

# REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE



10<sup>th</sup> December 2012

at 2.00 p.m.

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, Cabinet Member responsible for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods will consider the following items.

## 1. KEY DECISIONS

No items

## 2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 2.1 Alma Street – Proposed Parking Restriction – *Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering*
- 2.2 Eldon Grove – School Safety Scheme – *Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering*
- 2.3 Proposed School Time Parking Restrictions, Talland Close – *Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering*
- 2.4 Making Every Contact Count – The Government's Homelessness Prevention Scheme – *Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*
- 2.5 York Road Improvement Scheme – Bus Stop Location – *Assistant Director, Transportation and Engineering*

## 3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Bathing Water Quality 2012 – *Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*
- 3.2 Financial Assistance Provided to Businesses by Economic Regeneration Section – Period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 – *Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*



- 3.3 Quarterly Housing Report – *Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*
- 3.4 Regional Growth Fund Round 3 – *Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*
- 3.5 Town Team Partners – *Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning*

#### **4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**

No items



**REGENERATION & NEIGHBOURHOODS  
PORTFOLIO  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012**



**Report of:** Assistant Director – Transportation and Engineering

**Subject:** ALMA STREET – PROPOSED PARKING  
RESTRICTIONS

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**1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

1.1 Non Key Decisions.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 To report a letter of objection received during the formal legal advertising period.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A local business in York Road has requested short stay customer parking provision in the area. The business was concerned that the existing prohibition of waiting order restriction in Alma Street was making parking difficult for customers and requested a limited number of short stay parking bays be provided to compliment the existing restrictions.
- 3.2 Alma Street is a small cul-de-sac of adopted highway behind York Road. The road is currently protected by a 7am -7pm Monday – Saturday, prohibition of waiting restriction, predominantly to allow deliveries to the rear of properties known as 85-91 York Road.
- 3.3 A consultation was carried out with businesses directly affected by the proposal and with those in the immediate vicinity. Initially no letters of objection were submitted and one letter of support received.
- 3.4 The proposal was therefore progressed under delegated powers and the Chief Solicitor formally advertised the proposed scheme.
- 3.5 During the formal advertising period a letter of objection was received from the owner of 91A York Road, who was concerned that by allowing vehicles to park on Alma Street, access to the rear of the properties could be

affected, particularly impacting on HGV delivery wagons and commercial waste collection.

- 3.6 Letters of objection received during the formal advising period are required to be considered by the Portfolio Holder.

#### 4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 **Appendix A** shows a map indicating the proposed limited waiting bay layout and existing prohibition of parking restrictions as per the informal consultation carried out in August 2012.

- 4.2 The scheme would allow partial parking on the west side of Alma Street but maintained the access to the rear of the properties in York Road. The limited parking bays would ensure a degree of parking availability for customers and would be controlled by a one hour (no return in 2 hour) parking restriction. This would be enforced between the hours 8am – 6pm Monday – Saturday.

- 4.3 On receipt of the formal objection, officers examined the proposal and amended the scheme to try and address some of the access concerns which had been raised. A revised scheme was prepared which reduced the number of limited stay parking spaces and protected access to the rear of 91A York Road by increasing the prohibition of waiting control.

- 4.4 The revised scheme is shown in **Appendix B**. Both parties have been contacted again in relation to the amendments and although the supporter of the scheme is willing to accept the revisions, the objector and owner of 91A York Road is not willing to withdraw the original objection, being of the opinion that the access and delivery issues are still of significant concern. The letters of objection and support will be made available at the Portfolio meeting.

- 4.5 The revisions made in **Appendix B** retain and extend the existing prohibition of waiting order which will protect access and allow large vehicles to deliver and turn within the confines of the cul-de-sac. This removes the need to reverse onto York Road and satisfies any traffic and transport concerns regarding possible access.

- 4.6 The Trade Waste Collection Service has stated that they have no operational collection issues from this location with either layout.

#### 5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There would be a minimal cost to line and sign the restriction to the appropriate required statutory standard, which would be met from the Parking Services maintenance budget.

**6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The Traffic Regulation Orders have been formally advertised and the letter of objection is required to be considered as part of the legal process. Should the Orders be approved, they would be enforceable under powers and jurisdiction of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

**7. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The Traffic Regulations Orders would be enforced by Civil Enforcement Officers from the Parking Services Team.

**8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

**9. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

**10. CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 Consultation has taken place with the businesses in the immediate vicinity of Alma Street. The local ward councillors have also been consulted as part of the consultation process.

**11. RECOMMENDATION**

- 11.1 That the Portfolio Holder considers the letter of objection and approves the revised parking proposal as shown in appendix B of this report.
- 11.2 That the parking restriction be implemented as a 12 month Experimental Order.

**12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 To provide limited stay customer parking spaces, whilst allowing any potential adverse affect of the parking controls to be assessed at the end of the experimental period.

**13. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

- 13.1 The letters of objection / support received as a result of the advertising of the orders, together with the petition received will be made available at the Portfolio meeting.

**14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 14.1 There are no background papers.

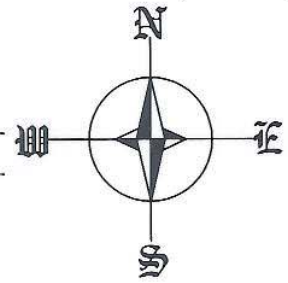
**15. CONTACT OFFICER**

Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)  
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods,  
Level 3, Civic Centre,  
Victoria Road,  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

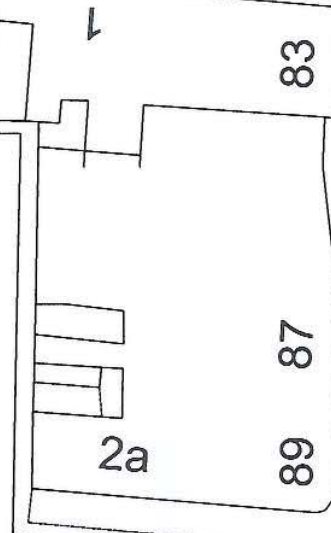
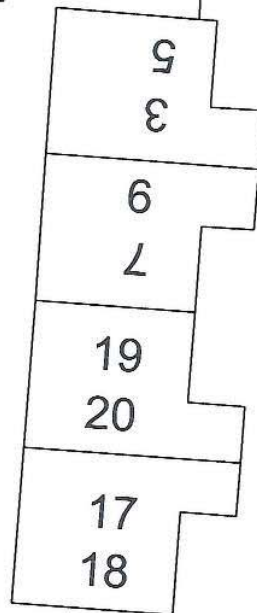
Tel: 01429 523802  
e-mail: [alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk)

# Appendix A

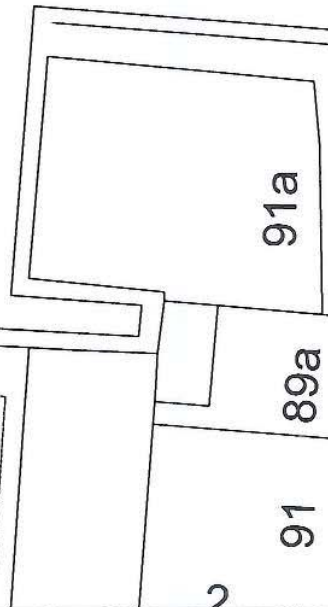
ELLIOTT STREET



Proposed 1 hour limited waiting bays no return within 2 hour



ALMA ST



ANN COURT

Existing Single Yellow Lines

TITLE

Alma Street - Proposed Parking Bays Appendix A

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Department of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering Services): Alastair Smith

DRAWN  
SC

DATE  
Nov 12

SCALE  
NTS

DRG. NO.

REV.

# Appendix B

Proposed 1 hour limited  
waiting bays no return within  
2 hours

Shelter

ALMA ST

7am - 7pm Prohibition  
of Waiting

TITLE

. Alma Street - Proposed Parking Bays Appendix B

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Department of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering Services): Alastair Smith

DRAWN  
SC

DATE  
Nov 12

SCALE  
NTS

DRG. NO.

REV.



## **REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)

**Subject:** Eldon Grove - School Safety Scheme

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### **1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

1.1 Non Key decision.

### **2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 To seek approval to implement traffic calming measures on Eldon Grove, outside of Eldon Grove Primary School.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Following a review of road casualty data for the areas outside of schools, Eldon Grove was selected for a safety scheme.

3.2 The road is already well covered by existing school time parking restrictions, and a 20mph limit was introduced in early 2011, as part of a wider scheme in the Burn Valley area. A scheme was therefore developed to complement the existing measures.

### **4. PROPOSALS**

4.1 It is proposed to implement a series of 3 speed cushions on the road. These are road humps which allow emergency service vehicles and buses to straddle the cushions and travel along the road unimpeded (see **Appendix A**). The cushions will cover the extents of the school frontage, and should help ensure that traffic speeds do not exceed the 20mph limit.

4.2 Vehicle activated signs are to be implemented on both approaches to the school and display the actual vehicle speeds to approaching motorists.

- 4.3 It is also proposed to implement 'Slow' markings and 20mph markings on both approaches to the school.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 A letter and plan were delivered to all residents of Eldon Grove, and Ward Members, showing the proposals. Eldon Grove School were also included in the consultation. 11 replies were received of which 7 were in favour of the proposals and 4 against.
- 5.2 Those respondents who were not in favour of the scheme expressed views that the vehicle activated signs were unnecessary, and that a bigger problem was vehicles parking on the existing restrictions.
- 5.3 The emergency services have also been consulted, and have no objections to the scheme.

## **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 It is estimated that the proposals will cost around £12,000 and will be funded through existing local transport plan transport budgets.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

## **8. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The Portfolio Holder approves the implementation of the scheme, as detailed in section 4 of the report.

## **10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To reduce traffic speeds and improve road safety on Eldon Grove.

## **11. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

**Appendix A – Plan of Proposed Traffic Calming.**

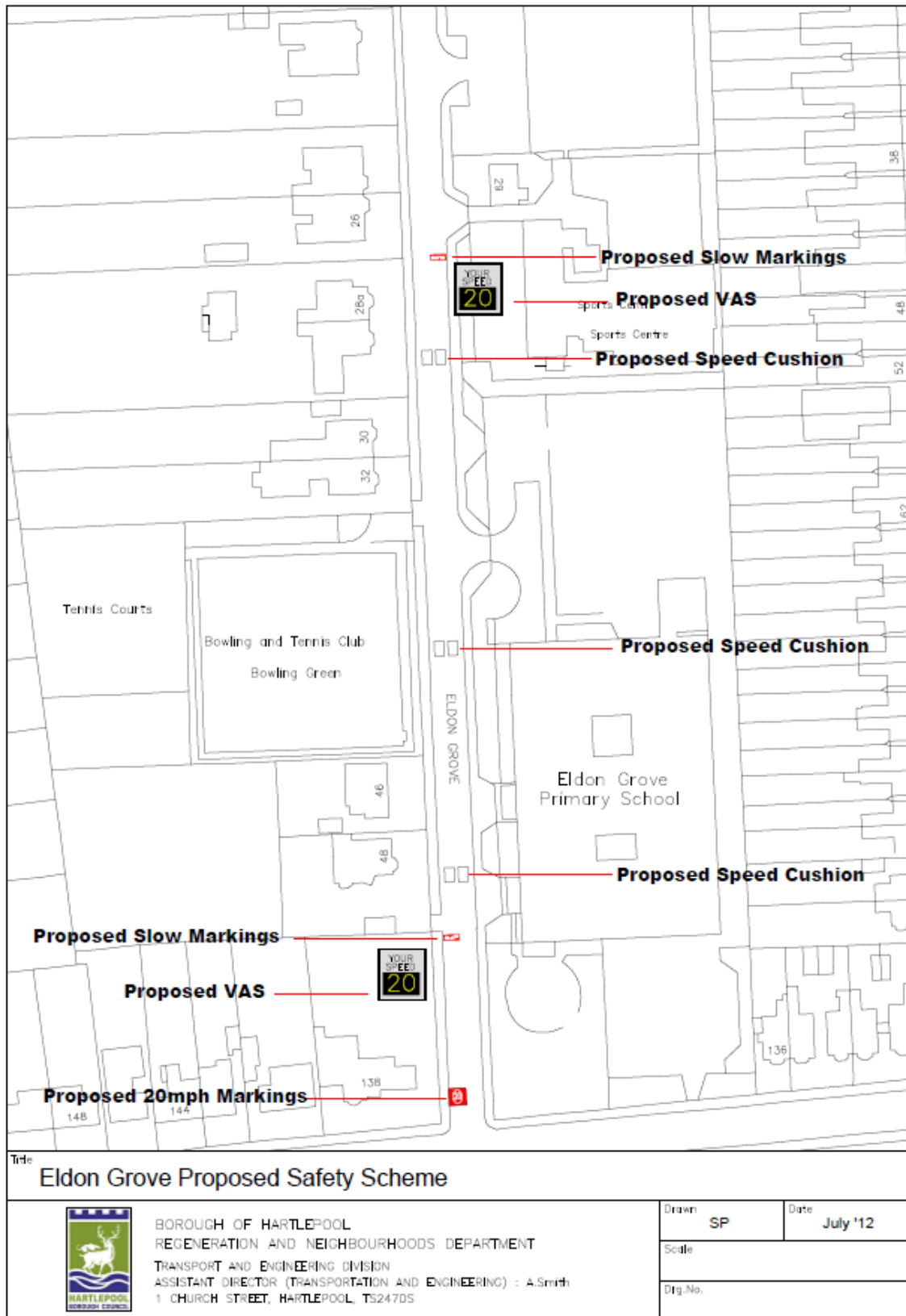
**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 There are no background papers.

**13. CONTACT OFFICER**

Alastair Smith (Assistant Director)  
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods (Transportation & Engineering)  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY  
Telephone: 01429 523802  
E-mail: [alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## 2.2 Appendix 1



## REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)

**Subject:** PROPOSED SCHOOL TIME PARKING RESTRICTIONS, TALLAND CLOSE

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### 1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non Key decision.

### 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval for the implementation of school time parking restrictions outside of properties in Talland Close.

### 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 On a number of occasions, local residents have requested the introduction of school time parking restrictions in Talland Close, in order to reduce road safety issues and also congestion around the bend area. This is currently well used by parked vehicles, with parents then taking children through the adjacent footpath, to and from Clavering School. **See Appendix 1.**

3.2 Consultation letters were sent to 19 residential properties (15 – 19 odds, and 18 – 40 evens), 3 ward councillors and the Neighbourhood Manager.

3.3 The consultation proved to be positively in favour of the proposal. From a total of 19 residential letters, 11 responses were returned (58%) with 9 in favour (82% of the 11 responses received), and the other 2 gave “conditional” support.

This was on the basis that they would receive permits to park their vehicles during the restricted times, or that they would be exempt from

Fixed Penalty Notices. It is not possible to grant exemptions for vehicles on parking restrictions, so it can be taken that they do not support the scheme. One ward Councillor supported the proposal, and another responded via email raising several points, but did not specify whether in favour or not.

- 3.4 As well as the addition of single yellow lines, the scheme would also include the appropriate signage to identify the restriction periods:

**“NO WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING (8:00AM TO 9:00AM, AND 2:30PM TO 3:30PM)”**

These restrictions would apply Monday to Friday only, except during the month of August, when the restrictions would not be in force.

- 3.5 It is proposed that the order be introduced on a temporary basis, and the situation monitored once it comes into force. An experimental traffic regulation order will be implemented for a period of 12 months, and objections can be submitted throughout this period.

#### **4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 Copies of the legal notice were placed on site and in the Hartlepool Mail, which provided a further opportunity for any formal objections to be raised by local residents and members of the general public. Only one written objection has since been received (**See Appendix 2**) from a resident, who did not actually respond to the original consultation letter.

#### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 The parking restrictions would be identified by single yellow lines and also by the appropriate signage. Costs for the scheme would be met from existing Local Transport Plan budgets, and are estimated to be around £500.

#### **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

- 6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

**7. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998  
CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 There are no implications under Section 17.

**8. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS  
LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That, the parking restrictions are implemented on an experimental basis, as outlined in this report.

**10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To provide a road safety improvement within Talland Close, following a positive consultation exercise.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 There are no background papers.

**12. CONTACT OFFICER**

Alastair Smith (Assistant Director)  
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods (Transportation & Engineering)  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY  
Telephone: 01429 523802  
E-mail: [alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk)



**TITLE**

Talland Close - School Time parking Restrictions

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

A. SMITH: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TRANSPORTATION AND ENGINEERING

DRAWN  
PJN

SCALE  
1/1000

DRG. NO.

CHECKED

DATE  
May 2012

REV.



Mr. B Heaton  
20 Talland Close  
Hartlepool  
TS27 3NB

F.A.O.  
Mr P Devlin  
Chief Solicitor

Dear Sir,

I am replying to your prohibition of waiting, loading & unloading notice order 2012 which proposes to add double yellow lines to both sides of Talland Close as per your drawing.

We do not agree with this order and also do not understand the logic that has been used to create it. The amount of traffic in the street for school drop offs has reduced significantly since the parking lay by was installed on Clavering Road.

We feel that these lines will impact on anyone delivering to or visiting our property and strongly appeal against it.

Personally we feel that there is a far greater traffic problem in this street than the one currently being debated.

There is a potential health and safety issue at the top of the street with cars regularly being double parked which in turn narrows the entrance to the street. It is only a matter of time before there is a collision between cars leaving/entering the street or in the event of any emergency services being called it could deny them access to the street.

I expect that a survey was carried out for the current notice request and wonder if this potential health and safety issue was documented or discussed during the process.

Regards

Brian Heaton

01429 863734



Chief Executive's Dept  
Support Services  
17 Jun 2012

# **REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

**Subject:** MAKING EVERY CONTACT COUNT – THE  
GOVERNMENT'S HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION  
STRATEGY

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## **1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

The report is for information.

## **2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To inform the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder about the new Government Homelessness Strategy, "Making Every Contact Count", published in August 2012.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Making Every Contact Count describes the Government's commitments to homeless prevention and set outs how this needs to be delivered locally. The aim of the strategy is to make sure that every contact local agencies make with vulnerable people and families really counts.
- 3.2 The publication of the new Government strategy provides the Council with the opportunity to review our current Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015 and assess how we can use the report as a lever to achieve commitment and action from other local services.
- 3.3 This report presents an overview of the strategy and makes an initial assessment of how the Council currently compares with the recommendations from Government.

## **4. KEY POINTS SET OUT IN MAKING EVERY CONTACT COUNT**

- 4.1 Making Every Contact Count is explicit in widening the responsibility for homelessness prevention to all local services. It should not be just seen as a

‘housing’ function; all local services have a part to play in preventing homelessness.

- 4.2 The vision within the report requires an integrated approach at local level and a commitment to making every contact with a vulnerable person count.
- 4.3 The Government has made additional funding and resources available which are targeted on early intervention initiatives for the groups who are most at risk of homelessness. In February 2012 the Government announced £20m Preventing Repossessions Funding to provide Local Authorities with additional options to tackle repossessions in local area. Hartlepool Borough Council received £30,000 from this fund which can be used to ‘unblock’ difficult Mortgage Rescue Scheme cases or to offer small interest free loans or grants to households at risk of repossession to address financial difficulties.
- 4.4 The Government has also evaluated what is already working well and has used this to set ten local challenges to Local Authorities which lead them to deliver a ‘gold standard service’.

## **5. THE VISION AND KEY FINDINGS SET OUT IN MAKING EVERY CONTACT COUNT**

- 5.1 The vision of Making Every Contact Count is that, *“there is no place for homelessness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The key to delivering that vision is prevention – agencies working together to support those at risk of homelessness.”*
- 5.2 The key findings of the report emphasises the complexity of preventing homelessness; there are a number of triggers for homelessness; there are particular groups who are at higher risk such as young people, ex-offenders, people with drugs, alcohol and mental health needs; the links between poor health, crime, financial and social exclusion; evidence that the most successful approaches include early intervention, person-centred planning, co-ordination between services; the significant costs associated with homelessness.
- 5.3 The report also summarises initiatives that are already being delivered or planned such as the implementation of ‘No Second Night Out’ (rough sleeping initiatives) and funding such as the £20m Homelessness Transition Fund and £20m for preventing repossessions.
- 5.4 The report also reiterates the Government’s intention that Local Authorities use elements of the Localism Act to strengthen their approach to homelessness prevention.
- 5.5 The report details the underlying problems that may lead to homelessness and makes commitments that are focused on five priority areas.

- *Commitment One: Tackling troubled childhoods and adolescence;*

- *Commitment Two: Improving health;*
- *Commitment Three: Reducing involvement in crime;*
- *Commitment Four: Improving access to financial advice, skills and employment services; and*
- *Commitment Five: Pioneering innovative social funding mechanisms for homelessness.*

5.6 The report also makes further commitments in respect of preventing migrants from becoming homeless and preventing and supporting members of the armed forces who are at risk of homelessness.

## **6. GOVERNMENT EXPECTATIONS SET OUT IN MAKING EVERY CONTACT COUNT**

6.1 Strategic housing authorities, including Hartlepool Borough Council, have been developing and embedding a prevention approach to homelessness since the Homelessness Act 2002.

6.2 The Government has identified five common themes that have emerged and which should be used to form the local strategic response to the new strategy. These are:

- Services working together to target those at risk of homelessness;
- Identifying and tackling the underlying causes of homelessness and referring vulnerable clients into support services where necessary;
- Local Authorities coordinating access to services for vulnerable people with multi agency action;
- Making rented accommodation work by supporting people to remain in their own homes and also increasing access to the private rented sector in order to manage demand; and
- A focus on youth homelessness.

## **7. THE TEN LOCAL CHALLENGES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAVE SET LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

7.1 The Government has drawn on the common themes set out in 6.2 to develop ten local challenges for Local Authorities. If adopted these could lead to all local homelessness services “meeting the standards of the best”.

7.2 The Council has made an initial assessment about how it currently compares with and meets the ten identified challenges.

7.3 *One: to adopt a corporate commitment to prevent homelessness which has buy in across all Local Authority services:* The current Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015 for Hartlepool was approved by Cabinet and was developed following extensive consultation with a range of partners, stakeholders and colleagues. The delivery of the strategy is through a partnership with registered provider partners, voluntary sector partners and

colleagues from Child and Adult services. It is chaired by the Director of Housing from Housing Hartlepool.

- 7.4 *Two: To actively work in partnership with voluntary sector and other local partners to address support, education, employment and training needs:* The Council has clear referral procedures in place and until summer 2012 Jobsmart was based within the Council's Housing Options Centre. The Council's Economic Regeneration Team has a number of initiatives to address support, education, employment and training needs:
- Family Wise – a programme which is designed to get individuals back into the employment market and support is given to them achieve employment and improve life skills, this is often as a family unit.
  - The Flexible Support Fund – this aims to assist young people into employment.
  - The NEET (Young people Not in Employment, Education and Training scheme) reduction programme - to address the high number of young people in this category.
  - Youth Investment Programme - which is aimed at providing a clear structure and strategy for all school children and school leavers, it delivers improvements to their employability and enterprise skills.
- 7.5 *Three: To offer a Housing Options prevention service to all clients including written advice:* The Housing Advice Team currently offer a thorough casework prevention service which includes written confirmation for the client of the advice they have been given. Ongoing monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that all clients have received and understand this advice and to assess it's effectiveness in helping to resolve their situation.
- 7.6 *Four: To adopt a No Second Night Out model or an effective local alternative:* The Housing Service is currently working with our regional and sub regional colleagues to progress this initiative locally. An action plan has been developed by the consultant (appointed across the region) and this is being addressed. A more detailed report will be brought to the Portfolio Holder in early 2013, which will outline our No Second Night Out policy and the action plan which will be developed to implement the policy.
- 7.7 *Five: To have housing pathways agreed or in development with each key partner and client group that include appropriate accommodation and support:* A Supported Housing Panel is in operation in Hartlepool, led by an officer within Housing Services. This panel is comprised of all key partner agencies operating within the town and its role is to ensure the effective use of the available supported housing schemes within the town including referrals into and move on into suitable and sustainable independent living.
- 7.8 *Six: To develop a suitable private sector offer for all clients group, including advice and support to both client and landlord:* This is a key action that has been developed as part of the Council's wider Housing Strategy for the town. A landlord/tenant unit has been established at the Housing Options Centre and officers provide advice and support to both tenants and landlords in the

private rented sector. The landlord accreditation scheme is currently being reviewed and a more detailed report will be presented to Cabinet in December 2012. The private rented sector offer is also being improved and enhanced by the effective partnership working that has been established for Selective Licensing.

7.9 *Seven: To actively engage in preventing mortgage repossessions including through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme.* The Mortgage Rescue Scheme is an important part of the preventing repossessions safety net which is helping vulnerable homeowners at risk of repossession to remain in their homes. During April to November 2012 the Council has dealt with 92 cases of homeowners in mortgage difficulty. 5 cases have been assessed as eligible and have been referred to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. The remaining cases have been resolved in other ways. Strong links have developed with lending institutions.

7.9.1 To ensure that more homeowners can benefit from this support, Government has decided to extend the deadline for new applications for a further 12 months to March 2014. The latest statistics from both the Ministry of Justice and the Council for Mortgage Lenders indicate that the trend for mortgage repossessions is showing a downturn, however Local Authorities will need to closely monitor the situation and continue to target homeowners to encourage them to access advice.

7.10 *Eight: To have a homelessness strategy which sets out a proactive approach to preventing homelessness and is reviewed annually to be responsive to emerging needs.* The current Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015 has homeless prevention as its first strategic aim and the objectives are to:

- Reduce youth homelessness in Hartlepool
- To improve access to advice and information
- Encourage housing providers and other stakeholders to prioritise homelessness prevention
- Continued development of initiatives to prevent repossessions

7.10.1 The vision of the strategy is, “Our long term vision is to end homelessness within Hartlepool and to ensure all residents have access to a safe, secure and suitable home”

7.10.2 This strategy has an action plan that is reviewed by the Homelessness Strategy Working Group who meets three times a year. It is reviewed at least annually by this group to ensure that actions are delivered on time and remain relevant.

7.11 *Nine: To not place any young person aged 16 or 17 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.* In most cases involving young people the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation is avoided. In exceptional circumstances when there is no other option Bed and Breakfast accommodation has been used, within the legal guidelines, and for no longer than 6 weeks. A joint working protocol is also in place with Children’s Services for homeless 16 and 17 year olds.

**7.12 Ten: To not place any families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation unless in an emergency and for no longer than 6 weeks:** This is currently being achieved. In order to avoid the use of Bed and Breakfast the Housing Advice Team work with families to help them to remain in their own accommodation or with family or friends whilst endeavoring to secure timely rehousing. If in the event of emergency families are placed in Bed and Breakfast this is never for longer than 6 weeks and efforts are made to secure rehousing through either negotiations with providers or a direct let into social housing.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 The Government Strategy will be used to further develop and review the Council's Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan.
- 8.2 It also provides an opportunity to raise awareness with colleagues the causes, impact of homelessness and the cross cutting themes. In addition it will be used to emphasise expectations with partner agencies and will be used as a lever to connect with those who are least engaged locally.
- 8.3 It further provides the opportunity to review the effectiveness of the Council's current homeless prevention partnerships and the lead agencies for delivering local initiatives in relation to young people, ex-offenders, people with drug, alcohol and mental health needs and those who fall into the vulnerable groups' category.
- 8.4 The Council will also keep up to date with the funding that is made available for homeless prevention initiatives.
- 8.5 Annual liaison meetings with the Council's registered provider partners will also be used as the forum to highlight the expectations within the report about tackling homelessness and will form part of the wider discussions that will take place as a result of the Localism Act 2011 and welfare reform.
- 8.6 The Council has introduced a number of welfare reform groups, both strategic and operational, which will continue to provide a cross stakeholder approach to the welfare reform impacts across the Borough.

## **9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) will be undertaken to identify any adverse or differential impact or unmet needs of our service users during the review process and in the development of any revised Homelessness Strategy before it is implemented.

**10. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998  
CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 The review of the Homelessness Strategy will be developed with the full consideration of crime and disorder issues. Commitment Three of the Government Strategy is about reducing involvement in crime.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods is recommended to:
- a) Note the Government's new Homelessness Strategy published in August 2012
  - b) Consider how the Council's Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2015 achieves the ten local challenges proposed by Government
  - c) Note that a review of the current strategy and approach to homeless prevention will be undertaken to take into account the commitments, themes and challenges contained in Making Every Contact Count and that it will be utilised to engage partner agencies.

**12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 The recommendations ensure that consideration is made about how the Council's Homelessness Strategy and any subsequent review is delivered in line with the commitments, themes and ten local challenges identified by Government, as set out in, 'Making Every Contact Count – a joint approach to preventing homelessness'.

**13. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY  
AND ON-LINE**

- 13.1 There are no appendices attached to this report.

**14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 14.1 DCLG, Making Every Contact Count – a joint approach to preventing homelessness, August 2012
- 14.2 Hartlepool Homelessness Strategy 2010-2015



**15. CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)  
Level 3  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400  
E-mail: [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

# REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)

**Subject:** YORK ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – BUS  
STOP LOCATION

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION

1.1 Non key Decision.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval to the location of the northbound bus stop on York Road, within the lay-by between Burn Valley Roundabout and Elwick Road.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Two phases of improvements to York Road have been carried out in recent years, with works on the sections from Park Road – Victoria Road, and Lister Street – Park Road. A further phase has also been designed to improve the section from Lister Street – Burn Valley Roundabout.

3.2 The scheme was initially to have been constructed around 2 years ago, however due to the economic downturn, local businesses asked that works be delayed for a time.

3.3 The works are part of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements project, which has seen highway improvements at a number of locations, including Catcote Road/ Oxford Road, Catcote Road/ Truro Drive, and Stockton Street/ Church Square.

- 3.4 As with all TVBNI schemes, the works were approved at Cabinet prior to the project commencing. However, where objections are received they are then reported to Portfolio.

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The scheme will see junction widening on all approaches at Elwick Road, which will allow through traffic to pass vehicles waiting to turn right, giving much improved traffic flows and encouraging passing trade for local businesses.
- 4.2 Lay-bys will be provided for the existing southbound bus stops outside of Shotton's and ATS, again improving traffic flows along this section of York Road.
- 4.3 Additional parking bays will also be installed between Elwick Road and Lister Street, to assist customers of local businesses in the area.
- 4.4 The works also include reconstruction of the carriageway and footpaths.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Two rounds of consultation had taken place to help fine tune the proposals, and a lot of work has previously taken place with residents and businesses. This involved public exhibitions and meetings, and led to the scheme shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 5.2 A final round of consultation was carried out in November 2011, and no objections were received to the scheme.
- 5.3 Following this, an objection was raised in June 2012, in relation to the location of the northbound bus stop, just north of Burn Valley Roundabout. This proved difficult to resolve, and so a meeting was held with local businesses on Monday 30 July 2012
- 5.4 There were five businesses who voted in favour of Option 1 prior to the public meeting, and another two who expressed this preference during the meeting. All those who responded to the formal consultation in November 2011 were in favour of Option 1.
- 5.5 Those businesses who have yet to express a preference have been asked again for their views, and a further update will be given verbally at the meeting.

- 5.6 The scheme was due to commence in early September, in order to allow completion by the end of November, ahead of the Christmas period. However, difficulty in resolving this issue has led to the scheme being delayed further.

## 6. OPTIONS

- 6.1 There are two potential options, as shown in **Appendices 2 and 3**.
- 6.2 **Option 1** – This option locates the bus stop at the beginning of the lay-by. As a result, the entrance taper for the bus stop is not required, as buses will approach unimpeded whilst on the main carriageway. This will remove the problem of buses being unable to access the stop due to parked vehicles, which can be a regular occurrence at present. This option also maximises the parking spaces available, by providing 12 spaces.
- 6.3 **Option 2** – This option would see the bus stop located slightly further north than Option 1, by providing 2 car parking spaces at the beginning of the lay-by. A consequence of this is that the bus stop entrance taper would be required, thereby extending the length of the bus stop. This would see a reduction in parking spaces from Option 1, and indeed from the current situation, by providing 8 spaces.
- 6.4 **Additional Measures** – There are further measures which could be taken to improve parking facilities for local businesses, as follows:-
- **Whitburn St/ Houghton St Residents' Zone** – The existing permit zone could be altered to include 1 hour limited waiting for non-permit holders. This is immediately adjacent to the businesses in the area, and would increase the availability of customer parking.
  - **Colwyn Road cul-de-sac** – The small area accessed from York Road could have an additional section of limited waiting introduced, if businesses in the immediate vicinity favoured this.

Both of these would require consultation to be undertaken, prior to implementation.

## 7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The TVBNI project is funded jointly between the Department for Transport and Hartlepool Borough Council's Local Transport Plan, with a 65%/35% split respectively.

**8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

8.1 Not applicable.

**9. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

9.1 Not applicable.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That the location of the bus stop be approved, as outlined in 6.2.

10.2 That additional limited waiting facilities be provided as detailed in 6.4, subject to public consultation.

**11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

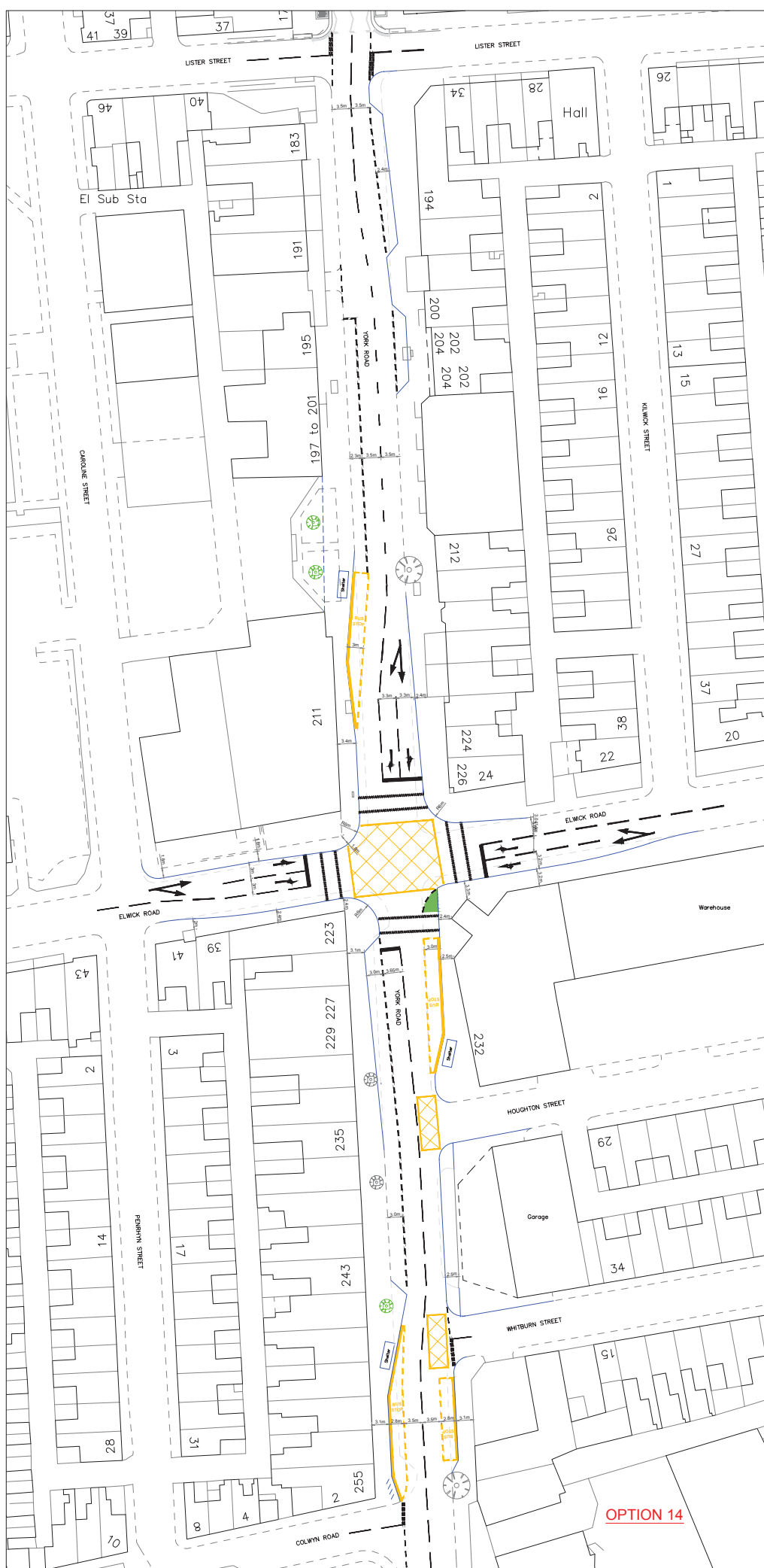
11.1 To improve traffic flows and bus journey time efficiency, while providing additional parking to assist local businesses.

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

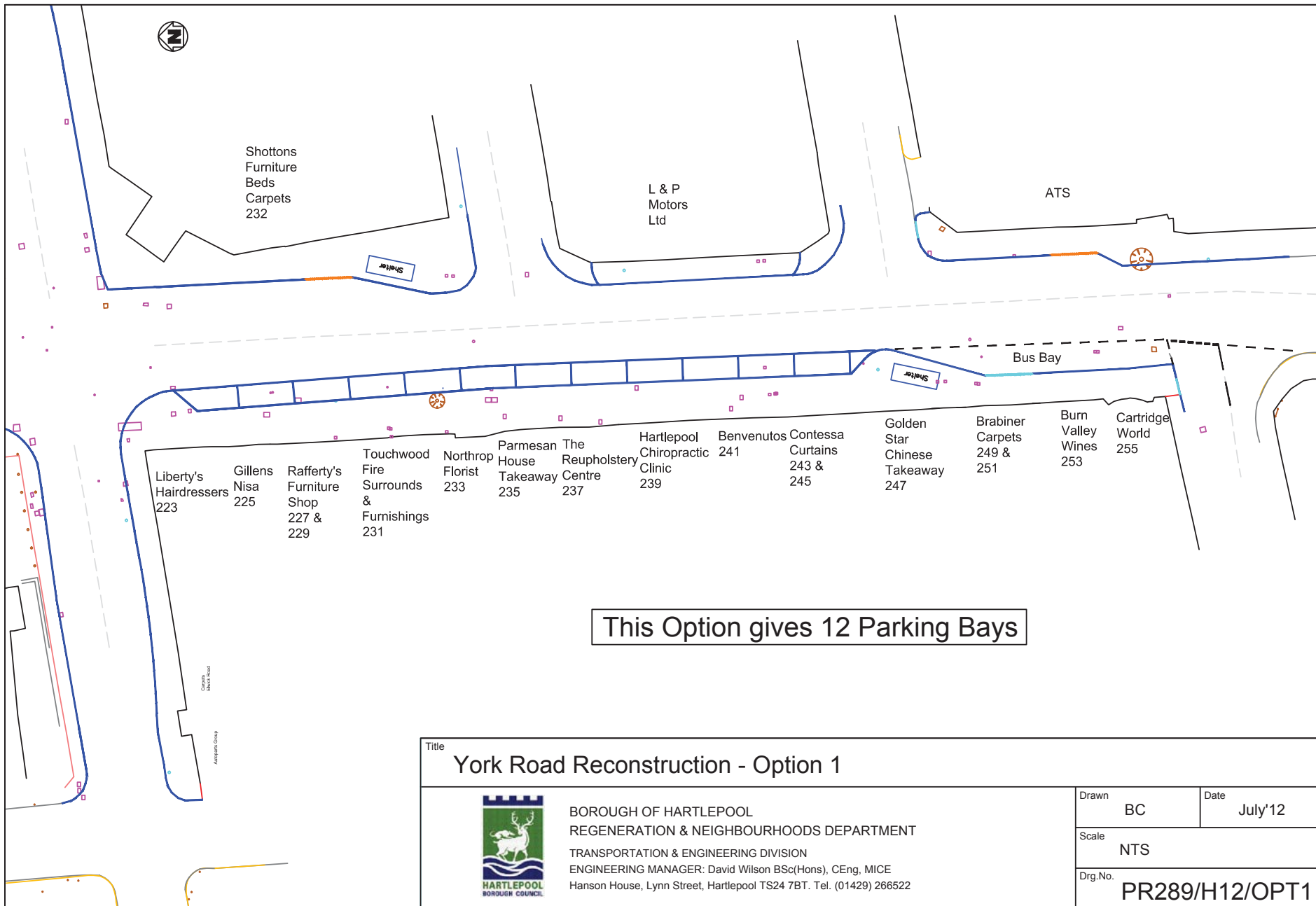
12.1 There are no background papers.

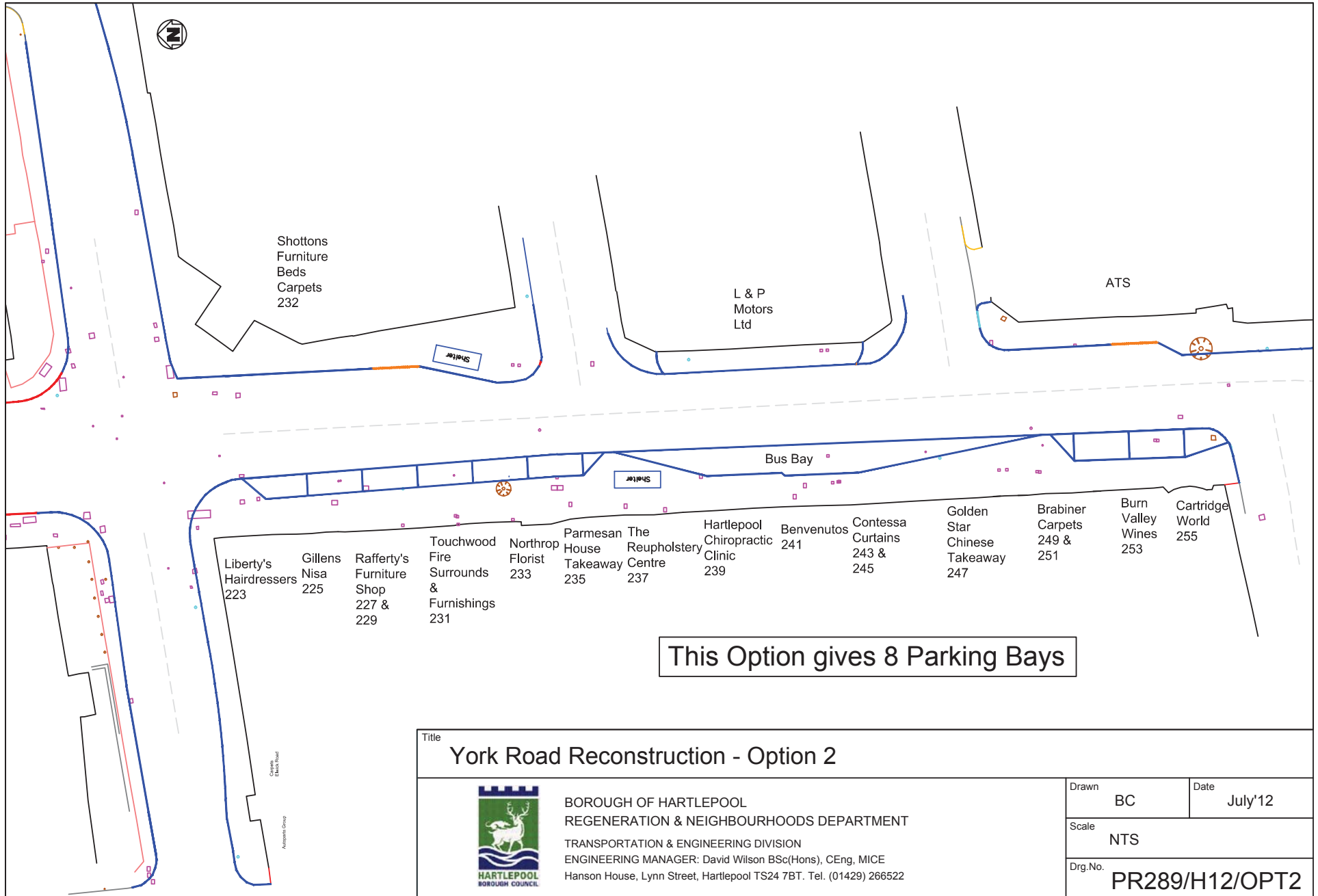
**13. CONTACT OFFICER**

13.1 Alastair Smith (Assistant Director)  
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods (Transportation & Engineering)  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY  
Telephone: 01429 523802  
E-mail: [alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk)



OPTION 14







## **REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO**

Report To Portfolio Holder  
December 10<sup>th</sup> 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)

**Subject:** BATHING WATER QUALITY 2012

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### **1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

1.1 Non Key Decision.

### **2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 To up date the Portfolio Holder on the 2012 Bathing Water Quality results and future considerations in relation to bathing beaches at Seaton Carew.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 There are three bathing beaches at Seaton Carew, they include: Seaton Carew North opposite Seaton Green, Seaton Carew Centre between Station Lane Slipway and Seaton Sands; and Seaton Carew North Gare running from Seaton Sands to the North Gare Breakwater.

3.2 The three beaches were first designated in 1987 and first monitored in 1988. Initially all three beaches failed to meet the bathing water standards, this was principally because sewage from Hartlepool and surrounding areas was discharged at the time from a short outfall without effective treatment. In the early 1990s, Northumbrian Water constructed a scheme to address this which involved interception of the existing outfall and discharge via a long outfall, 3.6 km out from the high water mark at Seaton Carew. This location was chosen following a modeling exercise so that the discharge would ensure compliance of the Seaton Carew beaches with the bathing water standards.

3.3 Further investments and improvements were made by Northumbrian Water, principally at the Seaton Carew sewage treatment works, which was built in 2000 to meet the requirements of the EC Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

3.4 The chart illustrates the improvements to the bathing water quality from 1988 to 2011

Year	North	Centre	North Gare
1988	Fail	Fail	Fail
1989	Fail	Fail	Fail
1990	Fail	Fail	Basic Pass
1991	Fail	Fail	Fail
1992	Fail	Fail	Fail
1993	Basic Pass	Fail	Basic Pass
1994	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Basic Pass
1995	Basic Pass	Guideline	Guideline
1996	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Basic Pass
1997	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Guideline
1998	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Basic Pass
1999	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Basic Pass
2000	Basic Pass	Guideline	Guideline
2001	Guideline	Guideline	Guideline
2002	Guideline	Basic Pass	Guideline
2003	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Guideline
2004	Basic Pass	Guideline	Guideline
2005	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Guideline
2006	Guideline	Guideline	Guideline
2007	Guideline	Guideline	Guideline
2008	Guideline	Basic Pass	Guideline
2009	Basic Pass	Guideline	Guideline
2010	Basic Pass	Basic Pass	Guideline
2011	Guideline	Guideline	Guideline



Guideline standard is the highest bathing water standard, this is required for Blue Flag beaches.

3.5 The Environment Agency take 20 water samples at each bathing beach over the bathing season (May to September). The bathing water quality test results for 2012 have fallen below the excellent guideline bathing water quality achieved in 2011.

3.6 A briefing note released from Northumbrian Water states the weather this year, which Met Office scientists recently referred to as being the 'weirdest weather for a century' has had a major impact on bathing waters in the North East region. The months of above average rainfall meant that the ground became quickly saturated and could not absorb the periods of intense rainfall, with much of it subsequently flowing into watercourses and into the sea.

- 3.7 The intense rainfall on occasion also overloaded the sewerage infrastructure with drains going from empty to overflowing – sometimes in a matter of minutes. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs), which are consented by the Environment Agency, are designed to discharge diluted waste water into watercourses in times of very heavy rainfall to protect properties and surrounding land from flooding. Storm water that passes through CSOs and often ultimately to sea is given coarse screening but can still contain some contamination and as such CSOs operating more frequently may be part of the reason why the 2012 bathing water quality results across the North East region are poorer than the excellent 2011 performance levels, as shown by the maps below.

### 2011 results





- 3.8 The heavy rain also fell on agricultural land, and potentially has taken with it bacteriological contamination into watercourses. Similar contamination from roads being washed into the drainage system may have been a more significant factor this year. Private sewage works and drains wrongly connected to the surface water system are also believed to have contributed to the reduced bathing water quality this year in combination with the unusual rainfall.
- 3.9 The above maps, supplied by Northumbrian Water, show that the bathing water quality at Seaton Carew and Seaton Carew North Gare both passed the basic standards, however Seaton Carew North failed the standards. The map also confirms that Hartlepool is not the only bathing water controller that has suffered from poorer bathing water quality in 2012 and as a result of this unfortunately lost Blue Flag awards.
- 3.10 The conclusion drawn from the 2012 test results, by Northumbrian Water, is that the intense and prolonged rainfall during this year has been the environmental precursor to the lowered bathing water test results in 2012. The water sampling results do as a general observation appear to have a close link to the presence or absence of adverse weather, having poor results after

the heavy rainfall and good / excellent results during times of good weather conditions.

#### **4. STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP**

- 4.1 Hartlepool Borough Council Officers have been meeting regularly with the representatives from the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water and held a meeting following the publishing of the water quality results 2012.
- 4.2 The Environment Agency are seeking to understanding in greater detail the sources of pollution analyzing in more detail in the laboratory the water samples taking during the season. The sampling and analysis (including DNA analysis e.g. human/ farm animal waste) is seeking to help pin point other sources of pollution.
- 4.3 Both the Environmental Agency and Northumbrian Water are aware of Hartlepool Borough Council's concerns surrounding the poor water quality results for this year. Given the increasingly stringent water quality tests, discussions took place around lesser known potential sources of pollution. Northumbrian Water highlighted concerns across the region about wrong connections and possible contributions of domestic sources; for example washing machines incorrectly plumbed to surface water drainage and also private sewage discharges. In the new testing regimes these small scale sources have the potential to have a disproportionate impact on water quality results. The Environment Agency was also considering the possible impact on water quality resulting from tidal estuarine water movements around the River Tees estuary, with particular interest on the impact of extreme wet weather and high volumes of storm water runoff.

#### **5. FUTURE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 From 2012 to 2015 the bathing water sampling is in transition between the 'old' and the revised Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC). Under the revised Bathing Water Directive the samples taken over the bathing seasons 2012 – 2015 will establish the bathing water quality in 2016. In its simplest form from then on it will be a rolling programme with the outcome of the previous 4 years of testing determining the 'classification' a bathing beach receives for that year.
- 5.2 Under the revised Bathing Water Directive if Bathing Water Authorities do not meet the required bathing water standards in 2016 they will have to put up signs advising people not to bathe. This would potentially have a detrimental effect to an area and its tourism, the future aim is to continue to work in partnership with the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water in order to try to avoid this from happening.

**6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications

**7. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 There are no section 17 implications

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 The Portfolio Holder is requested to note the contents of the report

**7. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Report Bathing Water Directive (2006/0/EC) 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

8.2 Bathing Water Profiles – Seaton Carew North, Seaton Carew Centre and Seaton Carew North Gare – Environment Agency

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/127626.aspx>

**9. CONTACT OFFICER**

Denise Ogden  
Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel. 01429 523800

Email. [denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk)

# REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration

**Subject:** FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO  
BUSINESSES BY ECONOMIC REGENERATION  
SECTION – PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2012 – 31<sup>ST</sup>  
OCTOBER 2012

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non Key.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide detail of the financial assistance provided by the Council to support local enterprise during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

## 3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REGIMES

3.1 The Council operates a variety of schemes to support individuals into work or self employment, together with schemes to support enterprise and business development.

3.2 The detail of the individual regimes is as follows:

### 3.2.1 Business Grants Package

This regime has been in operation since 1996, shortly after the Council was awarded Unitary Status. It was developed as a local response to the previous Flexible Assistance Scheme operated by Cleveland County Council. It is the primary form of assistance for established businesses, although can be used for start ups which meet the criteria. The scheme was particularly “job creation” oriented, although the funding is normally aimed at capital spend or assistance towards the Non Domestic Rates costs of additional floorspace.

3.2.2 The scheme was initially targeted at manufacturing businesses, or those offering services direct to manufacturers. However in recognition of a growing Service Sector, amendments were subsequently agreed to the scheme to allow businesses from this

sector, provided that 50% of their turnover emanates from outside Hartlepool, to participate. At the same time, it was also agreed that job safeguarding could be considered as an acceptable output where businesses were applying improvements to their business which may not lead to job creation per se, e.g. purchasing equipment which has a greater degree of automation, not necessarily leading to an increased workforce.

- 3.2.3 This scheme is considered an important intervention, particularly for growth businesses. It allows the Borough Council to support the majority of inward investors and also to involve Hartlepool Working Solutions staff in the business – greatly increasing the opportunity for employment for Hartlepool residents. Where substantial numbers of jobs are created, the grant can stipulate that in order to drawdown the funding a percentage of the jobs must go to Hartlepool residents.

3.2.4 Access to Markets

This regime was developed as part of the response to Hartlepool's Incubation Strategy, produced by DTZ Pida in 2002. In essence the strategy suggested the need for capital spend in respect of premises and a "system" overarching this to support local business.

- 3.2.5 Following consultation with businesses, it became clear that there were a number of measures which were being offered for exporting businesses through UK Trade and Investment which would allow businesses to grow and develop if they were replicated for a UK market.

- 3.2.6 This scheme therefore supports businesses which are looking to develop into markets beyond the region, where this may be a first step towards exporting or where there is a clear element of risk in the strategy. Interventions may include the development of marketing strategy, production of marketing materials, the purchase of bespoke marketing information.

- 3.2.7 Should the assistance of an expert be required, Economic Development staff have the ability to interrogate the North East England Service Provider Register (NEESPR) to find potential, suitable individuals. Individuals on this register have been verified and have all the relevant insurance and professional indemnities, helping to ensure the security of clients and also complying with ERDF good practice.

- 3.2.8 The scheme underpins the desire to encourage businesses away from a purely local market, broadening their horizons and ultimately bringing increased wealth into the Town.

3.2.9 Enterprise Development Fund

This scheme has operated in various forms since the City Challenge programme. Since that time, the scheme has been funded through a variety of regeneration initiatives as well as with "core" Borough Council monies. The scheme is the main form of support for new start businesses (less than 3 years old), primarily in the form of capital.

- 3.2.10 The scheme is an important means of supporting new businesses, which remains a priority for the Town's Economic Regeneration. While significant progress has been made in terms of increasing the diversity and numbers of businesses in the Town, further intervention



is still required to achieve greater parity with regional and national figures.

3.2.11 ICT

This regime encourages the use of ICT within a young business and was originally developed in partnership with Hartlepool College of Further Education as part of the Digital Hartlepool project.

3.2.12 The scheme is rarely used, but is specifically targeted at developing digital businesses or improving the use of ICT within a young business. Where advice is required from an expert, Economic Development staff would interrogate NEESPR as outlined in para. 2.2.7

3.2.13 Incubation Bursaries

These bursaries were developed again in response to the Incubation System (see para.2.2.4).

3.2.14 The bursaries form a flexible form of assistance to individuals/businesses which are considered as having growth potential, or are primarily of a digital/creative nature.

3.2.15 The interventions were developed following consultation with businesses and following pilot activity particularly with the “Enterprising Hartlepool” group of businesses. The interventions include a number of “surgeries” by Accountants and Solicitors and intensive support across measures including PR and Marketing, Business Processes, financial planning etc., all of which were considered barriers to entry or development.

3.2.16 As is the case of other regimes, where experts are required these would normally be drawn from the NEESPR, and clients would normally be encouraged to meet at least three before selecting their preferred supplier.

3.2.17 Women’s Development Fund

This fund was developed in conjunction with the Women’s Opportunities Programme. This programme was primarily funded through regeneration initiatives and was primarily focused around assisting women to overcome the hurdles which they faced in returning to employment.

3.2.18 Whilst much of the work undertaken through Womens Opportunities has been “mainstreamed”, the number of women into self employment remains lower than the number of men. The Development Fund has therefore remained in place with an emphasis on providing training or marketing assistance for women considering self employment as an option. The scheme continues to be popular as a means of helping women overcome the specific hurdles which they face in the employment market.

3.2.19 Security Grant

The Security Grant regime was developed through City Challenge in a similar way to the Enterprise Development Fund and has continued to be funded through a variety of regeneration initiatives (see para. 2.2.9).

3.2.20 Whilst the scheme is for low level interventions, it has been successful in supporting particular geographic areas, where funding has been

provided and is popular with businesses as a means of crime prevention.

- 3.2.21 Again where expert advice is required, a directory of firms is held and businesses are asked to consider 3 suppliers.

- 3.3 Details of actual approvals for the last financial year are provided in **Appendix A**.

#### **4. MONITORING, MEASURES AND POST-AWARD ACTIVITY**

- 4.1 All the schemes are monitored over an initial 6 month period to ensure all financial criteria are met:
- 4.1.1 Month 1 – all financial aspects are complete – original paid invoices have been received and copies are retained
  - 4.1.2 Up to month 6 – a review is undertaken with the business to ensure that the service has been beneficial and that the increased turnover and job creation and/or safeguarding have been achieved.
  - 4.1.3 In some cases the monitoring may carry on for a longer period if the anticipated increase has not been achieved or where the turnover is measured at the time of the business' accounting year end.
- 4.2 There is a formal monitoring process, gathering information about job creation, business formation and increases in turnover. This information must be clearly auditable to satisfy the Council's service planning procedures.
- 4.3 In addition, some of the awards may lead to the development of a long term relationship with the businesses to assist their growth and development over time. This can be important in building loyalty in the businesses to Hartlepool and encouraging them to commit their future to the Town and as a consequence offering employment opportunities. Where possible, businesses are encouraged to engage with Hartlepool Business Forum, including the Business Awards, and other appropriate forums.
- 4.4 In the case of the incubation bursaries, reports are received about the nature of the work undertaken from both provider and client to ensure that the service has met the needs of the business.
- 4.5 Performance measures for the different regimes are evaluated and reported as part of the wider outputs of the Economic Regeneration team.
- 4.6 For the purpose of this report, the measures in the year to date have been drawn together, as follows:

Job Creation	-	17 jobs
Business Start Ups	-	9 new businesses assisted

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

- 5.1 The service operates to an annual core budget for grants, standing at £45,112 for the financial year ending March 2013, in addition to this a further £113,000 has been made available from Council reserves. The information in **Appendix A** shows that spend during the period covered by this report amounts to £21,440. Against this, there has been private sector leverage of £140,220. In previous years additional resources have been identified to supplement the core budget including, for eligible awards, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) monies. It is unlikely at the present time that such external resources will be available this financial year. However officers will ensure that should any opportunities arise, an appropriate application will be undertaken.
- 5.2 As resources have declined in recent years, the Council sought to reduce the amount of grant per award in an attempt to ensure that resource remains available to support as many projects as possible. However the grant regimes have remained unaltered to enable the Council to continue to support projects at a higher level where necessary to assist a business to undertake a project, or attract a project to the Town.
- 5.3 In addition, much of the administration of the grants is undertaken by Enterprise Centre staff meaning that those costs are subsumed within the budget of the Centre.
- 5.4 The success of each grant is dependent upon the ability of businesses to fulfil their business plans. There is always therefore an inherent risk that the level of job creation or business growth will not be seen. Council staff undertake reviews of the business plans and in particular the financial information to try to mitigate against this risk and ensure that the plans are robust and achievable.
- 5.5 The benefit of capital grants to both assist growth and develop new businesses continues to be important for the Town. A Regional Growth Funded programme “**Let’s Grow**” has been approved, with £30million of funding available to offer grants between £50,000 - £1million. Whilst this funding is welcome, it will not fill the gap in providing relatively low levels of funding for business. The Council’s regimes remain therefore key to the ongoing development of the business base of the Town and the Borough Council’s opportunity to intervene.
- 5.6 The regimes which seek to encourage growth through revenue measures are also important tools to continue the diversification of the local economy away from both generic manufacturing and the over reliance on large employers. As the physical Incubation facilities in the Town continue to grow, with the completion of UK Steel’s extension at Queens Meadow and the ongoing development plans for Crown Buildings, it will be important to have support measures in place to support the new businesses. The risk at the present time remains the lack of support from national schemes. Tees Valley-wide

Regional Growth Fund bids will therefore have an important role to play in ensuring some continuity of support.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Equality and diversity issues have been accounted for in the development of the different regimes and they have been devised to take account of the creation of opportunities for unemployed individuals and encouraging increased participation by underrepresented groups, for example in the case of Womens Development Fund.

## **7. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The continued funding of security measures for businesses, whilst not of a large scale, will assist in crime reduction.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder notes the report.

## **9. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

- 9.1 Appendix A – approvals for the last financial year

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 There are no background papers for this report.

## **11 CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel: 01429 523400  
Email: [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**APPENDIX A**Details of awards made in the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012

## Access to Markets

Applicant	Award	Private Sector Leverage	Purpose	Provider	Outputs
1	£2,500	£2,500	Website	Reactive Design	2 jobs
<b>TOTAL</b>	£2,500	£2,500			

## Enterprise Development Fund

Applicant	Award	Private Sector Leverage	Purpose	Outputs
2	£1,500	£1,500	Equipment	2 Jobs Created
3	£1,000	£18,000	Start up costs	1 New business 1 Jobs Created
4	£3,000	£3,000	Start up costs	1 New business 1 Job Created
5	£5,000	£105,000	Equipment	1 New business 3 Jobs Created
6	£2,000	£7,700	Start up costs	1 New business 1 Job Created
<b>TOTAL</b>	£12,500	£135,200		

## Incubation Bursaries

## Accountancy Clinic Beneficiaries (Duffy Pederson &amp; Co Limited)

Client	Purpose	Outputs
7	Business Set Up	1 new business 1 job created

## Legal Clinic Beneficiaries (Thorp Parker Solicitors)

Applicant	Purpose	Outputs
8	Business Merger/Joint working	Potential new business

## Business Consultancy

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
9	Xivvi Limited	£2,300	Start up mentoring/ marketing	1 New Business 1 Job Created
10	J I Megson	£750	Financial Set up	1 New Business 1 Job Created
11	J I Megson Support	£500	Business Set up	See Enterprise Development Fund
12	NT Management and Business Support	£900	Business Set up	1 New Business 1 Job Created
		£4,450		

## Women's Development Fund

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
13	£240	Marketing/ Advertising	Signage	1 job 1 new business
14	£250	Marketing/ Stationary	Start up costs only	2 jobs
<b>TOTAL</b>	£490			

**REGENERATION & NEIGHBOURHOODS  
PORTFOLIO**

10<sup>th</sup> December 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

**Subject:** QUARTERLY HOUSING REPORT

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**1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

1.1 Non Key

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 To update the Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder about progress across key areas of the Housing Service relating to empty homes, enforcement activity, selective licensing, Disabled Facilities Grants, housing allocations and housing advice & homelessness prevention during the second quarter of 2012/13.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 This report provides an update on progress and benchmarking across key areas of the Housing Service during Quarter 2 2012/13 and updates the last report presented to the Portfolio Holder on 28 September 2012.

**4. EMPTY HOMES UPDATE**

4.1 The Housing Services team along with partners Housing Hartlepool are progressing with the implementation of an Empty Homes Pilot scheme as part of the incentive approach to bringing empty homes back into use. This scheme operates a lease and repair model where properties are refurbished and then managed in the long term by Housing Hartlepool. Refurbishment works were completed on 19 properties as part of the first phase and of these 8 properties are already tenanted with tenants identified for the remaining properties. A further 17 properties have been inspected and specifications produced as part of phase 2 and of these work has commenced on 3 properties. A further 8 properties are to be inspected for consideration in phase 2 of the scheme.

- 4.2 The Councils Empty Property Purchasing scheme is progressing well. To date 15 properties have been acquired with work commencing on 6 of these. There are agreed sales with owners of 10 other properties and legal instructions have been issued. 72 valuations have been completed in total. The scheme is currently meeting the financial parameters presented within the business case and is achieving budgets set for property acquisitions and refurbishment. Progress reports on this scheme will be provided to Portfolio Holder on a quarterly basis through the Housing Services Quarterly report and to Council on a four monthly basis in line with the Council decision.
- 4.3 A key action within the Empty Homes action plan was to bring 10% of empty properties back into use and to identify properties suitable for enforcement action. In order to demonstrate this ongoing work a table of the top 20 empty properties has been developed and this will monitor progress and assist in implementing the most appropriate form of enforcement action. The table includes properties which have been empty for the longest time and those in key strategic locations (identified within the empty homes strategy). Each individual case is assessed on its merits and appropriate informal action taken followed by enforcement action. All properties have been inspected, photographed and an empty property assessment form completed.
- 4.4 Of the properties identified within this list, 2 property owners have agreed sale with the Council and legal instructions have been issued (as part of the Empty Property Purchasing Scheme). The owner of one property on the top 20 has completed the refurbishment works and facelifting necessary to re-let the property and prevent S215 action. One further owner from the list has accepted the pilot scheme and paid council tax debt and works on this property are due to commence shortly. Internal and external refurbishment works have been completed on another top 20 property and it is now advertised to let for a reasonable rent, this avoided potential enforcement action. There are two properties on this list where owners have failed to engage with the Council over a prolonged period and where subsequent reports will be presented to Portfolio Holder to approve the necessary enforcement action. Table 1 summarises the status of the top 20 at the end of quarter 2.

**Table 1 – Top 20 Overview**

<b>Property Purchasing Scheme</b>	4
<b>Pilot Scheme</b>	5
<b>Enforcement Action Required</b>	5
<b>Works Completed through Negotiation</b>	6

- 4.5 In total 62 properties were brought back into use within quarter 2. 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 and awareness raising, with owners through to enforcement action and site visits. The work of the Housing Standards Officers has contributed significantly to



this achievement. 33 Properties are currently within the S215 process with direct action commencing shortly on two properties within the town.

- 4.6 Regeneration of Baden Street is ongoing. In terms of the empty homes, during this quarter, the Council has commenced work on a property; this is scheduled for completion in mid November. A tenancy in respect of this property is currently being agreed. This will be the third qualifying empty property brought back into use since the scheme was initiated. Work is in progress with the remaining owners who have opted to seek independent quotations for the work to their property.

## 5. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

- 5.1 The enforcement update encompasses a number of key areas, including housing conditions, housing related statutory nuisance and problematic empty properties.
- 5.2 Table 2 sets out the service requests that have been received by the enforcement team during the first two quarters of this year. Previous year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison purposes.

**Table 2 – Enforcement Team Service Requests**

Request Type	Number and % of Total Number by Quarter 2012/13							
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
Disrepair	(65) <b>52</b>	19%	(56) <b>43</b>	20%	(61)		(60)	
Empty & Insecure Property	(30) <b>53</b>	20%	(58) <b>45</b>	21%	(48)		(40)	
Empty property report	(0) <b>0</b>	0%	(0) <b>0</b>	0%	(2)		(0)	
Empty property Nuisance	(31) <b>44</b>	16%	(23) <b>11</b>	5%	(16)		(4)	
Unauthorised Encampment	(4) <b>1</b>	0.5%	(5) <b>2</b>	1%	(0)		(0)	
Nuisance from Adjacent Property	(13) <b>6</b>	2%	(3) <b>36</b>	17%	(7)		(60)	
Nuisance from Occupied Property	(86) <b>92</b>	34%	(83) <b>66</b>	30%	(42)		(20)	
Filthy & Verminous	(3) <b>0</b>	0%	(0) <b>0</b>	0%	(5)		(0)	
Defective Drainage	(23) <b>14</b>	5%	(16) <b>10</b>	5%	(6)		(5)	
HMO Advice	(3) <b>3</b>	1%	(4) <b>3</b>	1%	(1)		(1)	
Immigration Visit	(5) <b>2</b>	1%	(2) <b>0</b>	0%	(4)		(7)	
Total Number of Requests	(263) <b>267</b>		(250) <b>216</b>		(192)		(197)	

- 5.3 The majority of service requests fall into three main areas:
- Disrepair
  - Empty Properties
  - Nuisance

- 5.4 Overall the number of service requests received by the team has reduced by 19% compared to the previous quarter and by 14% compared to the same quarter in 2011/12.
- 5.5 The number of disrepair cases has continued to reduce in the second quarter compared to the previous quarter and the previous year. In this quarter, one Housing Act 2004 improvement notice was served and four Environmental Protection Act 1990 notices were served in relation to premises which were prejudicial to health. The reduction in the number of disrepair cases reported is assumed to be as a result of an increase in proactive inspections of properties licensed as part of the Selective Licensing scheme. During this quarter, works were arranged on one property where the owner had failed to comply with a Housing Act Improvement Notice.
- 5.6 Complaints regarding empty properties have also reduced when compared to the same quarter last year and the last quarter. It is likely that the reason for this is the proactive work undertaken in relation to the empty homes strategy, area surveys and section 215s has had a major impact. Six notices were served to require the securing of empty dwellings and seven notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisance associated with empty properties e.g. to remove rubbish from within the property boundaries.
- 5.7 The overall number of service requests relating to nuisances (both occupied and empty) accounted for half of the cases and was comparable with the first quarter of last year and quarter 1.
- 5.8 In addition to the reactive work carried out, the team undertakes proactive work in relation to identifying problematic empty and nuisance properties through area based targetting in a number of areas, including the HMR areas, Burbank Street and the Belle Vue area. In addition, the team participated in the St Pauls Road area Cleansweep Operation and a Community Development drop in event. Officers continue to undertake proactive inspections of the Selective License properties (as detailed in table 3).
- 5.9 From 2007, when mandatory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) was introduced, to 31 March 2012 were 15 premises licensed as HMOs in Hartlepool. These licences remain in force for five years, unless there are circumstances that require a variation or revocation. Five licences became due for renewal during May and four renewal applications have been processed and proposed licences issued. The fifth property is not currently licensable due to the reduction in the number of occupiers.
- 5.10 During this quarter, one property being used as a House in Multiple Occupation was found to be in such a poor condition that a coordinated approach was adopted between Housing Standards, Housing Advice and the Fire Authority. This resulted in the re-housing of the occupiers and the owner voluntarily closing down the property.

## 6. SELECTIVE LICENSING UPDATE

- 6.1 Housing Standards Officers have undertaken intensive work in the Cornwall Street Selective Licensing area in quarter 2 which has included external surveys to identify potential empty properties, identifying those that may require intervention through nuisance enforcement, empty property activity or section 215.
- 6.2 15 properties were inspected this quarter, 12 of which were identified as requiring a schedule of work to the Licence Holder. Attempts were made to inspect a further 26 properties but access was not obtained through contact with the occupiers.
- 6.3 Table 3 summarises the Selective Licensing activities undertaken. 87 properties were licensed in the first two quarters of this year bringing the total number issued to 674 although 9 of these have since been revoked.

**Table 3 – Selective Licensing Activity**

Licensed Properties	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13 Q1+Q2
Total number of properties licensed	44	482	52	87
Licences revoked	0	0	6	3
<b>Gas/Electrical Safety</b>				
Reminder Letters sent for Gas or Electrical safety Certificates		395	673	346
Notice Served for non supply of satisfactory Gas or Electrical Safety Certificate		139	422	155
Final Warning of court proceedings	0	0	0	75
Certificates Supplied following Reminder or Notice sent		257	492	313
<b>Additional Enforcement</b>				
Referred for legal action to commence		N/A	112	67
Called in for office interview and informal caution			12	9
Telephone interview and informal caution			88	54
Conditions complied with following contact			99	61
<b>Housing Standards Inspections</b>				
Inspection of Licensed Property completed	0	86	220	29
Schedule of Works Sent with recommendation for action for Licensed property	0	10	140	13

## **7. GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS**

- 7.1 The Council collects information on unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments. During Quarter 1 2012/13 one unauthorised traveller encampment stayed for 1 day at the rear of Old Customs House. This encampment comprised of five caravans. During Quarter 2 2012/13 one complaint was received about an unauthorised encampment at Tees Bay, however this was unsubstantiated and upon inspection there was no evidence of an encampment, other than some rubbish identified on the access road at the rear of the retail units.

## **8. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT (DFG) BENCHMARKING DATA**

- 8.1 The Council continues to benchmark its service against other Local Authorities in the North East as part of the North East Adaptations Group.
- 8.2 The benchmarking is undertaken by monitoring the overall time taken from first contact (the date a person first approaches social services with a need for help and assistance) to certified date (date that the works are confirmed as completed).
- 8.3 During 2011/12 the Council's overall time taken averaged at 154 days. At the end of Quarter 1 2012/13 the Council completed 24 DFGs which took 139 days, compared to an average completion time of 159 days (average of 9 North East local authorities that provided data) from first contact to certified date. During Quarter 2, 37 DFGs were completed which took 141 days. Limited benchmarking data is available for quarter 2 but it would appear that from this data the Council is continuing to perform well when monitored against the other North East local authorities.
- 8.4 At the end of Quarter 2 there were 78 applicants on the waiting list for a DFG. Applicants continue to wait less than 1 month for a means test visit.

## **9. ALLOCATIONS SUMMARY**

- 9.1 Choice Based Lettings (CBL) activity and performance continues to be monitored on a quarterly basis and compared with our sub regional partners by the Sub Regional CBL Steering Group.
- 9.2 The number of applicants who are 'live' on the system and able to bid (shown in table 4) decreased during 2011-2012 and at the end of the year was 2180 in Hartlepool. At the end of Quarter 1 this number increased to 2340 and has increased again during Quarter 2 to 2399 applicants. During Quarter 1 the number of Housing Hartlepool applicants on the waiting list wanting a transfer (from one Housing Hartlepool property to another) increased from 25% to 29% as a result of the number of current Housing Hartlepool tenants who under-occupy their property and need to move so

that they are not affected by the under occupation charge that will be introduced in April 2013. This figure remains 29% for Quarter 2 (2012-13).

**Table 4 – Total number of ‘live’ applicants (able to bid)**

	Hartlepool	Sub Regional Total
<b>Quarter 4 (2011-12)</b>	2180	16193
<b>Quarter 1 (2012-13)</b>	2340	16615
<b>Quarter 2 (2012-13)</b>	2399	16461

- 9.3 To ensure that applicants in the greatest need are given preference for an allocation of accommodation, levels of housing need are categorised into five bands. The numbers of applicants within each band demonstrates that since the end of Quarter 4 (2011-12) the number of applicants that fall within Band 4 – No or low level housing need – has reduced from approximately 75% of the whole waiting list to 68%. This means that there are an increased percentage of applicants whose level of housing need has put them into a ‘priority’ band (Table 5).

**Table 5 – Total number of ‘live’ applicants (able to bid) within each Band**

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Total
<b>Quarter 4 (2011-12)</b>	145	425	60	1550	2180
<b>Quarter 1 (2012-13)</b>	190	512	54	1585	2340
<b>Quarter 2 (2012-13)</b>	200	497	56	1646	2399

- 9.4 Within Hartlepool, during Quarter 2, the number of decant applicants has increased again. For the purposes of the CBL policy, a decant applicant is defined as one who is losing their home through a recognised regeneration scheme and they are awarded the greatest priority. This number has increased from 14 at the end of Quarter 4 (2011-12) to 47.
- 9.5 Some applicants within the three Priority Bands (1, 2 and 3) may also have cumulative needs (more than one housing need). This figure has increased significantly since 2011-12. Applicants with cumulative need due to a housing need in addition to under occupation have increased from 59 to 77 within Band 2 and 34 to 37 within Band 1 since the first quarter.
- 9.6 Table 6 demonstrates that the majority of lettings continue to go to those on the waiting list rather than to Housing Hartlepool transfer applicants. However, the higher number of lets to transfers reflects the increased number of transfer applicants on the whole waiting list. One of the reasons for this increase is as a result of the number of current Housing Hartlepool tenants who under-occupy their property and need to move so that they are

not affected by the under occupation charge that will be introduced in April 2013.

**Table 6 – Lettings Information for Hartlepool**

	<b>Total no. lets</b>	<b>Direct Lets</b>	<b>Transfers</b>
<b>Quarter 4 (2011-12)</b>	108	2	12 (11%)
<b>Quarter 1 (2012-13)</b>	151	0	22 (15%)
<b>Quarter 2 (2012-13)</b>	137	5	27 (20%)

- 9.7 Within the sub region the number of lets within each Band as shown in table 7, shows that approximately one-third of lettings have gone to applicants within Band 4.

**Table 7 – Percentage lets to each Band (within Hartlepool)**

	<b>Band 1</b>	<b>Band 2</b>	<b>Band 3</b>	<b>Band 4</b>	<b>Decants</b>	<b>Total no. lets</b>
<b>Quarter 4 (2011-12)</b>	33%	25%	9%	33%	4%	108
<b>Quarter 1 (2012-13)</b>	34%	26%	6%	34%		151
<b>Quarter 2 (2012-13)</b>	35%	30%	3%	31%		137

- 9.8 The Sub Regional CBL Policy allows for cross boundary mobility as shown in table 8.

**Table 8 – Cross Boundary Mobility**

	<b>Area applicant moved from:</b>	<b>Area applicant rehoused to:</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Quarter 1</b>	Hartlepool	Stockton	2
	Stockton	Hartlepool	2
<b>Quarter 2</b>	Hartlepool	Stockton	2
	Redcar	Hartlepool	1
	Stockton	Hartlepool	3

- 9.9 The percentage of properties let on 1<sup>st</sup> offer is also monitored across the sub region. During Quarter 1 (2012-13) this percentage decreased from 73% in Quarter 4 (2011-12) to 44%. However it has increased again to 62% during Quarter 2. This will continue to be monitored through regular liaison meetings that take place with Housing Hartlepool.
- 9.10 Information on BME applicants who have been rehoused through the Compass CBL scheme for April to November 2012 is as follows:
- Asian / Asian British Pakistani – 1 applicant from Band 4 rehoused = 0.2% of lettings for the period April to November

- Black / Black British African – 2 applicants rehoused from Band 1 and 1 applicant from Band 2 = 0.7% of lettings for the period April to November

9.11 The current CBL Policy (revised January 2012) has undergone review and consultation took place following a range of measures contained in the Localism Act 2011 and the subsequent Code of Guidance issued by Department of Communities and Local Government in June 2012.

The review of the Tees Valley Common Allocations Policy is centred on the main elements of the guidance:

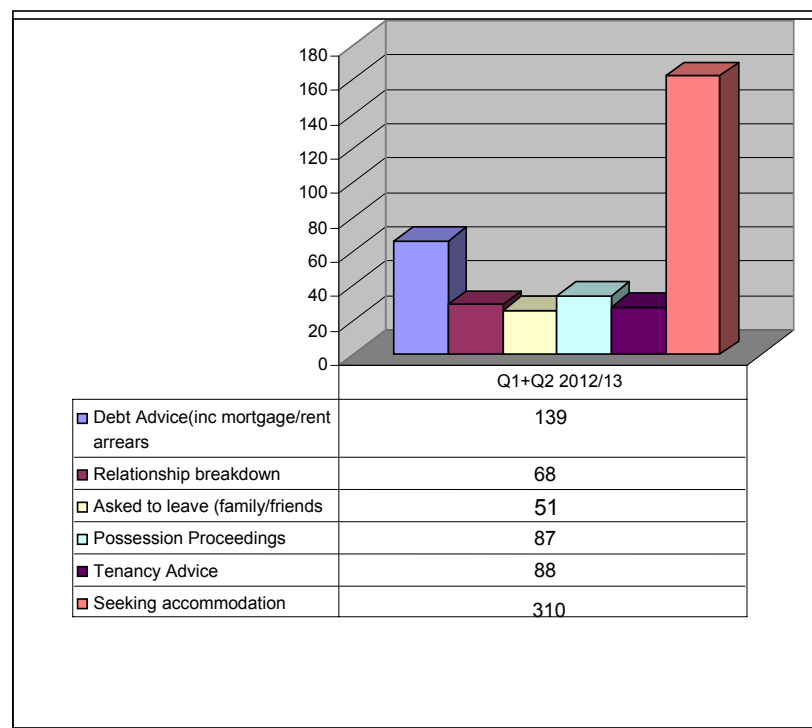
- Eligibility to join the housing register;
- Additional preference for Armed Forces Personnel;
- Adoption of a modern measure of overcrowding and prioritising tenants who are under occupying; and
- Flexibility to award preference to those in paid employment / voluntary workers / prospective adoption or foster parents.

In addition the review has also consider other amendments to the policy that may be required as a result of the impact of welfare reforms.

Consultation on the policy review closed on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and proposals for the new policy were presented to Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.

## **10. HOUSING ADVICE AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION ACTIVITY**

10.1 The Housing Advice and Homelessness service carries out the Council's statutory duties in relation to homelessness and housing advice. During the first two quarters of this year active casework has been carried out for 564 clients needing detailed advice and assistance and homelessness has been prevented for a further 115 households. Two households facing mortgage repossessions were accepted as homeless and in priority need as all options had been exhausted to save their homes. Table 8 provides a breakdown of the enquiry types clients presented with during the first two quarter.

**Table 8 – Breakdown of Housing Advice and Homelessness Prevention Activity during Q1 and Q2 2012/13**

- 10.2 There has been an increase in the number mortgage and debt related advice cases during this year to date and the reduction of housing benefit entitlement for single people under 35 has seen increasing numbers being unable to afford their existing accommodation. Although we have continued to keep homelessness to very low levels to date it is likely that we will see a significant increase over the coming year as further benefit changes begin to take effect.

## 11. HOUSING REPORTS ON FORWARD PLAN

- 11.1 **RN 23/12 HCA Cluster of Empty Homes Funding Outcome.** A key decision report to update Cabinet on the outcome of Hartlepool's bid to the Homes and Communities Agency Cluster of Empty Homes Funding and seek approval for scheme financial arrangements and for project implementation proposals.
- 11.2 Cabinet will consider the proposal for the implementation of a further phase of the Hartlepool Borough Council Empty Property Purchasing scheme, following the announcement of HCA 'Cluster of Empty Homes Funding'. The original scheme was approved by Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012, this included approval to submit a bid for HCA 'Cluster Funding'. If successful the report will propose the implementation of a wider empty homes purchasing scheme. The financial implications and proposals for match funding will be



demonstrated and project delivery and phasing arrangements will also be considered. An update on the Empty Homes Strategy overall will also be presented.

- 11.2 **RN 36/12 Landlord Accreditation** A key decision report to ask members to consider withdrawing the locally operated voluntary Landlord Accreditation scheme and encourage landlords operating within the town to take up membership of one of the independent national Landlord Accreditation schemes.

The Landlord Accreditation scheme was first introduced in 2002 with the aim to share and promote good practice within the private rented sector in Hartlepool whilst also recognising those landlords who manage their properties to a good standard. The local scheme is voluntary and administered solely by the Council and membership is free.

The report will highlight the findings of an internal audit review of the existing scheme which found that this non statutory service would need significant development and investment in order to achieve its intended aims and objectives.

- 11.3 **RN 32/12 Empty Property Purchasing Scheme- Local Authority Flexible Tenancies** A key decision report to adopt Local Authorities for properties let through the Empty Property Purchasing Scheme.

The report will provided details of the proposed tenancy arrangements for properties purchased through the Empty Property Purchasing Scheme. It will propose the introduction of flexible tenancies and provide the background for this proposal and implications.

## 12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 Impact Assessments have been carried out on all housing services strategies that are relevant to this report.

## 13. SECTION 17

- 13.1 Hartlepool Borough Council recognises that Community Safety affects all our lives, people, communities and organisations. The key areas of Housing Services are all developed with the reduction of crime and anti social behaviour in mind.

## 14. RECOMMENDATIONS/ REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 Portfolio Holder to note the contents of the report and the progress made across key areas of the Housing Service for information purposes.

- 14.2 To decide which, if any, other key areas need to be included in future reports, for information purposes.

**15. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

- 15.1 There are no appendices attached to this report.

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 There are no background papers.

**17. CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director (Regeneration & Planning)  
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Telephone: (01429) 523400  
Email: [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

# **REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration

**Subject:** REGIONAL GROWTH FUND ROUND 3

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## **1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

1.1 Non Key.

## **2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 To update Cabinet on the outcome of round 3 of the Regional Growth Fund [RGF].

## **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Coalition Government as part of its attempt to stimulate the economy has introduced a competitive bidding process for RGF which aims to stimulate private sector investment and job creation thereby creating economic growth. The fund is particularly focused on areas that are dependent on public sector jobs and investment.

3.2 The criteria for RGF includes the following key points.

- Grant limit of 15% of eligible project costs for businesses.
- Programme bids that support private sector investment.
- Minimum grant requirement of £1m.
- Eligible projects costs include capital expenditure although some elements of revenue spend can be supported.
- State aid and procurement compliant.
- Additionality – demonstrate market failure / demonstrate that project would not go ahead without RGF.

- Value for money – economic impacts against grant request
- Due diligence – successful applicant pays for due diligence

#### 4. RGF ROUND 3 OUTCOMES

4.1 Hartlepool has supported bids covering the North East and the Tees Valley area and the following programmes have received offers of RGF subject to due diligence.

- **Contract Catalyst** - Advanced Manufacturing Bond Scheme: TVU submitted and has received a conditional RGF offer for an innovative bid to create a recyclable fund to guarantee performance and warranty bonds. TVU research has found that the issue of having to ring-fence performance and warranty bonds is currently limiting growth in the advanced manufacturing sector and existing grant mechanisms do not address the problem, as they only account for capital expenditure.

The Contract Catalyst programme is to unlock the UK's manufacturing base who post recession may be looking to grow and bid on large contracts, but do not have the cash reserves required to set up the required bond facility. At present UK companies are often shortlisted on technical capability; however when looking to enter new international markets, they are deemed higher risk and as such are required to provide higher bonds than pre-existing competitors in the market. This is not a problem for those with a large parent company who can back all tender applications, but for growing SMEs looking to bid on large contracts assistance is required

TVU will create a LEP controlled fund to part guarantee these bonds. From the programme; a company can apply for assistance, and subject to due diligence, the fund will guarantee a percentage of the bond. It is hoped this £10 million programme will create hundreds of jobs over the lifetime of the programme and help to bring in up to £400m of extra work into the Tees Valley.

- **UK Steel Enterprise grant scheme for England** – Successful RGF bid to create a grant fund that will supplement the UKSE existing loan and equity fund. The fund will allow businesses accessing the loan and equity fund to receive up to 35% of funding as a grant, and will cover steel areas across the UK. The RGF bid will be for £1.2 million matched to £2.8m UKSE fund, with potential to draw in a further £8m private sector match. 240 jobs will be created.
- **Let's Grow:** Enterprise Group, UNW and NCJ Media submitted a bid for a capital grants fund which will operate across the North East. The bid has been supported by both northern Leps' and the 12 Local Authorities. The programme has been offered £30million RGF and will subsequently offer grants between £50k - £1million creating approximately 3,600 jobs. The grants will be applied for through quarterly competition, with an independent Panel assessing the applications.

A proportion of the fund will be ring fenced for Tees Valley. The minimum for this will be 25%, with 50% allocated to the North Eastern LEP area and the remaining fund open to businesses from either LEP area.

The fund will be administered and delivered by BE Group. This will involve the creation of 4.5 dedicated members of staff, who will be customer facing and will be responsible for processing applications, managing monitoring and administration.

Each of the 12 Local Authorities across the North East will contribute £6k per year for four years to support the administration of the programme. The administrative costs are commensurate with the work required to administer a multi million pound scheme. The funding of the scheme enables Hartlepool businesses to apply for support.

- **Hartlepool Based Company Grant Offer::** A major inward investment for Hartlepool has been offered around £1.2 m of grant to develop a new advanced manufacturing facility. The project will see around £8m of private sector investment with 120 jobs.

## 5. RISK IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The main risk is that Hartlepool businesses do not engage in the new programmes, to mitigate this risk the programmes will be vigorously promoted and a number of businesses are already expressing interest.

## 6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 To ensure that Hartlepool businesses are able to apply for Let's Grow grants Economic Regeneration will provide £6k pa to fund the administration costs of the scheme, these costs are not eligible for RGF support.

## 7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 All recruitment opportunities for businesses will be supported with bespoke recruitments programmes which will assist local residents into employment. These programmes also incorporate clients from a broad range of backgrounds and specific schemes are designed to support the most disadvantaged.

## 8. GIVE CONSIDERATION TO IMPACT CHILD / FAMILY POVERTY COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 8.1 The successful bids outlined above will help to stimulate economic growth creating new jobs for locals residents directly and within supplier chains.

## 9. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 All new developments will be offered appropriate advice from Cleveland Police to design out crime.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 That the Portfolio Holder notes the report for information.

**12. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

- 12.1 There are no appendices for this report.

**13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 13.1 The Regional Growth Fund guidance and application forms can be accessed at the following web link;

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/RGF>

**14. CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director [Planning and Regeneration]  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY  
Tel; 01429 523400  
Email; [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**REGENERATION & NEIGHBOURHOODS  
PORTFOLIO  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2012**



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

**Subject:** TOWN TEAM PARTNERS

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**1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

1.1 Non Key

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of Hartlepool's successful application to become a Town Team Partner. The report also provides details of the Crowdfunding platform which has recently been launched for Town Team Partners.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 As previously reported to the Portfolio Holder on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012, the Government has announced a range of initiatives to help create prosperous town centres in response to rising town centre vacancy rates, the challenge of out of town shopping centres and changes in the way in which people shop.

3.2 In order to trial some of the recommendations of the Portas Review the Government invited Town Centre Partnerships "Town Teams" to apply to become "Portas Pilots" and receive funding of up to £100k. Hartlepool's application was unfortunately unsuccessful. 27 Portas Pilots were selected nationally from over 400 applications.

3.3 In order to support the towns that were not selected to become Portas Pilots the Government has launched the Town Team Partners initiative. MP's from the remaining bidding teams were invited to support their local Town Teams by applying for them to become Town Team Partners.

#### 4. TOWN TEAM PARTNERS

- 4.1 The MP for Hartlepool worked alongside the Council to submit a successful application for Hartlepool to become a Town Team Partner. 326 Town Teams have now signed up to become Town Team Partners and will benefit from a package of support from the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM). The support aims to promote shared learning and best practice with the help of retail experts and other Town Teams from across the country. In addition each Town Team, including Hartlepool will receive £10k to help towards putting some of their plans into action.
- 4.2 Each Town Team Partner will have access to:
- Help to get started and become established in their town centre.
  - An advice line and a network of advisers managed by the Association of Town Centre Management. The Special Advisors will be experts in the fields of partnership development, place making, marketing, events and Business Improvement Districts (BID's).
  - Special national events to learn from other Town Teams, and secure support from industry experts and trade bodies.
  - An online "Knowledge Bank" with expert advice and support. The Knowledge Bank will consist of key research publications and reports which Town Teams can use to inform their activities. This will include essential reading material on all town centre issues, from partnership development to reducing crime to establish the first point of call for all Town Team Partners.
  - Regular meetings with other Town Teams to share tips and ideas.
- 4.3 The ATCM is a not-for-profit organisation concerned with the creation, development and management of vital and viable town and city centres. The ATCM's ambition is to secure momentum and create a community-led movement that is sustainable and to develop town centres and high streets of the future that offer a balanced mix of amenities that meet the needs of local people.
- 4.4 The £10k Town Team Partners funding will be allocated to the specialist markets and events project that is currently being developed in the town centre, in line with the application. The specialist markets and events project will be designed to act as a catalyst to encourage greater use of the town centre and to help diversify its offer. The project will be primarily funded through the High Street Innovation Fund. The management arrangements and detail of the individual events and specialist markets are currently being examined. A more detailed report will be presented to the Portfolio Holder following the completion of further project development work.



## **5. CROWDFUNDING**

- 5.1 A Crowdfunding platform has recently been launched for Town Team Partners. Crowd funding is where lots of people pay for one project through a single medium. Crowdfunding, as advocated by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is a way to raise investment and finance by tapping into a “crowd” of like-minded people willing to invest small amounts of cash in exchange for rewards or simply to support their community. Crowd funding allows even small investments by individuals into projects.
- 5.2 According to the ACTM around 85% of people feel that the quality of public spaces around them has a direct impact on their lives and on the way they feel. The Government believes that by allowing communities, local businesses and corporate partners to invest in projects will unlock new funding sources.
- 5.3 Crowdfunding can fund any project that the community can freely access. Projects could include new green spaces, improvements to the high street, a new facility such as a pop-up shop, free Wi-fi, a series of events, or top-up funding for a capital project.
- 5.4 In the US, crowd-funding platforms like the creative projects website “Kickstarter” have demonstrated the public’s willingness to contribute to projects they want to see succeed. The ATCM reports that 26,521 projects worth \$241M have been successfully funded through the platform.

## **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RISK:**

- 6.1 £10k has been awarded to Hartlepool through the Town Team Partners initiative. The funding will contribute towards the specialist markets and events project that is being developed for the town centre, in line with the application to become a Town Team Partner. A more detailed report will be presented to the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder for approval following further project development work.
- 6.2 This report is for information only therefore there are no risks to the Council.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

## **8. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no Section 17 Implications.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 The Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- Note the contents of the report and the £10k awarded to Hartlepool through the Town Team Partners initiative.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Town Team Partners Link:  
<http://www.atcm.org/mfiles/files/1127-Prospectus2.pdf>
- ATCM Manifesto for Town Centre and High Streets Link:  
<http://ebooks.atcm.org/manifesto/index.html>
- High Street Crowd Funding Prospectus Links:  
<http://www.atcm.org/mfiles/files/1124-CrowdfundingProspectus.pdf>  
<https://spacehive.com/initiatives/towncentres>

## **11. APPENDICES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, IN THE MEMBERS LIBRARY AND ON-LINE**

11.1 There are no appendices with this report.

## **12. CONTACT OFFICER**

Damien Wilson  
Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)  
Level 3  
Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400  
E-mail: [damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)