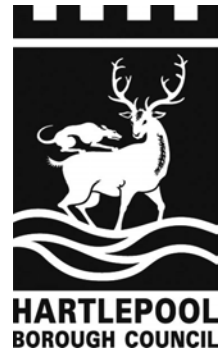


# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



11 December 2012

at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Fleet, Griffin, A Lilley, Loynes, Simmons and Wilcox.

Co-opted Members: Sacha Paul Bedding and Michael Lee

Young People's Representatives: Ashleigh Bostock, Leonie Chappell, Helen Lamb and Sean Wray

ALSO INVITED FOR ITEMS 7.1 AND 7.2

MEMBERS: ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

Councillors Beck, A Lilley, Loynes, Richardson, Shields, Sirs and Wilcox.

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 13 November 2012

4. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, 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**

**North East Autism Society**

7.1 North East Autism Society :-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Presentation – *Representatives from the North East Autism Society*

**Scrutiny Investigation into Mental and Emotional Wellbeing**

7.2 Hartlepool Draft Mental Health JSNA Entry:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Presentation – *Representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust*

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

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

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

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- i) **Date of Next Meeting 15 January, commencing at 4.30pm in the Council Chamber**



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

## MINUTES

13 November 2012

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Christopher Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Allison Lilley, Chris Simmons and Angie Wilcox

Co-opted Member: Michael Lee

Young People's Representatives: Ashleigh Bostock and Helen Lamb

Also Present: Councillor Geoff Lilley

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services  
Dean Jackson, Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement  
Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development  
Ian Merritt, Strategic Commissioner  
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director, Resources  
Juliette Ward, Participation Worker  
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **36. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Brenda Loynes.

### **37. Declarations of interest by Members**

None

**38. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2012**

Confirmed

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

None

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

None

**41. Future Use of Brierton Site – Update** (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

The Assistant Director, Resources presented the report which provided an update on the options being considered for the future use of the Brierton site. In relation to the current position, demolition of the upper school building had commenced on 15 October and this work was due to be completed by 11 January 2013. Further demolition on the lower site was being examined in relation to the options for future occupation of this part of the site and the needs of the Playing Pitch Strategy. A report on the strategy was scheduled for consideration by Cabinet in December. An agreement with Catcote Futures had been reached for them to lease some of the buildings on the lower site, details of which were set out in the report.

The report included details of the potential future use of the site together with key milestones and approximate timescales.

During the discussion that followed in relation to the proposals, the Assistant Director responded to issues raised by Members in relation to the potential use of the site. With regard to demolition costs, a query was raised as to whether capital arising from the potential sale of land at Golden Flatts would more than cover such costs to which the Assistant Director indicated that whilst demolition and development costs could be covered from the sale of land at Golden Flatts and an area on Brierton there was a risk that expenditure would need to be provided in advance of receipt of capital receipts.

In relation to future proposals to build a new school at Manor, clarification was sought in relation to future decant arrangements given that Brierton had previously been utilised for decant purposes. In response, the Forum was advised that the Priority Schools Building Programme did not include any construction works at this site until 2016/17. Reference was made to discussions with Manor school who had indicated that they would not be

looking to utilise Brierton for decant purposes.

The Forum welcomed the report noting the benefits of the proposals. The Chair highlighted the need to consider the needs of the hospital school currently situated at Golden Flatts and the relocation of the Pupil Referral Unit as part of the master plan to increase flexibility and options for the site.

The Chair requested that more than one option for the configuration of the Brierton site was delivered for Members' consideration.

### **Recommended**

That the contents of the report and comments of Members be noted.

## **42. Consideration of Progress Reports/Budget and Policy Framework Documents – Children's Services: Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2013/14 to 2013/14 – Initial Consultation Proposals** *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer introduced the report which included the Council's initial budget consultation proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2013/14 to 2016/17. The Forum's views were requested in relation to the initial proposals for those service areas within the Child and Adult Services Department following the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 19 October 2012 when it was agreed that the initial consultation proposals would be considered on a departmental basis by the appropriate Scrutiny Forum. The comments of the Forum would be presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 December and included in the formal Overview and Scrutiny response to be presented to Cabinet on 17 December 2012.

The Assistant Director of Safeguarding, Prevention and Specialist Services, Assistant Director of Performance and Achievement and Head of Planning and Development provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which focused on the budget issues faced by the department including budget proposals to achieve a departmental savings target of £2.375M. Details of savings proposals were outlined, as detailed in an appendix to the report. Members were advised that a number of savings proposals had been further considered and discounted since the submission of the proposals outlined in an appendix to the report which included the option to freeze foster care allowances, implement staffing reductions in the social work and prevention teams and reduce spend on placement costs for looked after children, the reasons of which were outlined.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the proposals, the Forum expressed a number of views/comments/queries which included:-

- (i) The Forum congratulated the team in identifying the proposed savings and whilst Members were pleased to note the proposals

had resulted in minimal impact to front line services, concerns were expressed regarding the potential sustainability of services given the reliance on PCT funding and future uncertainties as to whether that funding would continue. The need for schools to demonstrate the impact of the pupil premium was also emphasised. In terms of funding from the PCT, the Forum was advised that measures were in place to explore how funding arrangements could continue in 2013/14.

- (ii) The benefits of income generation were discussed during which Members were pleased to note that Hartlepool had recently been approached to deliver the school admission appeals service on behalf of Middlesbrough Council resulting in an income of £15,000 per annum.
- (iii) Further discussion ensued in relation to income generation and whilst Members supported income generation activities and acknowledged the benefits of officers undertaking Ofsted inspections as a means of generating additional income, they were of the view that officers should not be diverted from their primary role of school improvement priorities. The Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement provided assurances that there would be no detrimental impact on school improvement priorities as a result.
- (iv) The Forum raised concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed increase in charges to schools for the school improvement service including the risk that any increase in charges may result in a less competitive service and requested that officers be mindful of this when determining the level of increase in charges.
- (v) A query was raised regarding the allocation of the budget to cover certain Space to Learn costs, to both the Schools Improvement and Advice Budget and the City Learning Budget. Members requested that this issue be referred to the Section 151 Officer for investigation and that the outcome be fed back to the Forum at a later date.
- (vi) Following further debate on the savings proposals and the difficult budget decisions facing the Council, Members expressed their support for the savings proposals and whilst the minimal level of impact on frontline services and staff were welcomed concerns were reiterated that the proposals removed any flexibility of service provision in a number of areas in future years particularly where services were dependant upon external/partner funding which could not be guaranteed.

The Chair thanked officers for their input and recommendations in relation to the savings proposals.

As part of the young people representatives investigation in relation to the

impact of the proposed closure of youth centres and children's centres, the young people representatives, who were in attendance at the meeting, provided Members with a verbal update on progress made to date which included:-

- In terms of sources of evidence, meetings had been held with the Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services, the Manager of the Integrated Youth Service and the Council's Head of Localities and Family Support to discuss existing service provision in statutory youth clubs and children's centres. Discussions had included the various opportunities and support mechanisms available for parents and children.
- The next steps were to consult with other local authorities and parents.
- To assist in formulating recommendations, a user survey and viewpoint survey had been developed and would be circulated across the town to gather views from people of all age groups.

The Chair thanked the representatives for the update and contribution to the investigation.

In terms of sources of evidence, it was suggested that evidence be sought from third sector organisations as well as other organisations for example scouts, brownies and cubs etc.

### **Recommended**

- (i) That the savings proposals relating to the Children's Services areas of service provision be supported as part of the Budget and Policy Framework initial consultation proposals for 2013/14.
- (ii) That the comments/views of the Forum in relation to proposed budget proposals, as detailed above be reported to the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to enable a formal response to Cabinet on 17 December 2012.
- (iii) That further information in response to the queries raised by the Forum in relation to the space to learn budget be provided by the Section 151 Officer in due course.

## **43. Issues Identified from the Forward Plan**

None.

#### **44. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Chair reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 11 December 2012 at 4.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 pm.

CHAIR



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

11 December 2012



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** NORTH EAST AUTISM SOCIETY

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that representatives from the North East Autism Society have been invited to attend this meeting to contribute to the investigation into 'Emotional and Mental Wellbeing'.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 31 July 2012, Members agreed the Scope and Terms of Reference for their investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Emotional and Mental Wellbeing'.
- 2.2 Subsequently, representatives from the North East Autism Society have agreed to attend this meeting to provide Members with details of the holistic services they provide to support children, young people and adults on the autism spectrum. Members will also be provided with details of the vision behind the new North East Centre for Autism.
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session, Members should be mindful of the Marmot principle to 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life'

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence from the representatives of the North East Autism Society 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  
e-mail: [elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## **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 Mental and Behavioural Disorders – Scoping Report' Presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 31 July 2012.
- (ii) Minutes of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum held on 31 July 2012.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

11 December 2012



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING' – HARTLEPOOL DRAFT MENTAL HEALTH JSNA ENTRY - COVERING REPORT

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members that representatives from the Child and Adult Services Department and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust have been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the investigation into 'Emotional and Mental Wellbeing'.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 31 July 2012, Members agreed the Scope and Terms of Reference for their investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Emotional and Mental Wellbeing'.

2.2 Subsequently, representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council Child and Adult Services Department and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust have agreed to attend this meeting to provide Members with details of the draft Hartlepool JSNA entry for the 'Mental Health' topic. Members are advised that the topic is divided into the following sections:-

- (i) What are the key issues?
- (ii) Who is at risk and why?
- (iii) What is the level of need?
- (iv) What services are currently provided?
- (v) What is the projected level of need / service use?
- (vi) What evidence is there for effective intervention?
- (vii) What do people say?
- (viii) What needs might be unmet?
- (ix) What additional needs assessment is required?
- (x) What are the recommendations for commissioning?

- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session, Members should be mindful of the Marmot principles 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life' and 'Enabling All Children, Young People and Adults to Maximise Their Capabilities and have Control over Their Lives'

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members consider the evidence of the representatives from Hartlepool Borough Council Child and Adult Services Department and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust 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  
e-mail: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

### 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 Mental and Behavioural Disorders – Scoping Report' Presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 31 July 2012.
- (ii) Minutes of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum held on 31 July 2012.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

11 December 2012



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

---

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 One of the main duties of Scrutiny is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Executive's Forward Plan) and to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process in advance of the decision being made.
- 2.2 This would not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 As you are aware, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny, as it thinks fit, and if appropriate can exercise or delegate to individual Scrutiny Forums. Consequently, Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee monitors the Executive's Forward Plan and delegates decisions to individual Forums where it feels appropriate.
- 2.4 In addition to this, the key decisions contained within the Executive's Forward Plan (December 2012 – March 2013) relating to the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum are shown below for Members consideration:-

## B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

### DECISION REFERENCE: CAS106/11 – PRIORITY SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME

The Council has an opportunity to make an application for funding from the Government's recently announced Priority Schools Building Programme initiative. Whilst an expression of interest has been registered the Council will need to decide, in conjunction with key stakeholders and particularly school governing bodies, whether to progress an application if invited to.

### Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

**Ward(s) affected**

Potential for several depending upon the schools involved should any submission be progressed.

**Timing of the decision**

The decision is expected to be made in December 2012.

**Who will be consulted and how?**

Schools Governing Bodies and Dioceses (as appropriate).  
Elected Members

**Information to be considered by the decision makers**

On 19 July 2011, Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Education) set out how the Government proposes to ensure that education funding is better targeted in the future. One key announcement was that a new school rebuilding programme will be launched, targeted at those schools in the worst condition.

This will be a privately financed programme intended to address those schools in the worst condition. It is anticipated that the programme will cover the equivalent of building or rebuilding approximately 100 secondary schools. Whilst the full scale of the programme is still to be finalised, it is likely to include a mix of primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges and alternative provision, and therefore could cover between 100-300 schools in total. It is expected that 20% of the total programme will be delivered each year, with the first schools scheduled to open in the academic year of 2014-15. Those schools included in the initial group for procurement are expected to commence procurement during the second quarter of 2012.

In order to be considered for the programme an expression of interest has been registered with Partnerships for Schools in line with the required procedure.

An application for Manor College of Technology, Barnard `Grove Primary, West View Primary and Holy Trinity Church of England Primary, Seaton in conjunction with the Diocese to be considered as part of the programme, was submitted by 14 October 2011 in line with the procedures and deadlines. Cabinet noted progress at its meeting with 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Cabinet will be informed about the implications of the Programme as they are announced in more detail and also how the Education Funding Agency will deal with the three school applications accepted into the Programme.

**How to make representation**

Representations should be made to Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Child and Adult Services, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 284103. E-Mail: [peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk) and Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211. E-Mail: [Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Further information**

Further information can be obtained from Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Child and Adult Services, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 284103. E-Mail: [peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk) and Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211. E-Mail: [Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**DECISION REFERENCE: CAS129/12 COLLABORATION IN CHILD AND ADULT SERVICES**

The Council is currently investigating options for collaboration in the provision and commissioning of services of Child and Adult Services. The potential for collaboration has been considered by Cabinet as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and agreement has been given for the development of business cases and options in respect of this area of service (and in respect of Corporate Services). The development of options and business cases in respect of Child and Adult Services was identified as being the first area for consideration.

**Who will make the decision?**

The decision will be made by Cabinet and Council

**Ward(s) affected**

The options and business cases are currently being developed and it is not possible at this stage to identify any effect, although the premise for the development of the options is to minimise the effect on front line services whilst maximising opportunities to enhance capacity and deliver savings.

**Timing of the decision**

The decision to proceed with a collaborative working option is expected to be made by Cabinet and Council by February 2013, with an initial report to Cabinet in October / November.

**Who will be consulted and how?**

The Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be consulted as options are developed. In respect of Scrutiny, this has been built into the work programme for the forthcoming year to enable sufficient consideration to be given.

**Information to be considered by the decision makers**

At this stage it is anticipated that the decision makers will consider the options available in respect of collaboration, the benefits, potential risks and mitigation of those risks and the savings which are attributable to this. The development of the business cases, which is currently ongoing, will enable this element to be expanded as the options become clearer.

**How to make representation**

Representations should be made to: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director (Adult Social Care), Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523911. E-mail [jill.harrison@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:jill.harrison@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Sally Robinson, Assistant Director (Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services), Child and Adult Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523732. E-mail [sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523001. E-mail [dave.stubbs@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:dave.stubbs@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Further information**

Further information can be obtained from Jill Harrison, Sally Robinson or Dave Stubbs as above.

**DECISION REFERENCE: CAS131/12 – SCHOOLS' CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2012/13 (PHASE 3)****Nature of the decision**

To approve the Schools Capital Works Programme for 2012/13.

**Who will make the decision?**

Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder.

**Timing of the decision**

The decision will be made in December 2012.

**Ward(s) affected**

All

**Who will be consulted and how?**

The Schools' Capital Sub-Group will be consulted before Portfolio meets to make a decision.

**Information to be considered by the decision-makers**

Children's Services Portfolio Holder will be informed of the proposed 2012/13 Schools' Capital Programme which will include priority condition items, and recommendations for fire safety, special educational needs and development schemes.

**How to make representations**

Representations should be made to Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development, Children's Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523733, e-mail [peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mcintosh@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Further information**

Further information on this matter can be sought from Peter McIntosh as above.

**DECISION REFERENCE: CAS133/12 – HARTLEPOOL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**Key Decision – Test ii applies**

**Nature of the decision**

To approve the Hartlepool Playing Pitch Strategy 2012.

**Who will make the decision?**

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Children & Community Services

**Ward(s) affected**

All wards. Potential for all wards as playing pitches are present in all wards in town. Any proposed status changes will certainly create significant issues for the sites affected.

**Timing of the decision**

The decision will be made in November 2012

**Who will be consulted and how?**

All previous consultees and owners/managers of playing pitches scheduled within the Strategy will be consulted. All Councillors will be consulted.

**Information to be considered by the decision makers**

The provision of a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is a key strategy to assist in the development of the correct capacity and quality set against demand and to ensure that the town's playing pitches are given protection in the planning process in respect of development proposals. The provision of an updated PPS is a requirement of Sport England to assist in investment opportunities for the owners of all playing pitches within the Borough.

**How to make representation**

Representations should be made to John Mennear, Asst Director, Community Services, Dept of Child & Adults, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523417, e-mail: [john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Further information**



Further information can be sought by contacting;- John Mennear, Asst Director, Community Services, Dept of Child & Adults, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523417, e-mail: john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk

### **DECISION REFERENCE: CAS136/12 UPDATED CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

#### **Key Test Decision ii applies**

#### **Nature of the decision**

The Child Poverty Act (March 2010) set out a number of local duties:

- Make arrangements to cooperate to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local areas;
- Prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment;
- Prepare a local child poverty strategy based on the needs assessment and in consultation with children, parents and organisations representing children and parents.

The previous Child Poverty Strategy was approved by Cabinet in May 2011. Changes in government policy, particularly relating to Welfare Reform, needs to be included in further planning and therefore it was felt that it was timely to review the strategy and action plan.

#### **Who will make the decision?**

Cabinet

#### **Timing of the decision**

February 2013

#### **Ward(s) affected**

All

#### **Who will be consulted and how?**

The Strategic Partners Group has been consulted and officers are consulting with the four theme partnerships. A scrutiny poverty investigation is being carried out which will include a review of child poverty.

There are a number of groups meeting to discuss elements of Welfare Reform. These groups will also be used to consult on the strategy and action plan.

#### **Information to be considered by the decision-makers**

The updated child poverty strategy and action plan will be considered by cabinet in February 2013 for approval.

#### **How to make representations**

Representations should be made to Danielle Swainston, Head of Access and Strategic Planning, Civic Centre, tel: 01429 523671, e-mail danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk

#### **Further information**

Further information can be sought from Danielle Swainston, Head of Access and Strategic Planning, tel 01429 523671, e-mail [danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)

### **DECISION REFERENCE: CAS139/12 PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH MODERATE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES**

#### **Key Test Decision (ii) applies**

#### **Nature of the decision**

To consider the publication of statutory notices to discontinue the additionally resourced facility at Grange Primary School for pupils with moderate learning difficulties in the age range 7 – 11 years.

**Who will make the decision?**

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services

**Ward(s) affected**

All

**Timing of the decision**

The decision is expected to be made in March 2013.

**Who will be consulted and how?**

All those substantially affected will be invited to comment via meetings and relevant documents, including consultation booklets and covering letters. The following will be consulted:

- Parents/carers, Governors and staff of Grange Primary School;
- Headteachers of all Hartlepool schools;
- Chairs of Governing Bodies of all Hartlepool schools;
- Directors of Children's Services in neighbouring local authorities;
- The Diocesan Directors;
- The Chief Executive of Hartlepool PCT, the Chief Executive of Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Health Trust, the Clinical Director Paediatrics and Child Health and the Director of Clinical Services.(Check this list is correct)

**Information to be considered by the decision-makers\***

A report will be presented showing the options available and the views of the stakeholders.

**How to make representations**

Representations should be made to Zoe Westley, Head of Social & Education Inclusion, Education Development Centre, Golden Flatts, Seaton Lane, TS25 1HN. Telephone 01429 287349, e-mail zoe.westley@hartlepool.gov.uk

**Further information**

Further information on this matter can be sought from Zoe Westley who can be contacted as above.

**DECISION REFERENCE: RN89 / 11 FORMER BRIERTON SCHOOL SITE****Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies****Nature of the decisions**

To consider a range of potential development and operational proposals for the site subsequent to Dyke House School vacating the site in December 2011. There will be a number of decisions to be made over the forthcoming months.

**Who will make the decision?**

The decisions will be made by Portfolio Holder, Cabinet and Council as appropriate to the subject matter of each decision.

**Ward(s) affected**

All Wards of the town are affected.

**Timing of the decision**

There will be a range of decisions required ranging from the future operation and management of the Sports Centre to subsequent decisions in connection with the overall site from October 2012.

**Who will be consulted and how?**

A number of stakeholders will need to be consulted depending on the particular aspect of the proposals and decisions required:-

Local residents  
Ward Members  
Sport England  
Council Working Group  
Cabinet  
Council

#### **Information to be considered by the decision makers**

Dyke House School departed the site on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and the management of the site has reverted back to the Council. Initially this was to take place in Spring 2012, however the refurbishment of the existing Dyke House School was completed early via the BSF Contract.

Initially the Council has considered the future management operation and funding of the Brierton Sports Centre which has been transferred back to the Council from Dyke House School. This is linked to the future use and development of the site for which options are being formulated for consultation and subsequent agreement.

Cabinet and Council, through the budget process, have given approval to the demolition of surplus buildings on the site which will be progressed from October 2012.

Options are being considered for the use and occupation of existing buildings and potential demolition of any that may become surplus.

The future determination of the whole site will be considered including those areas to be retained for sport and those where a master plan for future use / development will be required. The playing pitch strategy results are now being addressed and the options are being considered in two phases in the lower site (where Catcote Futures may be able to be accommodated and will take up temporary occupation under a licence) and upper site which is more dependent on the playing pitch strategy. The final decision on the future of the site will follow.

Discussions have taken place at Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and at the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum. In addition Ward Councillors were invited to input their vision / comments at a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

#### **How to make representation**

Representations should be made to Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523211. E Mail [graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk), or John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services), Child and Adults Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523417. E Mail: [john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:john.mennear@hartlepool.gov.uk).

#### **Further information**

Further information can be obtained from Graham Frankland or John Mennear, as above.

2.5 A summary of all key decisions is attached overleaf:-

## TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

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

### 1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN DECEMBER 2012

CE 44/11 (page 9)	Workforce Arrangements	Cabinet / Council
CE 53/12 (page 14)	Localisation of Council Tax Support – Consultation Proposals	Cabinet / Council
CE 54/12 (page 16)	Local Welfare Support / Social Fund Localisation	Cabinet / Council
CAS 131/12 (page 23)	Schools' Capital Works Programme 2012/13 (Phase 3)	Portfolio Holder
CAS 133/12 (page 24)	Hartlepool Playing Pitch Strategy	Cabinet
CAS 135/12 (page 25)	Reablement Strategy 2012-15	Cabinet
RN 13/09 (page 37)	Disposal of Surplus Assets	Cabinet / Portfolio Holder
RN 70/11 (page 39)	Innovation Fund	Cabinet
RN 89/11 (page 41)	Former Brierton School Site	Cabinet / Portfolio Holder / Council
RN 90/11 (page 43)	Mill House Site Development and Victoria Park	Cabinet / Council
RN 98/11 (page 45)	Acquisition of Assets	Cabinet / Portfolio Holder / Council
RN 5/12 (page 49)	Seaton Carew Development Sites – Results of Joint Working Arrangement with Preferred Developer	Cabinet
RN 10/12 (page 51)	Acquisition of the Longscar Building, Seaton Carew	Portfolio Holder
RN 18/12 (page 55)	Leasing of land to a Wind Turbine Developer for the erection of wind turbines on land at Brenda Road	Cabinet
RN 22/12 (page 59)	Choice Based Lettings Policy Review 2012	Cabinet
RN 25/12 (page 61)	Gambling Act – Statement of Licensing Principles	Council
RN 26/12 (page 62)	Review of Waste Management Services	Cabinet
RN 30/12 (page 66)	Community Pool 2013/14	Cabinet
RN 31/12 (page 68)	City Deal	Cabinet / Council
RN 32/12 (page 70)	Empty Property Purchasing Scheme – Local Authority Flexible Tenancies	Cabinet
RN 36/12 (page 78)	Landlord Accreditation	Cabinet
RN 38/12 (page 81)	Community Energy Collective Switching	Cabinet

### 2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN JANUARY 2013

RN 74/11 (page 40)	Former Leathers Chemical Site	Cabinet
RN 99/11 (page 47)	Community Infrastructure Levy	Cabinet
RN 11/12 (page 53)	Public Lighting Strategy	Portfolio Holder
RN 20/12 (page 57)	Selective Licensing	Cabinet
RN 27/12 (page 64)	Coastal Communities Fund Round 2 Application	Portfolio Holder
RN 33/12 (page 72)	High Street Innovation Fund	Portfolio Holder
RN 34/12 (page 74)	Adoption of the Review of the Long Term Coastal Management Strategy covering the frontage from Crimdon to Newburn Bridge	Cabinet / Council
RN 35/12 (page 76)	European Commission 'Youth Guarantee Scheme'	Cabinet

### 3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN FEBRUARY 2013

CE 46/11 (page 11)	Review of Community Involvement & Engagement (including LSP Review) : Update on decisions taken 'in principle'	Cabinet / Council
CAS 129/12 (page 21)	Collaboration in Child and Adult Services	Cabinet / Council
CAS 136/12 (page 26)	Updated Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan	Cabinet
CAS 137/12 (page 28)	Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Cabinet / Council
RN 37/12 (page 80)	Early Morning Alcohol Restriction Order	Council
RN 39/12 (page 83)	Town Wall Coastal Works: Construction of set-back flood	Cabinet

RN 40/12 (page 85)      defence wall and associated works  
Review of Concessionary Fare Payments to Bus Operators for      Cabinet  
2013-2014

#### 4.      **DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MARCH 2013**

CAS 106/11 (page 19)      Priority Schools Building Programme      Cabinet  
CAS 138/12 (page 29)      Establishment of Health and Wellbeing Board      Cabinet  
CAS 139/12 (page 30)      Provision for Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties      Portfolio Holder

2.6      Copies of the Executive's Forward Plan will be available at the meeting and are also available on request from the Scrutiny Team prior to the meeting.

#### 3.      **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1      It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-

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

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

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- (a)      The Forward Plan – (December 2012 – March 2013)