration Plan and 4-year Investment Plan. In June 2025, the Board approved capacity funding for the Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership (HOP), who are leading on a commissioned piece of work to support the Plan for Neighbourhoods. They are providing local leadership, collaborating with community groups, undertaking meaningful engagement to prioritise the potential investment themes, and raising the profile of Plan for Neighbourhoods and the Board.

## 5. REGENERATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The Government recently issued further guidance which confirmed the technical requirements for Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plans including what to include and the submission deadline of 28 November 2025.

5.2 The Regeneration Plan must include two components:

- **10-Year Vision:** This must set out a strategic vision and where, why, and how funds will be targeted and managed over the 10-years, taking account of local challenges and opportunities. This element of the plan must include the following sections in order:
  - Section 1: Local Context
  - Section 2: Spatial Targeting
  - Section 3: Vision for the Future
  - Section 4: Strategic Case for Change
  - Section 5: Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

- Section 6: Match Funding and Leveraged Investment
  - Section 7: Community and Stakeholder Engagement
  - Section 8: Governance Arrangements
  - Section 9: Management and Assurance
- 4-Year Investment Plan: This is a detailed plan outlining how the funding will be used during the first investment period from April 2026 to March 2030. This element of the plan must provide information on:
    - How the local community have been engaged and involved in the design of the Investment Plan.
    - The outcomes that are being targeted based on local need and the interventions being prioritised.
    - When the funding will be spent across the four-years and management arrangements for the funding.
- 5.3 The Regeneration Plan will be assessed by MHCLG who will need to clearly understand our vision, strategic aims and how we will use the funding to improve our local community within Hartlepool. The information will also set the baseline for MCLG to monitor progress, delivery, and expenditure throughout the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

## 6. CONNECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- 6.1 There is a significant amount of work required to develop the Regeneration Plan so it can be submitted by 28 November 2025 whilst meeting all of the detailed technical requirements from MHCLG. The plan also needs to be based on evidence including statistical data, community insight and spatial strategies whilst ensuring funding and interventions are focused on those communities which have the greatest need in Hartlepool.
- 6.2 Over the last few months, a number of commissioned pieces of work have been approved by the Board to support with the Regeneration Plan including:
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement (HOP): This piece of work is helping to understand local need and priorities for the proposed interventions through the Plan for Neighbourhoods. This will contribute to Section 7 of the Regeneration Plan which needs to evidence the extensive engagement which has taken place across Hartlepool.
  - Place Brand Narrative (CT Consults): This piece of work is helping to co-create a 10-year vision for the town which is both relatable for our communities and aspirational. A narrative on what success would look like alongside a detailed vision for the next decade needs to be included in Section 3 of the Regeneration Plan.
  - Governance (Belong): A Board Development Programme is being delivered to strengthen the skills of board members' covering topics such as civic leadership, strategic oversight, and decision-making. This is vital

for Sections 8 and 9 of the Regeneration Plan to provide assurance on the governance for Plan for Neighbourhoods.

- **Data Analysis and Urban Mapping (Layer Studio):** This piece of work is analysing data using spatial mapping layered with stakeholder insight to provide a rich and actionable Place Baseline. This is vital for Section 4 of the Regeneration Plan to identify areas of opportunity and to set the proposed interventions for the Investment Plan.

6.3 These commissioned projects are working together to form a multi-disciplinary team which will work collaboratively with the Council and the Board. The goal is to ensure that all interdependencies are effectively managed and that each element complements the others, which will foster a cohesive and integrated approach to achieving the objectives of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

6.4 As an example, the conversations that take place through the community engagement work will help to identify priorities for each neighbourhood, but combining this local intelligence with the interactive spatial mapping and data analysis will help to prioritise any potential interventions based on deliverability and impact. This would create a set of short, medium, and long-term investment plans which could be considered for Plan for Neighbourhoods.

## 7. FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

7.1 The Council received £250,000 in development funding in 2024 which was linked to the previous Long-Term Plan for Towns. MHCLG then provided further capacity funding of £200,000 in July 2025 which followed approval of the Hartlepool Board membership and place boundary for Plan for Neighbourhoods.

7.2 There has been £325k of capacity funding committed so far which incorporates commissioned pieces of work, developments and staffing across both the Long-Term Plan for Towns and Plan for Neighbourhoods. Due to the pace and specialism of the work it has been managed through direct awards after wider scoping, research, and evaluation, however it is still being managed within the recognised legal and procurement frameworks for the Council. This means that £125k of capacity funding remains available which will be used to support the development of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

7.3 In line with the published prospectus, a further allocation of £150,000 in capacity funding is expected for 2026/27 as part of year one delivery funding for the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

7.4 **Appendix 1** provides a table showing the profiled funding (75% capital and 25% revenue) which will be received each year through the Plan for Neighbourhoods in Hartlepool.

## 8. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS

<b>RISK IMPLICATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The identified risks will be effectively managed, and a Risk Register is in place.</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan for Neighbourhoods will provide up to £20m which will be released in annual payments to the Council with the funding profile shown in <b>Appendix 1</b>.</li> <li>This will provide both revenue and capital funding to improve communities within Hartlepool and investment decisions will be made by the dedicated Board.</li> </ul>
<b>SUBSIDY CONTROL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no Subsidy Control considerations identified at this time.</li> </ul>
<b>LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be legal obligations associated with the Plan for Neighbourhoods which will continue to be managed through the Council's Legal Team.</li> </ul>
<b>CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan for Neighbourhoods will positively contribute to tackling the longer term causes and consequences of child and family poverty by improving local communities, supporting economic growth, and delivering interventions to reduce inequalities across Hartlepool.</li> </ul>
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The programme is undertaking meaningful engagement with the local community, which includes targeted focus groups to engage underrepresented groups such as young people, people with a disability or health problem, diverse groups, and those with caring responsibilities within Hartlepool.</li> </ul>
<b>STAFF CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a full-time Project Management Officer who is fully funded through the Plan for Neighbourhoods.</li> <li>In addition, there is dedicated resource provided in-kind from existing officers within the Council.</li> </ul>
<b>ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be asset management considerations once investment decisions are made, and these will be appropriately managed by the Council.</li> </ul>
<b>ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential capital investments which will be made through the Plan for Neighbourhoods will positively contribute towards environment, sustainability and climate change including the Council's Net Zero Strategy and the Council Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A structured programme of meaningful community engagement is taking place across Hartlepool. This is being led by HOP and will gather local insight directly</li> </ul>

	<p>from residents, communities, and stakeholders, to help identify priorities and inform the Regeneration Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will then be ongoing meaningful engagement throughout the 10-years of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.</li> </ul>
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## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Economic Growth & Regeneration Committee note the current position of the Plan for Neighbourhoods and the requirements for the Regeneration Plan which needs to be submitted by 28 November 2025.
- 9.2 It is also recommended that members note the work being undertaken and how this will support well informed prioritisation of the interventions that will be presented to the Hartlepool Board. All agreed interventions will then progress to form part of the 10-year Regeneration Plan.

## 10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Plan for Neighbourhoods programme provides an opportunity to secure additional new investment of up to £20million over a ten year period to improve local communities within Hartlepool. Whilst the delivery phase of the programme is not scheduled to commence until April 2026, the Board needs to produce a 10-year Regeneration Plan and 4-year Investment Plan.
- 10.2 The Council will continue to explore opportunities to secure other investment which can be aligned to and will maximise the funding through the Plan for Neighbourhoods. The Council will also ensure that the funding complements other investments and programmes being delivered to maximise efficiency and avoid duplication within Hartlepool.

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Links to the Government guidance published to date are provided below:
- [Plan for Neighbourhoods: Prospectus - GOV.UK](#)
  - [Plan for Neighbourhoods: Pre-Approved Interventions - GOV.UK](#)
  - [Plan for Neighbourhoods: List of Powers - GOV.UK](#)
  - [Plan for Neighbourhoods: Regeneration Plan Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

## 12. CONTACT OFFICERS

Gemma Ptak  
Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)  
Email [gemma.ptak@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.ptak@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01429) 523441

Scott Campbell  
Service Manager (Education, Employment & Skills)  
E-mail: [scott.campbell@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:scott.campbell@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01429) 284487

Sign Off: -

Managing Director	Date: 29 August 2025
Director of Finance, IT and Digital	Date: 29 August 2025
Director of Legal, Governance and HR	Date: 1 September 2025

Appendix 1

Appendix 1 – Plan for Neighbourhoods Funding Profile

<b>Funding</b>	<b>2024 to 2025</b>	<b>2025 to 2026</b>	<b>2026 to 2027</b>	<b>2027 to 2028</b>	<b>2028 to 2029</b>	<b>2029 to 2030</b>	<b>2030 to 2031</b>	<b>2031 to 2032</b>	<b>2032 to 2033</b>	<b>2033 to 2034</b>	<b>2034 to 2035</b>	<b>2035 to 2036</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
Capacity Funding	£250k	£200k	£150k	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£600k
Revenue Funding	-	-	£232k	£256k	£432k	£432k	£432k	£432k	£437k	£450k	£450k	£450k	£4.001m
Capital Funding	-	-	£360k	£1.736m	£1.605m	£14.936m							
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£250k</b>	<b>£200k</b>	<b>£742k</b>	<b>£1.992m</b>	<b>£2.037m</b>	<b>£2.037m</b>	<b>£2.037m</b>	<b>£2.037m</b>	<b>£2.042m</b>	<b>£2.055m</b>	<b>£2.055m</b>	<b>£2.055m</b>	<b>£19.537m</b>