

Hartlepool Board
Friday 7 November 2025 at 9.00am

Meeting Notes




Attendees – Board Members:

Jade Bromby – The Wharton Trust
Iain Caldwell – Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership
Christiane Celestine - Diversity Network
Maxine Craig – The Wharton Trust
Phil Douglas - Curious Arts
Christine Eddowes – Interfaith Representative
Scott Gaiety – Headland Parish Council
Darren Hankey – Hartlepool College of Further Education
Haani Hasnain – Harmonised World
Karen Hawkins – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Oliver Huermann – Member of Youth Parliament
Carl Jorgeson – Hartlepool Sport
Cllr Karen Oliver - Hartlepool Borough Council
David Preston – Cleveland Fire Brigade
Martin Raby – The Northern School of Art
Juli Simons - Hartlepool Community Trust
Malcolm Walker – Chair of the Hartlepool Board
Kathryn Whittle – Thirteen Housing
Helen Wilson – Cleveland Police

Other Attendees:


Scott Campbell – Hartlepool Borough Council
Gemma Ptak - Hartlepool Borough Council
Rebecca Rees – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Thomas Speed – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Lisa West – Hartlepool Borough Council

1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies MW welcomed everyone, introducing Jade Bromby and Maxine Craig, as representatives on behalf Wharton Trust. MW also introduced Thomas Speed and his colleague Rebecca from MHCLG. TS gave a brief introduction, outlining the high profile nature of Pride in Place within the Government. He was happy to be here today, would answer any questions, and was looking forward to seeing the submission plans soon for Hartlepool. Apologies were received from Neil Atkinson, Jonathan Brash MP, Cllr Pamela Hargreaves, Cllr Brenda Harrison, Denise McGuckin, Sue Sharpe, Matt Storey, and Mark Tilling.	Documents
2.	Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest were declared.	


<p>3.</p>	<p>Minutes and Actions from the Last Board Meeting</p> <p>It was noted that David Preston was missed from the list of attendees, and this would be amended for the published minutes.</p> <p>CJ noted that he shared some sports mapping that Hartlepool Sports had recently carried out and asked about the mapping of youth work provision discussed at the last Board. SC confirmed that the youth work mapping has recently been collated by the Hartlepool Youth Service and has been uploaded to the Google Drive.</p>	<div data-bbox="1251 188 1302 250"></div> <p>HB Meeting Notes - 03.10.25.pdf</p> <div data-bbox="1244 362 1308 421"></div> <p>Hartlepool Board Action Log.xlsx</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Items for Pride in Place:</p> <p>Presentation on Draft Content for the 10-Year Regeneration Plan</p> <p>SC presented the draft Hartlepool 10-Year Regeneration Plan. He highlighted all of the elements within the document with section 1 focused on the local context and section 2 covering spatial targeting. There will maps added to this section covering the boundary area and another on need using the Mission Critical Areas and 2025 Indices of Deprivation. Section 3 focuses on the vision which focuses on real and positive change and has been developed through the Board Development Sessions. Section 4 is the case for change, which has been led by Layer Studio. It is proposed that, for the first investment period, the prioritised themes will be the four identified by communities - Safety & Security, Health & Wellbeing, Cohesion, and High Streets & Regeneration alongside the foundation theme of Housing.</p> <p>Section 5 is the alignment with other programmes and SC commented that there is a need to involve other funding streams locally, regionally, and nationally. Section 6 covers match funding and leveraging additional investment which is a focus of the Board. He stated that there is a need to have key statutory organisations around the board, to maximise the impact of the funding for Hartlepool. Section 7 focuses on community engagement using the insights from HOP and then the ongoing community involvement. The final two sections are governance and assurance which covers the oversight of the Pride in Place Programme.</p> <p>GP discussed transport as this was selected as a priority by a number of residents but is not in the proposed themes for the first investment period. She outlined that conversations have recently been held with Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) who oversee most of the investment around transport and it could be that transport becomes a foundational theme in the future. KO added that the transport user group has raised concerns over the number</p>	<div data-bbox="1244 667 1302 730"></div> <p>Draft Regeneration Plan.docx</p>

<p>12 bus service and added that money is also coming in around cycling connectivity for Hartlepool.</p> <p>MW added that the low number of choices for education as a priority theme could indicate that people are happy with the educational system in the town, or that people are unsure about what actions could be carried out to make improvements.</p> <p>MC said that we need to be cautious as although there have been nearly 1,500 responses this might not be indicative of the town's entire population of 98,000. DP commented that Cleveland Fire Brigade are in the middle of a 12-week consultation period and have only had 1,200 responses across four local authority areas. He therefore views these numbers to be a significant achievement and the priorities that have emerged have resonated with him.</p> <p>CJ commented that what the money is spent on is almost secondary, to how the work is done. MR wondered if the crime statistics are slightly skewed, as there can be variation depending on the type of crime.</p> <p>DH commented on some tweaks to the figures within a few sections - there are now 2,108 businesses, the Level 4 attainment rates have increased and at the bottom of page 15, the bullet points look like they contradict each other. DH added that on page 17, the specific school does not need to be named and there is further data on further education.</p> <p>ACTION: If any board members have any statistics or data that might be relevant for inclusion in the plan then if these can be sent by the end of next week to SC.</p> <p>DH added that there continues to be a need for more focus on education as a priority theme. CC also commented on the importance of education as it links to the other four highest voted investment themes. GP said that she is aware that there are other funding streams which need to be considered but there is the option for education to be added as a foundational theme alongside Housing.</p> <p>HH asked TS if our priorities are similar to other areas of the country. TS said that he was unable to comment too specifically but said that there are some common themes as areas have been selected from the same data set so there are some correlations. TS said that the engagement work that has been done in Hartlepool is really positive. He added that the priorities are flexible so these can be changed if needed throughout deliver by the Board.</p> <p>SC highlighted the timeline, and the final designed draft will be shared with everyone for feedback W/C 17 November. All</p>	
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<p>4.2</p>	<p>board members will also be invited to a short Microsoft Teams meeting on Thursday 20 November, so they can provide any comments on the Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>Overview of 4-Year Investment Plan including Proposed Funding Forecast</p> <p>SC presented on the Investment Plan for the first 4-year investment period, from 2026 – 2030. He highlighted the revenue and capital funding for each year which will be provided by MHCLG. SC then shared the proposed funding forecast, which was based on the percentage of votes for each theme from the community engagement. MHCLG have also confirmed the forecast can be changed at any point throughout delivery. There is also an ask for 7.5% management costs to support the oversight requirements and coordination of the Pride in Place Programme. He also shared the proposed interventions which followed the workshop with the Regeneration Plan Subgroup. It is important to note that the focus is on interventions and themes, rather than specific projects for the Investment Plan.</p> <p>MC said that she had attended the first meeting at Downing Street under the previous Government when it was Long Term Plan for Towns, where it was mentioned that delivery should be supported by community organisations.</p> <p>MR queried the funding forecast and asked if this was fluid to meet local needs. MW commented that it is flexible and is only a point in time. KH said that the board priorities will change as, for example, on the health theme, there are new strategies on neighbourhood health. KH suggested having an annual refresh of the Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>TS commented that the figures vary slightly throughout the years, and that an annual refresh could be a good idea. He confirmed MHCLG are trying not to be burdensome with flexibility for the Board to make changes to forecasts, themes, and interventions for the Pride in Place Programme.</p> <p>CJ commented that work his organisation have been involved in over the summer, touched on four out of five of the main priorities of the programme.</p> <p>IC added that the document will keep changing, and the figures can never show all of the many conversations that have taken place. KO said that, as Committee Chair, she is aware that this data and insight is being fed in from lots of different sources. Excellent work has been done, and KO is happy with the documents presented to Board.</p> <p>HW said that she has data from people who have been victims of crime which may be helpful and added that</p>	<div data-bbox="1244 407 1295 470" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Investment Plan.pdf</p>
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	<p>following previous discussions she sees education as key in tackling systemic change. CJ said that the top four priorities have education embedded into them, which highlights the foundational nature of Education & Opportunity.</p> <p>GP asked if Education & Opportunity should be added a foundational theme for the programme. A vote was facilitated by MW, and this was approved unanimously by the Board.</p> <p>MW then facilitated two formal votes with the first on Item 4.1 which was approval in-principle for the 10-Year Regeneration Plan subject to the final designed draft being shared for feedback later this month before submission to Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those for: JB, IC, CC, PD, CE, SG, DH, HH, KH, OH, CJ, KO, DP, MR, JS, MW, KW and HW • Those against: None. • Those abstaining: None <p>MW confirmed that the vote has been unanimously approved by the Hartlepool Board.</p> <p>The second vote was on 4.2 which was approval in-principle for the 4-Year Investment Plan including the funding forecast, interventions and themes which will include Education & Opportunity as a foundational theme alongside Housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those for: JB, IC, CC, PD, CE, SG, DH, HH, KH, OH, CJ, KO, DP, MR, JS, MW, KW and HW • Those against: None. • Those abstaining: None <p>MW confirmed that this vote has also been unanimously approved by the Hartlepool Board.</p>	
4.3	<p>Progress Update on £1.5m Pride in Place Impact Fund</p> <p>GP outlined that there is a £750,000 impact fund to be spent before the end of March 2026. This is all capital funding, and she is currently progressing with this, which also requires engagement with the local MP.</p> <p>GP confirmed that a further comprehensive update on the Pride in Place Impact Fund will be shared at the next meeting of the Board.</p>	
4.4	<p>Plan for Neighbourhoods Update</p> <p>Dashboard and Risk Register</p> <p>The dashboard and risk register have been circulated to the Board and are in the Google Drive. Key risks will be</p>	 <p>Pride in Place Dashboard.xlsx</p>

	<p>highlighted within each meeting going forward to raise awareness with the Board.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Forums</p> <p>IC outlined that HOP are working on the proposals for Neighbourhood Forums which will continue conversations following the engagement over the Summer. IC would like this to be through the principles of co-design with the community involved throughout. It will also support with the development and delivery of projects through Pride in Place.</p> <p>JS added that she hopes for a snowball effect with this and they want to be able to feedback on what is happening through a 'you said, we did.' GP stated that this leads to the next agenda item on Pride in Place Action Weeks.</p> <p>Pride in Place Action Weeks</p> <p>GP stated that the Council have launched Pride in Place Action Weeks. These weeks brings together resources from across the Council and key stakeholders onto a ward with the first being held this week in Manor House. There will be further information shared and if board members would like to be involved then they can speak to either GP or SC.</p> <p>Common Ground Resilience Funding</p> <p>GP said that Common Ground Resilience Funding of £25,000 has been given to the Council for the period to March 2026. This is focused on building social capital and was mentioned in the Pride in Placed Strategy.</p> <p>ACTION: GP asked for HOP to come back to Board with a proposal on how this funding should be spent for Hartlepool.</p> <p>GP highlighted that there is also a separate national funding pot for VCSEs which can provide up to £10,000 in capital funding. This is being promoted through HOP and HCT with applications open until 21 November 2025.</p> <p>Next Steps for Submission</p> <p>The next steps for submission were already covered within the other agenda items.</p>	
4.5	<p>Update on Commissioned Work, by exception:</p> <p>Local Infrastructure Organisation – HOP</p> <p>IC added that a member of staff has been recruited to HOP for the role of Community Development Lead and will start in mid-November. IC added that a lot of work has been done</p>	

	<p>by HOP and others, and an event is being planned for Tuesday 2 December 2025.</p> <p>Board Development – Belong</p> <p>The next Board Development Session will be on Wednesday 12 November at 4pm in the Civic Centre.</p> <p>Place Brand Narrative – CT Consults</p> <p>GP stated that CT Consults have just shared their final report on the Place Brand as a draft to GP. This will be reviewed before being brought to a future meeting of the Board.</p>	
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>Other Items for the Hartlepool Board:</p> <p>Update on Hartlepool Creative and Cultural Partnership</p> <p>PD delivered a presentation on the work of the Hartlepool Creative and Cultural Partnership. He introduced himself and that he runs Curious Arts alongside freelance work including being a coach, and a trustee. Curious Arts is a LGBTQIA+ charity, based in Hartlepool. They have been working from the Borough Hall for the past year and a half. There is synergy between their work, the priorities of the board and what has emerged from the engagement work by HOP. PD has a lot of experience in the town, including two years of Hartlepool Pride, which had been supported by a number of organisations here today. The pop-up event was in 2024, and it is now a full event for Hartlepool. He stressed the importance of culture and noted that there is a disproportionate reliance on the Council for buildings, etc. but progress can be made; there are lots of dance schools, and artists alongside the Northern School of Art. The town has fantastic heritage such as the Heugh Battery.</p> <p>PD went on to say that there is a creative and cultural partnership, which meets every two months, but the town needs a Cultural Strategy, and he would like to work with key partners on this including the Colleges.</p> <p>PD shared exciting news on 'Rock Pools.' This is a new cultural project launching in April 2026. It is a three-year programme, funded by Arts Council England and led by The Northern School of Art, which will provide creative and cultural activities co-designed with local residents across the town. Each of Hartlepool's wards is considered a "rock pool," reflecting the unique character and stories of the people who live there. The town was eligible as people in the town do not participate as much in arts as the national average. Also involved are Thrive, Thirteen, Hartlepool Sport, and a number of other organisations.</p>	 <p>Curious about Culture in Hartlepool.</p>

	<p>MR added that each ward will receive its own project, called 'small ships,' and a structure is being put in place to support delivery of the project. Lumiere in Durham has been cancelled, and the Hardwick Festival is taking a break for a year, so it is positive that this project has started in Hartlepool, and there is a sense of excitement about 'Rock Pools.'</p> <p>PD then presented a vision around how arts can work within communities to improve streets and shared an images of where this had worked in other areas. He is interested in working with TVCA, HBC, and Housing Providers to find a house to test this proposal on using arts for a place-based housing model within Hartlepool.</p> <p>PD asked people to come along to the Hartlepool Creative and Cultural Partnership.</p> <p>KO added that a location in Murray Street would be great, and she would like to speak to PD outside of the meeting about this. MW said that this reminded him of a project in Toxteth, Liverpool, in which derelict terraced housing was used as art spaces. PD said that Bloomin' Arts are looking for a base and promoted their upcoming Wintertide Festival in November. CJ added that this presentation complements the Pride in Place and SG highlighted the importance of talking to each other, as he is based near the Borough Hall and was unaware of Curious Arts.</p>	
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>	
7.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 5 December 2025 from 9am to 10.30am. This will be hosted at Hartlepool College of Further Education.</p>	