

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 29 February 2012

at 4.30 p.m.

in Committee Room B

MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors: Cook, Fenwick, Gibbon, Ingham, A Lilley, Loynes, Robinson, Tempest, Thomas,

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Iris Ryder and 1 vacancy

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2012
- 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2012

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

No Items

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

No Items

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

No Items

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Localism Act

7.1 The Localism Act Update in relation to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Presentation – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

Private Sector Housing Schemes Investigation

7.2 Evidence from Hartlepool Borough Council Housing Services Team:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Verbal Evidence – *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*

Six Monthly Monitoring of Scrutiny Actions

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

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 28 March 2012, commencing at 4.30 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

18 January 2012

The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook , Mick Fenwick, Steve Gibbon, Alison Lilley, Brenda Loynes and Sylvia Tempest.

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Iris Ryder

Also Present: Councillor Jonathan Brash, Housing and Transition Portfolio Holder.

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
Louise Wallace, Assistant Director, Health Improvement
Mike Blair, Highways Traffic and Transportation Manager
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

61. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillor Cath Hill.

62. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Loynes declared a personal interest in minute 75.

63. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011

Confirmed.

64. Matters arising from the minutes of 14 September 2011

In response to the Chair's request for an update in relation to an overdue action that a strategy be developed to achieve a planned approach to

highways maintenance as opposed to a reactive approach, the Highways Transportation and Traffic Manager advised that a Highways Maintenance Plan had been developed, a copy of which was available in the Members Room. The Plan included various options in relation to highway maintenance procedures, details of which were provided.

The Chair advised that further monitoring of the action would be provided in due course as part of the scrutiny monitoring process.

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

No items.

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

No items.

67. Private Sector Housing Schemes Investigation - Evidence from the Durham Tees Valley Probation Service – Covering Report/Presentation (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

As part of the Forum's investigation into Private Sector Housing Schemes representatives from Durham Tees Valley Probation Service had been invited to attend the meeting to provide evidence in relation to the placement of ex-offenders back into the community into private rented accommodation, including details of the systems and checks in place to ensure the location of this accommodation was appropriate.

A representative from the Probation Service, who was in attendance at the meeting referred to some of the challenges faced by the team of drug workers and probation officers who worked with some of the most prolific offenders in Hartlepool. One of the key issues facing the service was finding appropriate housing for ex-offenders. Evidence confirmed that if offenders did not have stability upon release from prison the chances of re-offending was extremely high. The team worked very hard to ensure that an intense support package was available for offenders prior to release from custody for which housing was key. Often difficulties were experienced with housing providers who were reluctant to consider accommodating anyone who remained in custody and, as a result, it was unlikely that any suitable accommodation would be available for a number of weeks for ex-offenders upon release. There was therefore a reliance on supported accommodation schemes to accommodate ex-offenders in the short term.

It was highlighted that supported accommodation was limited, waiting lists were high, resulting in a reliance on private sector housing provision where there was a risk of sub-standard accommodation being the only option.

Reference was made to the good tenant scheme, operated by the Council, which had improved the situation. The Probation Service were keen to develop the relationship with the good tenant scheme to share information on progress the offender had made since leaving prison and the support packages available to prevent re-offending and assist with placements to ensure appropriate placements were made. The Probation Service also highlighted that they were not permitted to share details of previous convictions with Landlords. However, risk assessments were undertaken on the likelihood of re-offending and it would assist if these could be accepted as part of the good tenant scheme. The benefits of housing ex-offenders in their local communities to reduce the risk of re-offending were outlined.

The representative was pleased to note the support provided by the Council in terms of supported accommodation and highlighted the benefits of a recently developed community campus scheme. The need for more accommodation of this type was emphasised.

A discussion followed which included the following issues:-

- (i) Reference was made to concerns expressed by residents in relation to housing ex-offenders in their community. The importance of encouraging landlords to sign up to the good tenant scheme and obtaining the trust of the local community was highlighted. A query was raised as to what Elected Members could do to gain the trust of the community in relation to this issue. The representative advised that the Probation Service were members of joint action groups and any problems that were brought to their attention would be addressed. It was highlighted that information sharing was key to managing potential problems. In terms of investing confidence in neighbourhoods, this issue was often difficult to address if the history of previous problems were not shared. Whilst the Probation Service were aware of hotspot problem areas, often information was not shared with the Probation Service. The representative highlighted that if information was shared and managed more effectively there would be an option to reduce the level of offenders in a particular locality. It was noted that the Probation Service worked closely with the police to address negative behaviour, details of which were provided and the importance of reassuring residents of such arrangements was highlighted.
- (ii) In response to a query as to whether the Probation Service utilised a pre-approved list of private sector landlords who may not be part of the good tenant scheme, Members were advised that landlords were identified from the good tenant scheme which reduced the level of choice. Often landlords were reluctant to house ex-offenders.

- (iii) The Forum discussed the private sector housing strategy, the lack of accommodation available, the opportunity to develop engagement with residents and landlords through the selective licensing scheme as well as support and discharge grants available for ex-offenders upon leaving custody.
- (iv) The Assistant Director commented on the value of the Probation Service working with the Council with a view to developing relationships with better quality landlords and developing links with local residents associations through the Landlord Steering Group. **It was suggested that an early meeting be held between the Assistant Director and representatives from the Probation Service to take this issue forward.**

The Chair thanked the representatives and attendees of the Forum for their valuable contribution to the meeting which would be reflected in the final report.

Recommended

That the information given be noted and discussions be used to assist the Forum in completing the scrutiny investigation.

68. Private Sector Housing Schemes Investigation - Evidence from Hartlepool Borough Council Health Improvement Team – Covering Report/Verbal Update (Scrutiny Support Officer)

As part of the Forum's investigation into Private Sector Housing Schemes, the Assistant Director of Health Improvement had been invited to attend the meeting to provide Members with an update following the discussions at the Forum meeting held on 9 November 2011 where evidence was presented in relation to the links between poor housing standards and poor health, any work that may have been carried out in conjunction with the PCT in other areas in relation to this and how work in this area could be funded.

The Assistant Director of Health Improvement, who was in attendance at the meeting, referred to discussions at the last meeting and subsequent discussions with the Housing and Transition Portfolio Holder and the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning on the way forward in terms of pursuing joint working with the NHS with a view to improving housing stock in the town and identifying those most vulnerable in terms of health via a pilot scheme. It was intended that a proposal would be developed in the coming weeks to work with the Health Service to identify a practical solution to the issues raised.

It has reported that the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board had looked at winter warmth and housing poverty indicating that housing was a key issue in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Housing and Transition Portfolio Holder welcomed the proposals and emphasised the importance of joint working between the NHS and the Council to establish the links and working in partnership to address the problem areas. The need to explore issues that contributed to poor health and the benefits of creating healthy homes as well as obtaining evidence of good practice from other local authorities was emphasised.

The Assistant Director made reference to the benefits of a pilot scheme arrangement to identify through the NHS those most vulnerable in terms of health as well as the potential long term financial savings to the health service in tackling prevention issues of this type.

The Chair supported the proposals and was keen to secure health funding, as suggested at the last meeting, to promote this initiative. The Chair suggested that any proposals **in relation to the link between housing and health** were reflected in the JSNA.

Recommended

That the evidence provided, and discussions outlined, be used to assist the Forum in completing the scrutiny investigation.

69. Private Sector Housing Schemes Investigation - Evidence from Hartlepool Borough Council Regeneration Housing Services Team – Covering Report/Verbal Update (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

As part of the Forum's investigation into Private Sector Housing Schemes, the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning had been invited to attend the meeting to provide Members with an update in relation to the following:-

- The Council's legal powers in relation to private sector rented housing as detailed in the Housing Services Enforcement Policy, previously distributed to Members of the Forum and plans to increase the use of these powers.
- What the ring-fencing of receipts from selective licensing means for future service delivery

The Assistant Director then reported on the Council's legal powers in relation to private sector housing which included the powers to undertake more inspections, carry out more pro-active walkabouts, examine empty properties and those properties causing nuisance and greater inter-working and exchange of information.

Details of the number of inspections carried out were provided as well as the level of work schedules issued which would be monitored to ensure works were completed satisfactorily. Where works had not been completed to the

required standards enforcement action would be taken. It was noted that 66 empty properties had been brought back into use in the current year and it was envisaged that this figure would increase. Details of the enforcement process was outlined.

With regard to ring fencing for selective licensing budgets and concerns that funding was being appropriately spent, it was reported that funding had been ring fenced for a five year period to deal with selective licensing. This would be reviewed at the end of the year and reported to Cabinet for consideration. In response to a request for an update on the common allocations policy it was reported that a report had been submitted to Cabinet on 7 March the previous year which outlined the policy in detail.

The Assistant Director went on to provide an update on the choice based lettings process. In relation to Baden Street, the Assistant Director advised that it was envisaged that a pilot scheme would be developed to change the demographic balance of residents in that area.

In response to a request for clarification, the Assistant Director outlined the enforcement process for bringing empty properties back into use where there had been difficulties identifying the landlord.

The Chair questioned how often the department liaised with Durham Tees Valley Probation Service. The Assistant Director advised that tenant information on landlords was as valuable as landlord information on tenants and commented that a meeting with the Probation Service would be arranged as soon as possible to share information on bad landlords and properties.

The Chair concluded by stating that whilst there were still a number of challenges ahead in relation to local authorities input into private sector housing, the robust approach to enforcement and support for good landlords as well as good tenants was acknowledged and welcomed.

Recommended

That the information given, be noted and used to assist the Forum in completing the scrutiny investigation.

70. Neighbourhood Services: Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/13 to 2014/15 – Final Consultation Proposals *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

Following a brief adjournment, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report which included the Executive's finalised budget proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012/13 to 2014/15. The Forum's views were requested in relation to the proposals for those service areas within the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department's budget to be fed back to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 27 January 2012 to enable a response to be formulated and presented to Cabinet on 6

February 2012.

Attached as appendices to the report were details of departmental pressures, proposed savings and review of reserves which Cabinet had referred to Scrutiny for consideration. It was noted that the departmental issues remained unchanged from the initial proposals referred to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in October 2011.

Members were referred to the additional budget information, as requested by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 13 January 2012, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting, which provided clarification of the staffing and service delivery implications and potential number of redundancies as a result of the proposed budget savings.

The Chair referred to the budget figures outlined in the minutes of 9 November and sought clarification on the accuracy of the figures highlighting that the figures differed from those presented in Appendix B to the report. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported that the figures contained within the minutes were accurate.

The Chair questioned what progress had been made on the development of Stranton Cemetery. The Director advised that this was now part of a much larger scheme and would be considered by the Planning Committee in March. Details of the proposals were outlined.

With regard to dog warden patrols, a Member raised concerns regarding the continuing dog fouling problems at Stranton Cemetery and asked that additional bins be provided or that additional patrols be undertaken. Members were advised that there was no funding available for additional bins. However, arrangements could be made to relocate the bins to a more appropriate location within the cemetery.

Following detailed discussions of the finalised budget proposals and the impact of these on services and staffing numbers, Members supported the proposals. However, concerns were reiterated that the unavoidable need for savings would leave services very stretched and commented that the need for further cuts in future years would inevitably have a negative impact on the services provided to the people of the town.

Members noted that job losses had been kept to an absolute minimum in this area, despite the large amount of savings required and commended staff within the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Directorate for continuing to deliver excellent services despite the impact of savings.

The Chair thanked the Director for the detailed information provided and acknowledged the efforts that had gone into identifying savings of this level.

Recommended

- (i) That the Neighbourhood Services Business Transformation Programme

Targets, pressures and reserves as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2012/13 be supported.

- (ii) That the comments/views of the Forum, in the initial budget consultation meeting, be reaffirmed and the above comments be reported to the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 27 January 2012 to enable a formal response to Cabinet on 6 February 2012.

71. Issues Identified from Forward Plan

No items.

72. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

73. Any Other Business – Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Referral of Low Cost Travel to Young People through Concessionary Fare Schemes *(Assistant Director – Transport and Engineering)*

At the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 14 October, 2011, during consideration of the initial consultation proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/13 to 2014/15, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee referred the consideration of the provision of low cost travel to young people through a concessionary fare scheme to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

The report provided Members with the opportunity to respond to the referral from the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. It had been suggested by Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee that, as part of the Council's commitment to eradicating child poverty, those on free school meals should receive full support, with sliding levels of support to others dependent on the level of household income. Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee had further suggested that negotiations be undertaken with Stagecoach regarding the potential for such a scheme, and with schools regarding the potential use of a portion of the funding allocated for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

The Assistant Director and Integrated Transport Manager, who were in attendance at the meeting, presented the report and provided a presentation which included details of the current school transport provision and costs

associated by group, as set out in a confidential appendix to the report.

Additional schemes linked to free transport under the low income criteria or free school meals would not benefit additional pupils. Currently all those eligible for free transport had been identified and already received support through the existing statutory process. Hartlepool currently supported 175 pupils at a cost of 82k per annum. It was predicted that this expenditure would increase to an estimated cost of 101k during 2012/13.

The ongoing Integrated Transport Travel Club initiative provided flexible demand, responsive service across a varied geographical area.

A number of transport items were currently being considered or had been considered by several groups and committees within the Council, details of which were provided as set out in the report.

The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum considered a presentation in relation to home to school transport and the comments and suggestions arising there from were set out in the report.

Members were advised that the ITU would investigate further funding opportunities through a review of existing transport expenditure within schools. This would provide the opportunity to explore additional charging policies for provision. The ongoing consultation exercise relating to denominational transport would provide a platform for review.

Negotiation with providers confirmed that the current ticketing options could not be transferred to alternative groups of young people. Stagecoach had confirmed that Uni-rider would not be available to pupils under the age of 16 as there was a need to show a student union card as pre-qualification to the discounted travel permit. Charges relating to current ticketing schemes were included in the report.

The ITU estimated that approximately 500-1000 pupils would be eligible under alternative criteria. If the criteria was applied, costs were estimated at £95,000 pa for 500 pupils and £190,000 pa for 1000 pupils (Cool Rider Pass).

In relation to the yellow bus service, a query was raised as to whether the buses could be utilised by members of the general public. The Assistant Director advised that the Council were not allowed to take fares and the yellow bus service could only be used for commercial routes.

The Forum discussed the current ticketing options, how the travel club operated in practice, future travel club options and how such schemes could be funded. In relation to how schemes could be funded, the Forum was advised that central government funding was co-ordinated via the Association for Transport Co-ordinators to which the Council's Integrated Transport Manager was Chair. Unfortunately the Transport Club did not qualify for the local sustainable travel grant due to Hartlepool's rural location. The Integrated Transport Unit was continuing to pursue all possible funding avenues for

transport provision.

Following further debate, the Forum supported the principle of provision of concessionary bus passes to young people. However, given the current budget situation, the Forum were of the view that they could not endorse funding to support such a scheme at the present time. The Forum were keen for the Transport Team to continue to explore options for the Travel Club, the yellow bus strategy, any other options to address transport issues in the town as well as explore all possible funding avenues in relation to bus transport. The Forum welcomed the proposals to encourage partners to participate in any such concessionary schemes.

Recommended

That following the Forum's detailed consideration of the referral, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee be advised of the Forum's following recommendations:-

- (i) Whilst the Forum supported the principle of the provision of concessionary bus passes to young people, given the current budget situation, the Forum could not support the introduction of such a scheme at the present time.
- (ii) The Transport Team should continue to explore the options for the Travel Club, the yellow bus strategy and any other strategies aimed at reducing the impact transport issues had on people's lives in Hartlepool.
- (iii) The Transport Team continue to explore all possible funding avenues in relation to bus transport.
- (iv) In discussions between schools, service providers and the Council all possible options available to benefit all service users continue to be explored.
- (v) That further work be undertaken by the Transport Team to encourage partners to participate in any such concessionary schemes that may arise in the future.
- (vi) An update report on the progress of the areas identified for further work be presented to this Forum in 6 months time.

74. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair reported that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on Monday 30 January 2012 at the earlier time of 3.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 7.07 pm

CHAIR

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

30 January 2012

The meeting commenced at 3.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook, Peter Ingham, Brenda Loynes and Sylvia Tempest.

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Iris Ryder

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director
Kerry Trenchard, Strategy and Performance Officer
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

75. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mick Fenwick Steve Gibbon and Jean Robinson.

76. Declarations of interest by Members

None at this point in the meeting. However, Resident Representative, Iris Ryder declared a personal interest later in the meeting – Minute 80 refers.

77. Minutes

No items.

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

No items.

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

No items.

80. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents – Proposals for Inclusion in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2012/13 *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

The Strategy and Performance Officer introduced the report which provided the opportunity for the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Forum to consider the proposals for inclusion in the 2012/13 Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which provided the proposed outcomes and actions contained within the plan. The presentation highlighted the challenges faced by the Department and proposals on how to deal with those challenges.

Following the conclusion of the presentation a discussion ensued which included the following issues:-

- (i) A Member commented on the potential impact of changes in Government Policy and legislation in relation to the new rights and powers for communities and referendum requests.
- (ii) With regard to outcome 9 relating to improving health by reducing inequalities and improving access to services, a query was raised as to whether the new legislation relating to referendum requests would allow campaigners like Safe our Hospital to request a referendum. The Director provided clarification in relation to the criteria for acceptance of petitions as well as the options for dealing with requests of this type. **At this point in the meeting Resident Representative, Iris Ryder declared a personal interest as a Member of Save our Hospital Campaign.**
- (iii) In relation to outcome 18 – “Quality local environments where public and community open spaces are clean, green and safe”, a Member raised concerns that the fountain at Ward Jackson Park had not been operational for some time and sought clarification as to when this would be repaired. The Director advised that arrangements would be made for this issue to be referred to the appropriate officer following the meeting. Members queried the lack of targets in relation to RNDPO50 “Percentage of streets that fall below an acceptable level of cleanliness.”

- (iv) In response to a request for clarification, the Assistant Director outlined the benefits of the proposal to introduce a Tees Valley Urban Traffic Management Control System common database by March 2013.
- (v) Following concerns raised regarding the extreme variation of heating temperatures in buildings like the Historic Quay and libraries which were currently centrally controlled by the Council, it was suggested that this issue be examined as part of the energy invest to save project.
- (vi) A Member queried the purpose of including the Hartlepool Partnership in the plan given that the partnership no longer existed. The Strategy and Performance Officer stated that the Hartlepool Partnership was one of the themes included in the Community Strategy, hence the reason for inclusion. However, the plan would be amended to reflect the new partnership arrangements once clarified.
- (vii) The Forum raised a number of queries in relation to the target monitoring process to which the Strategy and Performance Officer provided clarification. Following further discussion in relation to the performance monitoring process, the Forum sought clarification as to why the target for National Indicator 184 in relation to the percentage of food establishments in the area which were broadly compliant with food and hygiene law had not increased from 89%. The Assistant Director agreed to provide feedback following the meeting.
- (viii) Members went on to discuss national indicators and targets and queried why all national targets were not included in the plan. Whilst it was noted that it was no longer a statutory requirement to provide national performance indicators, the local authority continued to collect that data. With regard to future plans, the Forum were keen to examine all national indicators and requested that where national standards or guidelines were available these should be included for Members reference. In addition, it was suggested that Members should be consulted where significant indicators were not included in the plan.
- (ix) A lengthy debate ensued regarding the low take-up of school meals as well as the possible reasons for such low levels. In relation to take-up of school meals, it was suggested that arrangements be made for feedback to be provided to parents on childrens' eating patterns including the meals their children were selecting. It was explained that this could take place via a cashless catering system. Members were disappointed regarding the low level targets and were of the view that a 1% increase in target was too low. The Forum requested a breakdown of take-up figures to include the level of free school meals take-up as well as details of future targets.

The Assistant Director stated that quarter 3 targets were currently being collated and would be reported to Cabinet shortly, the outcome of which would be shared with the Forum.

- (x) A Member questioned why a target had not been attached to the action to encourage volunteer and community input into local green space management. Members were advised that it was not appropriate for all performance indicators to have targets attached. Members suggested that the Council link in with groups that were already active in relation to encouraging volunteering and community input into local green space management
- (xi) Emphasis was placed upon the importance of street cleansing and welcomed the proposal to encourage volunteer and community input. Members shared examples of where such initiatives had been successful and commented on the benefits of extending such initiatives to other areas. The Chair requested that localised data in terms of wards and areas be provided.
- (xii) In relation to the performance indicator and target relating to the percentage of roads where maintenance should be considered, a Member queried the reasons why such a low target had been set to which the Assistant Director advised that the targets in relation to roads were set on the basis of a set method of measurement and influenced by funding and resources available. In order to provide some context, Members felt that details of funds available to repair roads should be made available and were keen to examine previous targets as a comparator.
- (xiii) A query was raised as to why a target had not been set for 12/13 in relation to national indicator 186 (percentage per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area). The Forum was advised that the outcome of this indicator was reliant upon other partners and difficulties were often experienced when setting targets for other partners. Members sought clarification as to why this was monitored and had a target of 3.8.
- (xiv) A Member commented that recycling figures displayed at the Recycling Centre indicated average recycling figures of 64% per week. However, the future target for 12/13 in the plan indicated a recycling target of 46%. The Assistant Director agreed to provide a breakdown of recycling figures.
- (xv) Following discussion in relation to the potential implications of the Localism Act, the Chair indicated that a presentation in this regard would be provided at the next meeting of the Forum.

Recommended

- (i) That the proposed outcomes and actions for inclusion in the 2012/13 Departmental Plan, attached at Appendix A, be supported.
- (ii) That the comments of the Forum, as outlined above, be presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 17 February 2012.
- (iii) That an update report be provided in response to the issues raised by Members.

81. Items for Discussion

No items

82. The Executive's Forward Plan *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Executive's Forward Plan for February to May 2012 was provided to give Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum the opportunity to consider whether any items within the Plan should be considered by the Forum.

In looking at the Forward Plan in detail, discussions ensued on the following items.

1) Ref: RN 68/11 – Community Cohesion Framework

The Forum was of the view that as the Community Cohesion Framework affected all wards consultation should include views from the Neighbourhood Watch Executive, Parish Councils and Asylum Seeker and Refugee Groups. The Chair requested that a written response be provided to all Members of the Forum under separate cover clarifying who had been consulted.

2) Ref: RN74/11 – Former Leathers Chemical Site

A Resident Representative raised concerns regarding the suitability of companies who may be employed to clean up the site as well as the cost implications for the Council in relation to implementing the Environment Agency's recommendation. The Forum requested that the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods provide an update report in relation to this issue at the next meeting of the Forum.

3) Ref: RN 94/11 – Review of Concessionary Fares Payment to Bus Operators for 2012/113

A Member felt that the decision in relation to this issue should be a Council decision (rather than a Cabinet decision). In terms of who had been consulted, emphasis was placed on the importance of consultation with all Elected Members and residents and clarification was sought as to who had been

consulted. The Chair indicated that Members' concerns would be referred to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. .

4) Ref: RN 5/12 – Seaton Carew Development Sites – Results of Joint Working Arrangement with Preferred Developer

The Forum requested an update on this proposal following a Resident Representative's concerns that the public were not aware of the proposals and that Seaton Carew residents should be consulted prior to any development proposals being considered. It was suggested that the department provide a response to the Resident Representative direct following the meeting.

Recommended

That the comments/views/requests of the Forum, as set out above, be noted and feedback in response to the issues raised be provided as necessary.

83. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 29 February 2012 commencing at 4.30 pm

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm

CHAIR

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

29 February 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: LOCALISM ACT UPDATE - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods has been invited to attend this meeting to provide Members with a presentation in relation to the Localism Act.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Following Members request for an update on the Localism Act, the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods is in attendance at today's meeting to provide members with a presentation outlining the potential effect of the act on the delivery of services within the remit of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum consider the presentation of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods in attendance at this meeting and seek clarification on any relevant issues where required.

Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

29 February 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION IN TO PRIVATE
SECTOR HOUSING SCHEMES – HOUSING
SERVICES TEAM - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that the Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) has been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the investigation into Private Sector Housing Schemes.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 24 June 2011, Members determined their work programme for the 2011/12 Municipal Year. The topic of Private Sector Housing Schemes was selected by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum as its topic for investigation. The Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Scrutiny investigation were approved by the Forum at its meeting on 27 July 2011.
- 2.2 Consequently, the Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) from Hartlepool Borough Council has agreed to attend this meeting to provide Members with an update in relation to the following:-
- Enforcement action taken to date;
 - Baden Street, Carr/Hopps Street and Perth Street;
 - The Empty Homes initiative.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence of the Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) in attendance at this meeting and seek clarification on any relevant issues where required.

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

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Private Sector Housing Schemes – Scoping Report' Presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum on 27 July 2011.
- (ii) Minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 24 June 2011.

Housing Services Enforcement Powers

An overarching Housing Services enforcement policy was approved by Portfolio Holder on 18th October 2011 and this encompassed all enforcement aspects of Housing Services. Rather than introducing new powers its main purpose was to consolidate existing policies.

Summary of Enforcement Activity from April 2011

Empty Homes

- Empty Homes Officer appointed in April 2011 working with owners to bring empty homes back into use through an incentive and enforcement approach.
- Use of informal approach to return properties to occupation.
- Partnership working with Housing Hartlepool (Vela Group) utilising funding through Homes and Communities Agency currently working to bring properties back into use – 26 currently being considered as part of a lease and repair scheme. Improvement works are due to commence in March.
- Baden Street improvement scheme has been implemented including work to return empties to occupation. 16 out of 19 empty property owners are now actively engaged in the scheme.
- To date 2 empty properties on Baden Street have been re-let and improvement works are due to commence in March 2012. Owners who fail to engage in the scheme will be referred for enforcement action.
- 'Top 20' list of empty properties that have been empty the longest targeted.
- All owners have been contacted and have either brought their property back into use, have firm plans to do so or enforcement action has been identified.
- 66 empty properties had been returned into use by the end of December against the annual target of 57. This figure records any intervention by the Council which has resulted in a property being brought back into use. This can range from informal discussions with owners through to enforcement action.

Housing Market Renewal

- The Council took ownership of all properties on the Perth/Hurworth Street area through the CPO process. All residents were relocated prior to this and now the properties have been made safe and secured prior to demolition.
- Funding has been identified through the HMR transition fund for the delivery of Carr/Hopps and approval will shortly be sought for the match funding requirement.

Housing Standards/Nuisance

- With regards to the work of the Housing Standards Officers, almost 90% of the requests for service made related to disrepair, empty properties and nuisances.
- Proactive work has also been undertaken including-
 - area based walkabouts, including the Housing Market Transition site (Carr/Hopps) and closer liaison with neighbourhood managers to identify problematic empties and nuisance properties;
 - a major inspection programme of privately rented properties in the selective licensing areas;
 - work in the Perth/Hurworth Street CPO area to deal with disrepair issues; and
 - preparation work for using section 215, Town and Country Planning Act 1990 powers to deal with properties adversely affecting the amenity of a neighbourhood.
- The number of reports of disrepair has remained steady over the course of the year, with an average of 60 per quarter; the majority have been resolved without the need to take formal enforcement action.
- In terms of enforcement action taken, four Housing Act 2004 improvement notices have been served and three notices were served under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as the premises were considered to be prejudicial to health.
- In one case Emergency Remedial Action was taken under the Housing Act 2004 to deal with a situation that involved an imminent risk to health. Despite being available for a number of years, this is the first time such a course of action has been taken in Hartlepool.
- Complaints regarding empty properties peaked in the second quarter of the year and we believe that this has been a result of having an increased presence in problematic areas and attendance by the Empty Homes Officer at residents meetings.
- 27 notices were served to require the securing of empty dwellings and 16 notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisance associated with empty properties e.g. to remove rubbish from within the property boundaries.
- There has been a dramatic decline in the number of complaints received about nuisance properties from 99 in the first quarter to 48 in the last. The reason for this is not clear but may be accounted in some part by the increase in proactive work carried out.
- 61 notices were served with regards to nuisance arising from occupied properties.

Selective Licensing

- 43 licences have been issued in the selective licensing areas in 2011/12, taking the total licensed to 569
- 203 inspections have been carried out on licensed properties with 120 schedule of works sent with recommendations for action.

7.2

- In terms of the selective licensing inspections carried out, follow up inspections are being undertaken and referred for enforcement action where necessary.
- 134 notices have been served for non-supply of gas or electrical certificates.
- 68 court applications for breach of licence condition being prepared

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

29 February 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

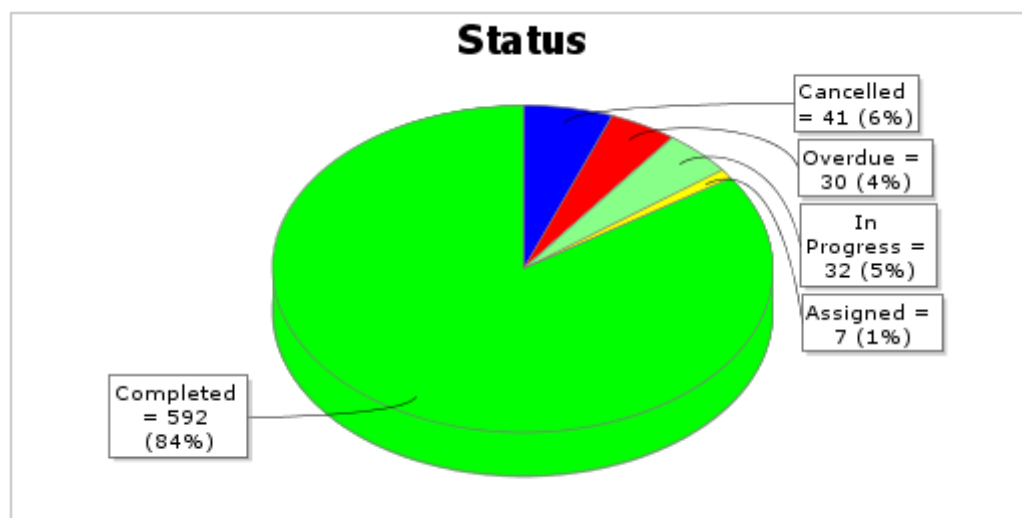
Subject: SIX MONTHLY MONITORING OF AGREED
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY
FORUM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In November 2007 the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee approved the introduction of the Scrutiny Monitoring Database, an electronic database, to monitor the delivery of agreed scrutiny recommendations since the 2005/06 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 In March 2010 Scrutiny Chairs noted and agreed for the movement of the Scrutiny Monitoring Database into the Covalent, which is the Council's Performance Management System.
- 2.3 In accordance with the agreed procedure, this report provides for Members details of progress made against each of the investigations undertaken by the Forum. **Chart 1** overleaf is the overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005 and **Appendix A** provides a detailed explanation of progress made against each scrutiny recommendation agreed by this Forum since the last six monthly monitoring report presented in September 2011.

Chart1: Progress made by all Scrutiny Investigations Undertaken since 2005

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members:-

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

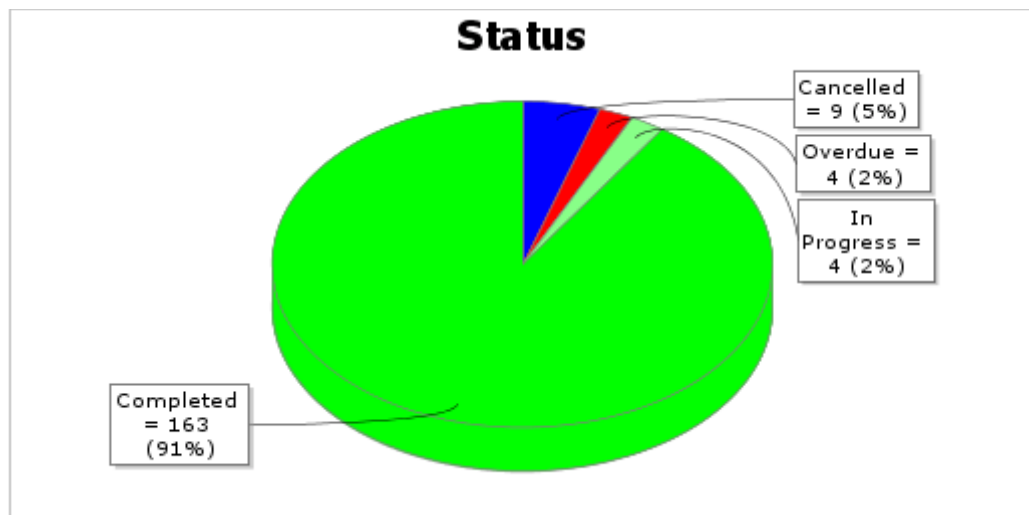
Contact Officer:- Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum - All

Generated on: 22 February 2012



Year 2005/06


Investigation Hartlepool's Local Bus Service Provision

Recommendation	Action		Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
SCR-NS/2a/ii That work be undertaken by the Authority to improve the infrastructure of the bus network in Hartlepool.	SCR-NS/2a/ii	Continue to review issues relating to timetable information. Improve clarity and presentation of at stop timetable information. Provide Real Time information at selected	Peter Frost	01-Dec-2011	01-Dec-2011	17-Feb-2012 An improved style of information display has been agreed through Connect Tees Valley, and these will be rolled out from April 2012. An	<div> <div></div> <div>25%</div> </div>	Overdue

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	stops and through the internet, WAP and SMS.				<p>alternative real time provider is to be sourced during 2012/13 on a Tees Valley wide basis. This aims to overcome the current problems experienced by different bus operators having incompatible systems, etc, and certain locations not being within range. Better Bus Area Fund Bid is submitted to DfT on 24/2/12, and includes for information provision through the development of Smartphone Apps, and touch screen information points.</p> <p>23-Feb-2010 New style of timetable displays introduced at bus stops to improve clarity and presentation. Real Time Passenger Information delayed as a result of problems with the Tees Valley system.</p>	

Year 2009/10

Investigation Car Parking on Estates

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/9b That the Council explores ways of publicising the reporting arrangements and points of contact for parking problems;	SCR-NS/9b Publicity to be improved via website, Council A-Z services, and Hartlepool Connect scripted service provision.	Philip Hepburn	01-Mar-2011	30-Sep-2011	<p>17-Feb-2012 Some of this work has been completed. The contact centre scripts have been rewritten and the changes to some of the services such as blue badge applications and operational production of resident permits have been changed to reflect the Contact Centres involvement. Work on the appeals procedure is however still being progressed</p> <p>18-Aug-2010 Website updates are scheduled to take place in Jan 2011-</p>	 0% Overdue

Year 2010/11
Investigation 20's Plenty - Traffic Calming Measures

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/12a/v That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (v) continues to deliver school safety schemes	SCR-NS/12a/v School safety schemes to continue as part of Local Transport Plan.	Peter Frost; Peter Nixon	31-Mar-2012	31-Mar-2012	12-Jan-2012 School safety scheme programme is continuing. A scheme for Dyke House Sports & Technology College is to be implemented this financial year, and a scheme for Eldon Grove Primary School is also being	 55% In Progress

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>developed. 20's Plenty will not now go ahead on a town-wide basis, following a negative response to consultation.</p> <p>01-Nov-2011 LTP programme is continuing. A further report will be presented to a future Portfolio meeting detailing this year's scheme, and work is continuing to implement schemes with Neighbourhood Forums where appropriate.</p>	
SCR-NS/12e That the Council circulate an accident map and ward based accident information to all Councillors as a means of communicating this information to residents.	SCR-NS/12e	Peter Frost	30-Apr-2011	30-Apr-2011	<p>12-Jan-2012 A meeting has taken place this week with the software provider, and the new system should be operational by the beginning of the new financial year, which will enable ward maps to be produced. Given the forthcoming boundary changes updates will commence in June 2012, unless specific requests are received from Members prior to this.</p> <p>01-Nov-2011 The software is being adapted in order to</p>	<div>50%</div> <div>Overdue</div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					allow this data to be produced and then circulated to members.	

Year 2010/11
Investigation Foreshore Management

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/14f That, in marketing areas of interest to tourists along the foreshore, in addition to traditional attractions, increased emphasis should be placed upon the promotion of Hartlepool's natural assets	SCR-NS/14f To work with key internal (Parks & Countryside Teams, Cultural Services) and external partners to provide and deliver on information collection to support marketing activity to promote Hartlepool's natural assets.	Jo Cole	31-May-2011	31-Mar-2012	<p>12-Jan-2012 Support in delivering Xmas Campaign through promotion of all countryside based events. Looking at the development of interpretation in key sites. Additional information within the What's happening guide including highlighting walks, nature reserves, parks and key events and directing to web based information.</p> <p>29-Sep-2011 Website training exercise delivered with members of countryside team. Meetings have taken place to develop further information on walking and birdwatching. Also looking at interpretation</p>	<div>75%</div> <div>In Progress</div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					opportunities. 12-Jul-2011 Working with the countryside team to engage them in information collection, particularly in regard to destinationhartlepool.com. Training exercise coordinated to assist with engagement which will allow countryside team to directly input information on to the website. Engagement will also assist in communicating information more effectively.	
SCR-NS/14g That the promotion of tourist attractions / events in Hartlepool should continue to be undertaken through traditional means, in addition to web based approaches, in order to reach as wide an audience as possible.	SCR-NS/14g Hartlepool's assets will continue to be promoted within the key piece of tourism print, the Hartlepool Mini Guide.	Jo Cole	30-Jun-2011	31-Mar-2012	12-Jan-2012 What's Happening Hartlepool Guide went to print in January with 45k copies printed and circulated to a 1-2 hour drive time. The guide provided additional content on walking, parks, nature reserves and countryside events and signposted readers to additional web-based information. 29-Sep-2011 -- Work has commenced on the new What's Happening Guide (incorporating Mini	<div><div></div><div>00%</div></div> In Progress

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>Guide and What's On. Currently out to tender for design agency to design the joined up piece of print, which will feature both visitor and event based information and will include Hartlepool's core assets. --</p> <p>12-Jul-2011 Hartlepool's assets are currently being promoted to a 1-2 hour drive time through the current 2011 mini guide. Work will commence on the new publication in September, with the publication due for publication in January 2012.</p>	
SCR-NS/14h That the Council provides guidance and support to local business and groups to access funding to improve the appearance of the foreshore.	SCR-NS/14h/2 Provide advice and guidance to tourism related businesses through the two key networks – Hotels Group and Passport Group	Jo Cole	31-May-2011	31-Mar-2012	<p>12-Jan-2012 3 network group events have taken place between October and December. The businesses have been involved in discussions including general business activity, What's Happening Hartlepool developments and opportunities, hotel developments, research.</p> <p>29-Sep-2011 3</p>	<div> <div></div> <div>31%</div> <div>In Progress</div> </div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>network group events have taken place between July and September. The businesses have been involved in discussion on the Eating Out Campaign, Future Website & Social Media, product development. Discussions at meeting has also led to businesses going forward to work in partnership on specific projects. One meeting was held at the new College to allow members of the network to see the latest development in the town. --</p> <p>12-Jul-2011 Four networking events have taken place within this quarter and minutes of events have been circulated to key stakeholders. Information has been provided related to marketing, product development and also the changing structures of the tourism industry.</p>	
SCR-NS/14j/i That a permanent solution is	SCR-NS/14j/i Agencies will be involved in providing a permanent solution.	Chris Scaife	31-Oct-2011	31-Oct-2011	17-Feb-2012 The status on this action is the same, at	<div>35%</div> <div>Overdue</div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
explored to close the Brus Tunnel to vehicles, utilising funds obtained in relation to the vandalised camera on the site					<p>present - no progress is possible until further development of Steetley site is carried out. The site is in the process of being cleared and the landscaping element of the clearance would create the conditions for the future development of the site to progress. It is likely that the site will be cleared to close to the natural levels prior to the site's industrial development. At the end of this clearance it might be appropriate to revisit the original action description and find out if it is possible to remove the concerns of the emergency service (see 13/12/11 note)</p> <p>13-Dec-2011 Due to concerns from the Fire Emergency Service, regarding any loss of access to the beach through Brus Tunnel, the action has been shelved until further development has occurred on the Steetley site. Once</p>	

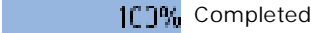
Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>housing has been developed on site then a more suitable access route can be considered and the original scheme can be reconsidered.</p> <p>22-Sep-2011 Through Property Services HBC is still awaiting information regarding Network Rail's agreement to carry out the required works (from both parties) without either party having to spend more than is necessary to achieve the improvements looked for.</p> <p>24-Jun-2011 HBC has entered discussions with Network Rail regarding changes of entry onto Network Rail (NR) land by their operatives. The reason for this action is a) to remove vehicular access through the Brus Tunnel, b) to stop vehicles using the public footpath that runs nearby and past the seaward entrance to the tunnel c) to help reduce the incidence of illegal vehicular activity to</p>	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					and from as well as on North Beach. HBC has also consulted with emergency services regarding the proposed plans for NR and the Brus Tunnel; the response so far has been very positive. The Coast Guards, NE Ambulance and Hartlepool Police are all behind the change for restrictions to vehicular access through Brus tunnel and a change of access to the north beach area for emergency services.	

Year 2008/09

Investigation Coastal Defence and Shoreline Management in Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/8a That the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities lobby the Government to increase the funding available for coastal protection works.	SCR-NS/8a Grant aid is currently managed by the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA. Lobbying can be undertaken at a regional level at Newcastle or at a national level at London as part of the National Review Group	Dennis Hancock	31-Dec-2010	31-Dec-2011	16-Feb-2012 Hartlepool successful in being awarded £3.4m worth of funding for 2012/13 and £2.0m for 2013/14 for coastal defence projects. Lobbying will continue as part of that process.	<div><div></div></div> 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	meeting (NRG). Lobbying will have to be undertaken at the correct point in time for each individual project.				04-Mar-2011 Hartlepool successful in being awarded a capital grant allocation of approx £6m (over 2011/12 - 2013/14) for upgrading the coastal defence in Seaton Carew and reviewing the long term coastal strategy for the Headland area. Lobbying was carried out in presentation of the Seaton Strategy to the Environment Agency's National Review Group in September 2010 and will be carried out for any further projects to be promoted. This is an ongoing process	
					23-Feb-2010 The Seaton Carew Strategy Study is to be presented to the Environment Agency's National Review Group in April 2010.	
SCR-NS/8c That the Council continues to promote climate change and involves local residents in raising awareness of the effects it has on	SCR-NS/8c All coast protection studies follow a methodology as set out by DEFRA on behalf of the Government. A key thread that runs through all such studies is the need to strongly include climate change	Dennis Hancock	31-Dec-2010	31-Dec-2011	16-Feb-2012 The promotion of the effects of climate change and sea level rise are continuing through the individual coastal studies and schemes.	 100% Completed
					04-Mar-2011 Climate	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
Hartlepool's coastline.	<p>and in particular sea level rise as key drivers for coast protection works.</p> <p>All such studies have an allowance for consultation with many statutory bodies including the public and there are public exhibitions where the awareness of all issues is raised.</p>				<p>change is a Fundamental factor to be considered in all coastal studies and will remain a key issue for consideration when studies are progressed.</p> <p>23-Feb-2010 Continuing to promote the impact of climate change and its effect on Hartlepool's coastline.</p>	
SCR-NS/8d That the Council establishes the potential risks and implications associated with the loss of the Heugh Breakwater infrastructure and communicates this to members of the public to alleviate concerns.	<p>SCR-NS/8d</p> <p>The Heugh Breakwater has been examined in some detail as part of both the Headland Strategy Study and the Shoreline Management Plan II.</p> <p>The potential risks and implications are well understood.</p> <p>During the forthcoming public exhibition in respect of the Town Wall study, the issue of the breakwater in relation to the Town Wall will be a important part of the consultant's presentation.</p>	Dennis Hancock	30-Jun-2009	01-Dec-2011	<p>16-Feb-2012 This information has been presented as part of the public consultations for the Headland Coastal Strategy in 2011.</p> <p>04-Mar-2011 Heugh Breakwater to be reviewed in detail by the Headland Coastal Strategy Review which commenced in January 2011. Public consultation will be carried out over the course of producing the Strategy review.</p> <p>23-Feb-2010 The Headland Strategy Study is due for review in 2011 when further consideration will be given.</p>	<p>100% Completed</p>
SCR-NS/8e That	SCR-NS/8e The Shoreline	Dennis Hancock	31-Mar-2010	31-Dec-2011	16-Feb-2012	<p>100% Completed</p>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
the Council continues to evaluate the risks of developing on sites which could potentially be at risk of coastal erosion in order to ensure the sustainability of future building developments.	Management Plan II that covered the entire Hartlepool coastline determined erosion contours for the next hundred years. These identify parts of the coastline where coastal erosion is likely to occur. The Strategy Studies which are the next level down in the hierarchical system used by the Environment Agency look at such vulnerable areas in more detail and identify potential solutions. These studies will assist the planning process in ensuring that potential developments will be sustainable.				Headland Strategy review nearing completion. Therefore erosion risks now well understood for the whole of the Borough and this will be fed into development plans.	
					04-Mar-2011 Seaton Coastal Strategy study complete. Review of Headland Strategy commenced in January 2011. These will inform the risks of developing on sites which could potentially suffer from coastal erosion	
					23-Feb-2010 Seaton Strategy Study currently ongoing, review of the Headland Strategy Study planned for 2011.	
SCR-NS/8f That the Council continues to consult extensively with local residents on current / future coastal studies and where appropriate holds such consultation events in the locations covered by the relevant	SCR-NS/8f The Seaton Carew public exhibition was held at the Staincliffe Hotel and was well attended by members of the public. The forthcoming public exhibition associated with the Town Wall project will be held at the Borough Hall. All future public	Dennis Hancock	30-Jun-2009	01-Dec-2011	16-Feb-2012 Public consultation is a key element of all coastal works and studies.	<div><div>100%</div></div> Completed
					04-Mar-2011 Consultation is an ongoing process and was carried out extensively for the Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy. Consultation will be a key requirement of	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
study.	exhibitions will be located as near as possible to the areas covered by the studies.				<p>the Headland Strategy review which commenced in January 2011 and events will be arranged and held locally.</p> <p>23-Feb-2010 The second public consultation meeting for the Strategy Study was held in the Staincliffe Hotel. The Town Wall meeting was held at the Borough Hall. A further public meeting for the Town Wall Study will be held in the Borough Hall early 2010.</p>	

Year 2008/09

Investigation Condition of Highways in Hartlepool

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/7a That the Council develops a strategy to achieve a planned approach to highways maintenance as opposed to a reactive approach.	SCR-NS/7a Strategy to be developed to give Council options to provide a minimum service level; a fair service level; a good service level; or an excellent service level. Council to select appropriate strategy dependant on affordability.	Mike Blair	01-Jun-2010	01-Dec-2011	<p>24-Jan-2012 Report submitted to scrutiny on 18th February 2012</p> <p>26-Sep-2011 Strategy still being developed in conjunction with other Tees Valley Partners. Requirement for a joint strategy has</p>	<div>100% Completed</div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>delayed the process beyond expected due date</p> <p>07-Mar-2011 Strategy still being developed in conjunction with other Tees Valley Partners. Requirement for a joint strategy has delayed the process beyond expected due date.</p> <p>20-Jan-2011 Strategy still being developed in conjunction with other Tees Valley Partners. Requirement for a joint strategy has delayed the process beyond expected due date.</p> <p>01-Sep-2010 Strategy still being developed in conjunction with other Tees Valley Partners. Requirement for a joint strategy has delayed the process beyond expected due date.</p> <p>14-Apr-2010 An interim strategy was reported to and approved by the Portfolio Holder in</p>	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>August 2009. Longer term strategy will be developed based on the contents of this report</p> <p>23-Feb-2010 An interim strategy will be presented to portfolio holder in August 2009 whilst the long term strategy incorporating the different levels of service is being developed for 2010.</p>	


Year 2009/10
Investigation Car Parking on Estates

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/9a That the Council explores the viability of extending the operational hours of resident parking schemes to include evenings and weekends;	<p>SCR-NS/9a</p> <p>Consider views of Permit user group members. Additional coverage would incur further staffing costs which would need to be recovered through increased permit charges. Last time this was considered residents were unwilling to pay for further coverage. Enforcement hours are currently Mon – Sat 8am-6pm</p>	Philip Hepburn	01-Mar-2011	01-Mar-2011	<p>17-Feb-2012 This was considered at the permit users group meeting on the 25th November 2011. Members were asked if they favoured the idea of extending the hours and whether they would be willing to pay an increased charge for the permit to cover this service. There was no support for this and all members favoured a retention of the current arrangements</p>	<p>100% Completed</p>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					with none being willing to pay an additional charge for the permit. This item is therefore considered finished.	
					18-Aug-2010 Permit user group meeting to be scheduled November 2010-	
SCR-NS/9f That the Council develops a process to monitor and review the impact of the Minor Works funding allocation available to each individual Neighbourhood Consultative Forum on a ward basis	SCR-NS/9f The Neighbourhood Coordinators in each of the three forum area will take photographs before and after the parking scheme is delivered to demonstrate the impact within the community. During the financial year each forum area is monitored by the Neighbourhood Manager with regard to the spend in each ward and a table is produced at year end to indicate the scheme type and costs per ward.	Jon Wright	01-Mar-2011	01-Dec-2011	<p>24-Jan-2012 All Consultative Forum agreed parking schemes in the North, Centre and South have had photographs taken before and after, there are still some schemes to be undertaken however the same will apply</p> <p>02-Mar-2011 Most schemes are now complete, however some new parking schemes were only agreed at the last round of Consultative Forums held week commencing 14th February.</p> <p>03-Aug-2010 Forum schemes are late this year due to elections however this will take place</p>	<div>100% Completed</div>

Year 2009/10

Investigation Possible Environmental Impacts of Dust Deposits on the Headland and Surrounding Areas

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/10f That the Council explores with the relevant companies the option of moving the scrap metal and all the cargoes; and provides an update to Cabinet on the discussions which have been undertaken within three months;	SCR-NS/10f	Dave Stubbs	31-Aug-2010	31-Aug-2011	24-Jan-2012 Several meetings have taken place with the companies concerned and no agreement has been reached with any of the companies moving out of Hartlepool.	 100% Completed
					11-Mar-2011 Discussions ongoing but no movement at present	
					03-Aug-2010 Meetings are taking place.	

Year 2010/11

Investigation 20's Plenty - Traffic Calming Measures

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/12a That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool	SCR-NS/12a		31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		 0% Cancelled Cabinet rejected the recommendation
SCR-NS/12a/i That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate	SCR-NS/12a/i	Peter Frost	31-Jul-2011	31-Jul-2011	01-Nov-2011 Consultation was undertaken in June/ July 2011, comprising: -	 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action		Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress		
residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (i) undertakes a full public consultation (before the scheme is rolled out)						Elected members consulted by letter; Officers attended each of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums; A town-wide public meeting was held, on 15th July; An article was placed in the Council's Hartbeat Magazine; Press releases in the Hartlepool Mail on 3 occasions; A radio interview and advertising campaign was carried out; and the views of the emergency services, bus operators, taxi drivers, driving instructors and other road users were sought through the Traffic Liaison Group.			
SCR-NS/12a/ii That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - discusses and shares information with regional local authorities	SCR-NS/12a/ii	That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (ii) discusses and shares information with regional local authorities to develop the best way possible for Hartlepool to roll out 20mph speed limits		31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		CW	Cancelled	Cabinet rejected the recommendation
SCR-NS/12a/iii That the Council	SCR-NS/12a/iii	That the Council implements 20mph		31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		CW	Cancelled	Cabinet rejected the

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (iii) does not install any new physical traffic calming measures in residential areas		speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (iii) does not install any new physical traffic calming measures in residential areas, unless, following speed surveys or accidents it is thought necessary in order to slow traffic down further;				recommendation
SCR-NS/12a/iv That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (iv) when it becomes necessary to replace speed humps, the most appropriate cost effective solution be used.	SCR-NS/12a/iv	That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (iv) when it becomes necessary to replace speed humps, the most appropriate cost effective solution be used.	31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		Cancelled Cabinet rejected the recommendation
SCR-NS/12a/vi That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - develops a set of criteria to assess how the scheme	SCR-NS/12a/vi	That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - develops a set of criteria (including accident statistics, schools in the area, local street patterns and existing traffic calming	31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		Cancelled Cabinet rejected the implementation of 20 mph speed limits on a town-wide basis

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
will be rolled out	provision) to assess how the scheme will be rolled out					
SCR-NS/12a/vii That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - publicises the roll out of 20mph limits to encourage a change in driver behaviour and attitude	SCR-NS/12a/vii To be carried out following consultation exercise. Local radio discussion has also been organised	Peter Frost	30-Sep-2011	30-Sep-2011	01-Nov-2011 This took place in July, with the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, and Traffic Team Leader. The consultation process was publicised using the methods outlined in the left hand column, but it is not necessary to continue regarding the implementation, as this will not now go ahead on a town-wide basis.	<div><div></div><div>100%</div><div>Completed</div></div>
SCR-NS/12a/viii That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - Reviews the planning requirements relating to the installation of physical traffic calming measures	SCR-NS/12a/viii That the Council implements 20mph speed limits on all appropriate residential streets in Hartlepool, and in doing so: - (viii) Reviews the planning requirements relating to the installation of physical traffic calming measures on new housing developments with a view to implementing 20mph speed limits as opposed to physical traffic calming and works with developers to implement 20mph limits		31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		<div><div></div><div>0%</div><div>Cancelled</div></div> Cabinet rejected the recommendation

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
	on new housing estates where the roads have not yet been adopted by the Council.					
SCR-NS/12b That the costs for the 20mph scheme be funded through the Local Transport Plan and appropriate funding streams and be phased over a number of years with the aim of full implementation by March 2014	SCR-NS/12b That the costs for the 20mph scheme be funded through the Local Transport Plan and appropriate funding streams and be phased over a number of years with the aim of full implementation by March 2014		31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		0% Cancelled Cabinet rejected the recommendation
SCR-NS/12c That the Council explore all possible options to try and secure further funding for the delivery of the 20mph scheme	SCR-NS/12c That the Council explore all possible options to try and secure further funding for the delivery of the 20mph scheme, such as the Sustainable Transport Fund; the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums; the Neighbourhood Action Plans and partnership working with other organisations		31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020		0% Cancelled Cabinet rejected the recommendation
SCR-NS/12d That the Council work with local schools to stop inconsiderate parking and raise awareness of road safety in conjunction with the Council's	SCR-NS/12d/2 A further initiative is to be rolled out in April 2011, in the form of a mobile camera enforcement car, which will utilise number plate recognition technology.	Philip Hepburn	30-Apr-2011	30-Apr-2011	01-Nov-2011 The camera enforcement vehicle is now in operation, and is achieving good levels of compliance outside of schools.	100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
Parking Strategy, given the strength of public opinion in this area						
SCR-NS/12f That where requests for 20 mph speed limits are received a local public consultation be carried out prior to implementation, and detailed proposals brought back to Portfolio if there is wider public support.	SCR-NS/12f	Peter Frost	31-Mar-2015	31-Mar-2015	12-Jan-2012 Requests are dealt with as and when received. Currently only one location has requested 20mph (Clifton Avenue area) and consultation has been carried out. Discussions to take place with Portfolio Holder and ward councillors to agree a way forward.	100% Completed

Year 2010/11
Investigation Foreshore Management

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
SCR-NS/14b That the Council works with local businesses / industry and developers to explore and encourage investment opportunities to assist in the future development and restoration of foreshore activities.	SCR-NS/14b Identify preferred developer to support the progression of the Seaton Carew master plan and development of key sites.	Derek Gouldburn	31-May-2011	31-May-2011	12-Jan-2012 Cabinet on 19th December approved the appointment of a preferred developer to work with the Council on the regeneration of Seaton Carew. The draft scheme is currently being refined and will be subject to public consultation in the spring. Legal	100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>agreements are being prepared in order to establish the terms of 'partnership' between the Council and the developer. The establishment of the partnership and the refinement of the master plan will strengthen the case to pursue acquisition and clearance of the building either by agreement or CPO if required</p> <p>05-Oct-2011 Meetings have been held with shortlisted developers and feedback given with a view to strengthening the respective proposals. Final submissions will be received in October and recommendations will be made to Cabinet in November with a view to appointing a preferred developer.</p> <p>12-Aug-2011 Sites have now been marketed, interested developers shortlisted and first round interviews held. Final submissions have been requested from shortlisted companies</p>	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress	
					and a preferred developer will be identified in September.		
					06-Jul-2011 A marketing and development brief has been prepared and initial expressions of interest sought. Cabinet has endorsed the overall approach towards procurement which will involve requesting further information from two developers to inform the selection of a preferred developer who would work in partnership with HBC to deliver the masterplan. Interviews with the two developers will take place in July with the preferred developer selected in September/October		
SCR-NS/14c That the Headland and Seaton Carew paddling pools be kept open and work undertaken to identify the most cost effective means of dealing with ongoing	SCR-NS/14c	Quality and Safety Officer will explore effective and efficient means to keep the paddling pools open within existing resources. Subject to any proposals and/or requirements in respect of the budget process	Debbie Kershaw	31-Aug-2011	31-Aug-2011	07-Oct-2011 The paddling pool season is now over, both pools were open for the full season except for essential cleaning and for some minor repairs to the Block Sands pool floor where turn around for	<div><div></div></div> 100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
maintenance issues.	for 12/13.				repairs was no longer than 2 days 12-Jul-2011 Continuing to keep the paddling pools open for the season with existing resources.	
SCR-NS/14h That the Council provides guidance and support to local business and groups to access funding to improve the appearance of the foreshore.	SCR-NS/14h/1 Whilst funding opportunities are currently limited, as funding streams come on line, advice and support will be given to local businesses.	Andrew Golightly; Antony Steinberg	31-May-2011	31-May-2011	05-Jan-2012 Hartlepool has supported 5 successful RGF applications from local businesses that, subject to due diligence, will create the following investment and jobs and assuming the delivery of a major offshore wind manufacturing facility; Total direct Jobs; 1,920 Total indirect jobs; 2,236 Construction jobs ; 500 Safeguarded jobs; 462 Total investment ; £ 225m [initial] 09-Aug-2011 In Seaton Carew, the membership of the Seaton Carew Renewal and Advisory Group, made up of residents, businesses, resident reps, local	<div><div></div><div>100% Completed</div></div>

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					<p>members etc is being expanded. This group offers an opportunity to feed into and help shape funding bids and find out about other potential opportunities when they become available.</p> <p>15-Jul-2011 With regard to Seaton Carew, draft proposals have been received from 2 developers regarding land at Seaton, which if implemented could encourage investment and development at The Front. Improvement works would not be expected until 2012.</p> <p>08-Jul-2011 Support has been given to local businesses to submit RGF bids in round 2. In addition support has been given to the submission of programme bids which if approved will offer a route for financial assistance for local businesses. Businesses are supported by specialist advice and support to promote</p>	

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					the visitor offer.	
SCR-NS/14i That concerns regarding the lack of formal response(s) to residents reports of vehicular access to the beach via the Brus Tunnel, and nuisance on / damage to the beach and dunes, be relayed to Cleveland Police.	SCR-NS/14i Neighbourhood Managers and Community Safety Team will feed concerns to Hartlepool Neighbourhood Police	Karen Oliver	31-May-2011	31-May-2011	<p>13-Oct-2011 Fire brigade have confirmed that they cannot agree to restricted access to pedestrian only. This project cannot be pursued further, until Steetley site is developed and road infrastructure is improved to allow alternative access for the emergency services.</p> <p>15-Sep-2011 Fire Brigade have concerns with the proposals. Meeting arranged to discuss this in more detail with fire brigade and ourselves. All other partners, including Rail Track have endorsed the proposals.</p> <p>04-Aug-2011 Funding to redesign access to the Brus Tunnel is complete. All emergency services have been consulted. A further meeting with the fire brigade is required to clarify a few minor details. Awaiting the authorities legal section to confirm</p>	100% Completed

Recommendation	Action	Assigned To	Original Due Date	Due Date	Note	Progress
					changes for vehicle access in relation to Rail Track.	
SCR-NS/14j/ii That a permanent solution is explored to close the Brus Tunnel to vehicles, utilising funds obtained in relation to the vandalised camera on the site, giving consideration to: - (ii) Views of local residents	SCR-NS/14j/ii Special meeting of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum to be arranged.	Karen Oliver	31-May-2011	31-May-2011	<p>15-Sep-2011 Special meeting of the forum took place - Brus Tunnel proposal will go back to Consultative Forum in October after all emergency services have agreed changes in access - Fire Brigade have some current concerns.</p> <p>04-Aug-2011 Funding to redesign access to the Brus Tunnel is complete. All emergency services have been consulted. A further meeting with the fire brigade is required to clarify a few minor details. Awaiting the authorities legal section to confirm changes for vehicle access in relation to Rail Track</p>	<div>100% Completed</div>