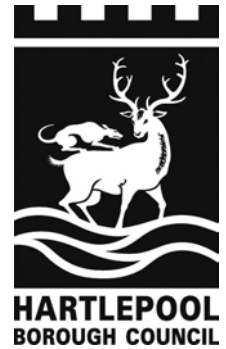


REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



13 December 2012

at 3.00 pm

in Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Ainslie, Cranney, Dawkins, Hall, Payne and Wells.

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM (INVITED FOR AGENDA ITEM 7.1)

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

Co-opted Members: Sacha Paul Bedding and Michael Lee

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2012.
- 3.2 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2012.

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

No items



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

No items

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

- 6.1 The Plans and Strategies which together comprise the Development Plan - Trees and Development Guidelines SPD – *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of Employment

- 7.1 Service Provision and Effective Intervention
- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
 - (b) Presentation – *Representatives from the Council's Economic Regeneration Team; Local Schools and Colleges; and the Wharton Trust*

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

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

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

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Date of Next Meeting 17 January 2013, commencing at 3.00pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool



REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

11 OCTOBER 2012

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Ged Hall (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Kevin Cranney and Robbie Payne.

Also Present: Councillor Paul Beck.

Iain Wright MP
Kaye Rideout and Callum McPherson, Advanta
Lucy Fox, Triage Central
Paul Smissen, Ingeus

Officers: Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning
Antony Steinberg, Economic Regeneration Manager
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

22. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith Dawkins.

23. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

24. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2012

Confirmed.

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

No items.

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

No items.

27. Quarterly Housing Services Report *(Assistant Director (Regeneration & Planning))*

The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning gave the forum a detailed update on the progress across key areas of the Housing Service relating to empty homes, enforcement activity, Selective Licensing, Disabled Facilities Grants, housing allocations and housing advice and homelessness prevention during the first quarter of 2012/12.

The Assistant Director specifically highlighted the implementation of the Empty Property Purchase Scheme as approved by Cabinet in March 2012. An application was submitted to the HCA Clusters of Empty Homes Fund with the intention of furthering this scheme. The Council was successful in securing this funding and secured £2.6 million from the HCA to be match funded by the Council. The scheme will result in the acquisition of 100 empty homes over 2 years. Refurbishment works will be completed by Facilities Management and Housing Hartlepool will manage the properties into the future. The properties will be let at an affordable rent. Within Quarter 1 of 2012/13, 5 properties had been acquired through this scheme and refurbishment works on these properties commenced in September 2012.

The Assistant Director also indicated that enforcement action was much more proactive, targeted at empty and untidy buildings, but also statutory checks that were required, such as gas safety and electrical certificates. This was being enforced rigorously with the landlords of 53 properties being pursued to ensure compliance in the first quarter.

The Chair questioned the extension of the selective licensing areas, particularly in relation to the consultation that was undertaken, as it was clear from the new regulations that local authorities needed to ensure the process had been completed properly to ensure that a designation would not be open to legal challenge. The Assistant Director commented that during the recent reorganisation of Housing Services, one of the checks undertaken was to ensure that the current designation was legally compliant. The process to extend the designation to other areas would need to be based on evidence that the current designation had proved successful for any proposed extension to be recommended for approval. This was one of the reasons behind the decision not to extend the designated area 18 months ago.

The Assistant Director commented that selective licensing could not be hailed as the solution to all the social ills. Neighbourhood Policing had had an impact that residents were also noting. Feedback from residents was encouraging as they recognised that the work was having an effect. Collating

a comprehensive evidence base to show that the scheme had worked would back up any proposed extension.

There was concern in the meeting at the potential effects that could be experienced through the changes to benefits from next April were also discussed. There was an expectation that the numbers of people, particularly young people coming forward for advice could increase significantly.

The potential of bringing the Housing Services Team back into the Civic Centre was raised by Members. It was acknowledged that having a single point of contact with benefits advice could be beneficial but there were issues related to the lease of the current premises that needed to be considered. Members raised a couple of specific cases with the Assistant Director which he indicated that he would follow up outside of the forum.

The Chair in concluding the debate commented that there would be some severe pressures placed on elected Members in the forthcoming months through the changes to the benefits system.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

28. Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of Employment - Evidence from the Town's MP *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

Iain Wright, Member of Parliament for Hartlepool was in attendance at the meeting and addressed the Forum on the issues of employment and under-employment. The MP commented that one of the main issues for Hartlepool was the size of its economy which was significantly smaller than the North east and UK averages, as was economic activity. Youth unemployment rates were significantly high with many young people caught in the 'Catch 22' of not being able to get a job because of a lack of experience and not being able to get experience because they can't get a job.

The MP indicated that long-term unemployment was also a major issue and the town also had a disproportionate reliance on large employers such as the Council and the NHS. There was, however, huge potential in the town and the new 'old' large-scale engineering industries, such as green energy had the means to change the future for employment in the town.

The MP did feel that there needed to be much work done in encouraging the growth of small businesses in the town. The MP suggested that schemes as diverse as entrepreneurs going into primary and secondary schools and free or low cost start up units needed to be considered by the Council. The Council had a first class economic development team which the MP considered should be protected in the forthcoming budget cuts. As shadow Business Minister, Iain Wright considered that the advice and resources available to new businesses in particular were very disparate and a 'one-stop shop' approach should be considered as a way forward.

The MP also expressed his views against the government's programmes to move people of benefits and indicated that a large proportion of his workload was centred around benefit issues. The MP commented on the development of voluntary sector service providers and also social enterprises and mutuals which he considered to be a positive part of 'the big society'. He did not fully endorse though, the social enterprise operated by the Fire Brigade.

The Chair commented that all the scrutiny investigations this year were linked by the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) and Members were looking at the inter-connectivity of services with a view to avoiding working in 'silos'. Health and employment were two issues that were closely linked; people simply tended to feel better if they were in permanent employment. The MP did comment that he had looked at the JSNA documents on-line and was disappointed that these pages had not been updated and were bereft of any statistical evidence that would support the recognised importance of employment in helping improve health inequalities.

Members drew the MP's opinion on social enterprise and women in enterprise. The MP indicated that the voluntary sector had a vital part to play in delivering support and they were often the groups on the ground close to those in need and also trusted by those people. In essence you do get more 'bang for your buck' with the voluntary sector.

In relation to women involved in enterprise, the MP indicated that the statistics revealed more women were starting up businesses than men, though there was no explanation as to why. With modern technology and only a small amount of assistance women appeared to be able to develop small businesses quite quickly and profitably. There was still an expectation that businesses must always succeed first time, unlike the American approach. Too many considered that a business failure was a reason to stop rather than part of a learning curve towards success.

The meeting briefly discussed the possible measures that may have to be taken by a future government and also the problems surrounding banks and lending to companies. Issues around education and training for the long-term benefit of the economy were discussed with Members expressing concern at the lack of vocational skills training and the over-reliance on a university education. The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning commented on the banking issues indicating that he was aware of good businesses being adversely affected by decisions made within banks hierarchy.

Members questioned how many businesses were being adversely affected by big companies deliberately paying bills late and damaging smaller businesses cash flow. It was noted that the Council had a policy of paying all its bills within seven days to ease just this problem. The MP commented that it could be the measure of a good business how it dealt with its suppliers and if paid its bills on time.

The representative from Avanta commented that they had assisted the start

up of nine small businesses last month. They would look to, with the Council's support, going into schools to assist in the preparation of young people for the world of work. In relation to women in business, Avanta had noted that there were many advantages for women starting their own business as it was much easier to work around child care arrangements for example.

The Chair thanked the Member of Parliament and all those that had contributed to an interesting debate.

Recommended

That comments raised during the debate be noted.

29. Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Work Programme - Update on Progress *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Chair welcomed the representatives from Avanta, Triage Central and Ingeus to the meeting. The Scrutiny Support Officer reported that in Hartlepool the Prime Contractors for the DWP Work Programme were Avanta Enterprise Ltd and Ingeus UK Ltd, with the local subcontractor being Triage Central Ltd, whose role it was to "support, training, work preparation and job opportunities" and "to help people in receipt of benefits progress back and into work."

The representative from Avanta added to the DWP definition indicating that as well as supporting people back into work, they were also tasked with supporting them for the first two full years at work as well. The contract was not about simple numbers of people through a door; there were set parameters for Avanta to meet. Services were tailored to the individual and if specialised services were needed, then they would be brought in. The aim was to provide as many people as possible with sustained employment.

The representative from Ingeus indicated that the company had a contract with the DWP to provide services in Tyne and Wear and provided services in Hartlepool through its sub contractor Triage Central. In a similar fashion to Avanta it was indicated that services to the unemployed were very much tailored to the individual and most definitely not a one size fits all approach.

A Member expressed the view that there had been excellent services provided by the voluntary sector prior to the new DWP contracts. Local groups has supported the Avanta bid for the contract but had not received any sub contract work despite having over twenty years experience of providing similar services to their local communities. The Avanta representative commented that they had looked to work with local groups but none submitted any expressions of interest through their website. The prime providers indicated that they were happy to widen their supplier base and work with local groups and questioned how that could be best achieved. It was suggested that the local authority should play a role in seeking to support such arrangements.

Members questioned the ongoing support provided by the prime providers to those who did find employment. The provider companies indicated that they

supported people for up to the first two years of their employment to ensure they fully transitioned from unemployment into work. Members commented that they understood that people could be offered employment up to 90 minutes travel away from where they lived and questioned how they would support people in such situations where they could see a sizeable proportion of their take home pay being taken up by travelling expenses.

The representative from Ingeus indicated that support was given to those with travel issues through, for example, liaising with community transport providers or even as far as helping people move to a closer community. People had, through their work, gained work in Redcar and had moved from Newcastle to facilitate that employment.

The Employment Development Officer commented that there were around 180 young people currently unemployed over five years. Work was ongoing with schools and colleges in the town to target potential groups that may become NEET (not in education, employment or training). There was the issue of almost competing with each other when approaching employers in the town seeking potential employment or training opportunities. A more coordinated approach may assist all involved in seeking employment for the unemployed. Members supported the comments and indicated such an approach may protect those seeking employment from the more unscrupulous employers that simply took 'supported' trainee after trainee.

The Chair indicated his support for the local authority and the prime providers working in a more collaborative approach as all were seeking the same outcomes. The structure did, however, to an outsider look somewhat confusing with prime providers and sub contractors. The representative from Ingeus commented that he did feel there was some scope for working together and acknowledged that there may be some scepticism surrounding the contracts. The providers were simply trying to prepare people as best they could for employment for employers with vacancies and then ensuring that employment didn't collapse in the first two years for the lack of simple support. All the prime providers indicated that they would welcome Members visiting to observe the work that they undertook.

It was highlighted that the people that came to the providers had already been through the job centre system and had been unemployed for 12 months. There was no cherry-picking of clients, they providers had to seek employment for all that came to them. All the prime provider representatives offered an open invitation to the forum to come to see the work they undertook with the long term unemployed. The representatives indicated that they were open to being held to account for the work they undertook. The government already expected that 45% of all those referred to them would not gain full-time employment; their aim was to prove that expectation wrong.

When questioned on the specifics of their contracts, the representatives indicated that the value of their contracts were specified on their websites but did not share that information with the meeting. They did, however, indicate that a first data release was imminent on the service provided to date.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting and sharing their views with the forum and hoped that they would look to further collaborative work with the council as discussed.

Recommended

That the report and the discussions be noted.

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

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted details of the key decisions contained within the Executive's Forward Plan (October 2012 – January 2013) relating to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum. Members commented that while not wishing to see a formal report in relation to the Innovation Fund, they did wish to receive an update circulated to them prior to the next meeting.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.20 p.m.

CHAIR

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES

8 November 2012

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Ged Hall (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie and Kevin Cranney

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: The Mayor Stuart Drummond

31. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Keith Dawkins, Robbie Payne and Ray Wells.

32. Declarations of interest by Members

None

33. Inquorate meeting

It was noted that the meeting was inquorate. However members felt it would be acceptable to continue as no decisions were being taken.

34. The Mayor Stuart Drummond

The Mayor Stuart Drummond made brief comments on the budget proposals members were being asked to consider. He advised that Cabinet had consulted with the business sector and Trade Unions and both had been generally supportive of the proposals. However Government cuts meant that there was little choice but to make large scale cuts, some of which would inevitably affect frontline services. He felt that the Council was in a strong position in terms of future budget planning and welcomed feedback from all members in order to ensure a smoother process than the previous year.

The Chair noted that based on previous performance the public would expect reserves to be utilised to minimise the effect as had happened previously but this would no longer be possible. He also indicated that the MP Ian Wright had commented that it would be short sighted to cut funding for economic regeneration. The Mayor noted this but advised that the level of cuts needed meant that no elements could be considered sacrosanct. The Council had previously had great success utilising Government schemes providing funding however no such schemes had come out of Government in recent years.

The Chair thanked the Mayor for attending the meeting and for his comments.

35. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2012

Noted due to the meeting being inquorate.

The Chair requested an update on the Innovation Fund. The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) advised that the contract had been awarded but the successful bidder had not yet been revealed although it was very unlikely to be Hartlepool Borough Council. Whoever it was officers would engage with them to ensure a favourable outcome for the Council.

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

No items

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

No items

38. Regeneration and Planning Services: Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2013/14 to 2016/17 – Initial Consultation Proposals (*Scrutiny Support Officer*)

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

The Assistant Directors for Neighbourhood Services and Regeneration & Planning gave a presentation outlining Regeneration and Planning budget proposals for 2013/14. £429,000 worth of savings had been identified as follows:

- Logistics - £80,000 through use of surplus and additional income
- Building Design and Management - £54,000, including a reduction of hours for the Legionella team)
- Support Services - £40,000, including a reduction of hours for Service Development staff
- Property Management - £30,000 through energy savings
- Procurement - £24,000 through non-replacement of an outgoing staff member and development of existing staff
- Planning Services - £57,000 through departmental restructure
- Public Protection - £42,000 through income generation, reconfiguration of service and a block on the Career Development Scheme (as proposed by staff)
- Housing Services - £48,000 through reconfiguration of the management structure
- Economic Regeneration - £49,000 through reconfiguration of the management structure and a reduction in marketing
- Building Control - £5,000 through income generation

While every effort had been made to protect services and jobs there would inevitably be some impact with 7 redundancies expected, 5 of which could be compulsory. Efficiencies through better ways of working, staff development and energy saving were being sought and attempts made to maximise income generation.

The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) referred to an additional budget pressure of £24,000 for shopping centre income inflation which was not connected to parking charges. The Chair commented that it was often thought that cutting parking fees would lead to an increase in footfall at the Shopping Centre but to do so would be a massive risk as such income was an essential part of an organisation's budget. The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) confirmed that contrary to popular belief free parking on its own would not lead to an increase in visitors to the shopping centre as people would only come if the retail outlets were of the required standard. Any retail strategy needed to be based on short, medium and long term goals with the short term based on promotion of the existing status quo and the medium and long term looking at planning for future provision. Attempts had been made to lure big names such as Debenhams and John Lewis to Hartlepool but there was not the retail core spending power here to sustain them.

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) advised members that £55,000 of LPSA funding would cease from March 2013. These monies were used to help support victims of domestic violence and if members wished to

retain these services this pressure would need to be considered as part of the budget process. This would be the case for at least the next 3 years time after which time current plans were for the responsibility for Domestic Violence would transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) advised that victim support was a priority of the candidates for the post so it was hoped that the Council could work with the police in this area. Following the Forum's recent investigation into Male Victims of Domestic Abuse, Members were very supportive of seeking funding for this particular pressure.

A member queried how savings could be made from energy consumption when energy companies were constantly increasing their prices. Officers advised that savings had already been made by switching lights and other appliances off and utilising screen savers. Consideration was also being given to a possible energy switchover with consultation taking place on this issue. Members referred to a rebate given to NEPO, the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) indicated that part of this rebate was passed on to the Council and used to fund officers within the Procurement section.

A member queried how successful the Planning One Stop Shop had been in terms of income generation. The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) reported an income of approximately £10,000 from this service during the previous year. However they could not be sure if this was sustainable in the long term and it was better to aim low and exceed targets than aim high and fail to reach them.

The Chair raised concerns that staff reductions and redeployment might lead to an increase in pressure on remaining staff as well as the risk to frontline services. The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) referred to the Peer Review which had praised Council employees and low sickness rates at the moment. It was hoped that through voluntary redundancies, early retirement and subsequent retraining for redeployment the effects of compulsory redundancy could be mitigated.

The Chair was also concerned that Public Protection's targets be achieved in order to maintain confidence in the system. The Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) confirmed that in previous years targets had not been achieved, primarily due to the Tall Ships event and other unplanned incidents and there were concerns that the same could happen this year.

The Chair asked whether Selective Licensing funding could be used for other housing areas as another source of income. Officers advised that selective licensing funding was ring fenced. As this funding was being reduced consideration was being given to a review of targets as it would not be fair to put reduced resources to the same pressure.

A member asked what impact voluntary redundancy requests had on individual departments and how best this could be mitigated. The officers indicated that the budget proposals being considered by members were the result of many months of consideration. The possible implications of

everything had been assessed and no wild assumptions had been made. Every effort was made to accommodate requests for voluntary redundancy but where there would be an impact on services such requests had been refused in the past.

Members present expressed their support for the proposals. Given that the meeting was inquorate however the Chair requested that those members of the Forum who were not present be contacted for their comments prior to submission to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

Recommended

- (i) As part of the Budget and Policy Framework initial consultation proposals for 2013/14, the budget pressures and saving proposals be supported.
- (ii) That the comments/views of the Forum, as detailed above, be noted and reported to the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 December 2012 to enable a formal response to be presented to Cabinet on 17 December 2012.
- (iii) That those members who were not present be contacted for the comments prior to submission to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 7 December 2012.

39. Issues identified from Forward Plan

No items

40. Date and time of next meeting

The Chair reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 13th December at 3.00pm. The Scrutiny Support Officer advised that the venue would be the Council Chamber as members of Children's Services Scrutiny Forum would be invited to attend, due to representatives from local schools and colleges being in attendance as part of the Forum's cross-cutting investigation into the JSNA item of Employment.

Meeting concluded at 4.10 pm

CHAIR

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

13th December 2012



Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

Subject: THE PLANS AND STRATEGIES WHICH TOGETHER
COMPRISE THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – TREES
AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES SPD

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Forum with information relating to the Draft Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document and associated sustainability appraisal which is currently out to public consultation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Hartlepool Local Plan will be the key Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies for the Borough for the next 15 years. Contained within the emerging Local Plan, policies ND4, EC2, EC3, HE1 and NE2 make specific reference to trees, landscaping and green infrastructure.
- 2.2 The Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document is intended to provide an outline of the procedures and design criteria necessary to achieve the successful integration of existing and new trees, shrubs, hedges and hedgerows into new developments. It is not intended as an undue burden on development.
- 2.3 The document does not contain any policies, but its technical guidance will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Compliance with its contents will ensure that sufficient information is submitted to enable the Council to determine in advance the full long-term effects of any new development as it relates to trees.
- 2.4 The Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 – 2016 supports the production of a trees and development supplementary planning document through a number of its objectives and actions. These are:
- Objective 1. Retain and protect the borough's existing trees

Action 4. Ensure that, through effective engagement in the planning process, existing trees are retained on development sites where appropriate and that they are adequately protected.

- Objective 3. Increase the number of trees in the borough
Action 2. Through effective engagement in the planning process require tree planting wherever it is appropriate in relation to new developments.

2.5 Consultation with Officers of the Council and the Greater Yorkshire Tree Officers Group has been undertaken. Comments received served to inform production of the final draft document.

3. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The potential for trees and landscaping to have a minor negative effect upon safety and security was identified as part of the sustainability appraisal of the draft document.
- 3.2 Safety and security is a key consideration of Officers when assessing landscaping schemes; however the issue is not specifically addressed in the draft supplementary planning document. It is therefore recommended that appropriate text be added to section 6 of the draft document to provide general guidance in relation to landscaping and safety and security.

4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 there is a statutory duty for Local Planning Authorities to ensure, wherever appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Consultation on the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document and the sustainability appraisal is being carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI was prepared in compliance with the Hartlepool Compact and its associated protocols.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That Members of the Forum note the content of the report and where appropriate seek clarification.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) The emerging Hartlepool Local Plan.
http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/108/planning_policy/1
- (ii) Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 – 2016.
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/trees
- (iii) Minute of Cabinet Report 29th October 2012 item.
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2672/cabinet

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Damien Wilson
Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)
Department of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
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TS24 8AY

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REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

13 December 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION IN THE JSNA TOPIC
OF 'EMPLOYMENT' – SERVICE PROVISION AND
EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that representatives from the Council's Economic Regeneration Team; local Schools and Colleges; and the Wharton Trust have been invited to attend this meeting to provide information in relation to the investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Employment'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 2 August 2012, Members agreed the Scope and Terms of Reference for their forthcoming investigation into the JSNA topic of Employment.
- 2.2 Subsequently, the following representatives have been invited to attend this meeting:-
- (i) Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Regeneration Team; Reflecting on the Hartlepool Youth Investment Project; Youth Guarantee Scheme; FamilyWise; Flexible Support Fund (FSF); Enterprise Zone success; and Incubator Business support.
 - (ii) Wharton Trust; Presenting evidence on employment and improving young people's aspirations.
 - (iii) Local School and College; Providing evidence in relation to preparing young people for the world of work, enterprise and entrepreneurial activity.

- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session with the representatives detailed in paragraph 2.2 the following JSNA questions in relation to the topic of Employment will be covered:-
- (i) What services are currently provided?; and
 - (ii) What evidence is there for effective intervention?
- 2.4 In considering the evidence presented to them at today's meeting, Members should be mindful of the Marmot principle to 'Create Fair Employment and Good Work for all'

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence from the Council's Economic Regeneration Team; a local School and College; and the Wharton Trust in attendance at today's meeting, seeking clarification on any relevant issues where required.

Contact Officer:- James Walsh – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department – Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523647
e-mail: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Employment – Scoping Report' Presented to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 2 August 2012.
- (ii) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum held on 2 August 2012.

REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

13 December 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK THE PLANS AND STRATEGIES WHICH TOGETHER COMPRISE THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new two tier system of planning involving regional and local plans. At a regional level the Regional Spatial Strategy provided the regional planning framework. The Localism Act 2011, however, revokes the Regional Spatial Strategy leaving the local plan or Local Development Framework to set the planning framework for the Borough. The local plan should be in compliance with national policy and there is a duty on local authorities to cooperate with neighbouring Councils in plan preparation.

The Hartlepool Local Development Framework will ultimately comprise a 'portfolio' of local development documents which will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for the borough. Until this is fully in place, policies which are in the Local Plan and which have been "saved" will continue to form the basis of the planning policy for the town. Local development documents will comprise:

- a) Development plan documents – (DPDs) – these are part of the development plan and must include:-
 - A local plan setting out the long term spatial vision for the area and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver the vision
 - DPDs on Site specific allocations and policies
 - Generic development control policies relating to the vision and strategy set out in the local plan, and
 - Proposals Map

Preparatory work relating to the local plan has been ongoing for some time involving the gathering of essential evidence which will be required to support and justify the policies included in the Document. Various studies have been produced including the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, the Housing Needs Assessment, an Executive Housing Need Strategy, a Housing Implementation Strategy, an Employment Land Review, a PPG17 Open Space Assessment, a Sport and Recreation Audit and an indoor Sports Facilities Study. Some of these documents require updating before the local plan is published (see below) as the evidence needs to be as up to date as possible. A revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment has been prepared; the Local Infrastructure Plan which sets out details of infrastructure which will need to be provided in support of proposals contained within the local plan is also being prepared. The draft Local Infrastructure Plan has been consulted on and will be submitted to Cabinet for approval in early 2013. Work is continuing to be progressed on preparing the local plan. Following the initial Issues and Options stage, a Preferred Options Document was produced and consulted on in early 2010. Following a significant number of responses from the consultees which included statutory and non-statutory bodies, local groups and organisations and residents, and taking account of planning policy changes introduced or proposed at national level by the new government, Cabinet decided to revise and re-consult on the Preferred Options. The revised Preferred Options document was published in November 2010 and a 6 weeks consultation period concluded in February 2011.

The second Preferred Options document also generated a significant number of responses and these were reported to Cabinet in September as part of a detailed report which highlight officer recommendations on key policy issues such as proposed housing sites, industrial allocations and affordable housing policies. Cabinet's views have been fed into the local plan Publication Document which was approved by Cabinet in January and full Council in February prior to a final consultation before being sent to the Secretary of State who will appoint an independent Planning Inspector to hold an Examination in Public (EiP). This is scheduled to take place in January / February 2013. The Publication Document is intended to represent the Councils definitive position in relation to the local plan minor changes have been made at the request of the Planning Inspectorate which are being consulted on prior to the Examination in Public, these include the insertion of policies relating to the control of advertisements, presumption in favour of sustainable development; and the allocation of a Gypsy and Traveller site. If the local plan passes the tests of 'soundness' it may be amended to take account of the Inspectors recommendations and then adopted, probably in April 2013.

The Local Development Framework also includes Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents. The Minerals and Waste DPD Publication documents which were produced at a Tees Valley level were published in August 2009 and were subject to public examination in February 2011. The Inspectors findings were recently published which suggested only minor amendments. These have been reported to Cabinet and the DPD's were approved for adoption by the Council on the 4th August 2011. The DPDs were jointly adopted by the Tees Valley Authorities on the 15th September 2011.

b) Supplementary Planning Documents

A Transport Assessments and Travel Plans SPD was adopted in January 2009. This SPD sets out guidance and standards on the use of Travel Plans and Transport assessment planning agreements, including the circumstances when an agreement will be sought and on what basis.

Several other SPD's are in the process of or are proposed to be prepared which will provide additional planning policy guidance. Details of the timing of some of these documents are set out in a supplement to the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which has been approved by Cabinet and which is reviewed on a regular basis. The following SPD's are included in the current LDS.

Planning Obligations SPD – This document will set out guidance and standards on the use of commuted sums negotiated from developers through planning agreements. A draft of this SPD was initially presented to Cabinet for approval for public consultation purposes in October 2009, with the consultation beginning on the 31 October 2009 for a period until 8 January 2010. Responses to this are being considered alongside changes to the Planning Obligations Regulations which were introduced in 2010. The revised Planning Obligations SPD will go to Cabinet for approval early 2013.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – a new planning charge came into force in April 2010 which allows local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects towards the cost of a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. Although local authorities are not obliged to introduce CIL, restrictions on the use of Planning Obligations through Section 106 Agreements which will come into effect in 2014 would reduce local authorities' ability to secure infrastructure improvements without CIL. The scope for introducing CIL in Hartlepool is currently being investigated and subject to agreement to proceed a charging schedule will be prepared and submitted to Cabinet for approval early 2013.

Green Infrastructure SPD - Cabinet agreed on 2 November 2009 that an SPD be prepared to give a more focused direction to the provision of green infrastructure in Hartlepool. Work on this is progressing.

Central Area SPD - Cabinet agreed on 20 April 2010 that an SPD be prepared for the Central Area of the town to provide a strategy for investment within Hartlepool town centre and to identify specific development proposals. The SPD will assist in preparation of bids for funding. Work on this is progressing.

Seaton Carew SPD – Cabinet agreed on 27th September 2010 to the preparation of an SPD for Seaton Carew to provide guidance and support for the regeneration of the sea front area. Work on this will progress.

Design SPD – Cabinet agreed on 27th September 2010 to the preparation of a Design SPD to provide guidance and support towards the raising of design standards for future development. Work on this SPD will progress.

Trees and Development Guidelines – SPD Cabinet agreed on the 29th October to the preparation of guidance in relation to those involved in development on the standards that the Council will expect from new development proposals as they relate to trees. Work on this SPD will progress and reported back to Cabinet in January / February 2013 with any proposed modifications as a result of the consultation process. It is anticipated that this would be presented to Council in April / May 2013 with a view to adoption.

Shop Front Design Guide - SPD to encourage the construction of traditional shop fronts to create high quality shops and together, with other adjoining buildings, generate shopping streets in which individuals and firms can do business and invest with confidence. It is

proposed that a report will be presented to Cabinet in February/March 2013 to request agreement to public consultation of this SPD.

New Development Outside of Development Limits – SPD to provide guidance in light of the National Planning Policy framework (NPPF) 2012 and the deletion of Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) with regard to development in the open countryside. It is proposed that a report will be presented to Cabinet in January/February 2013 to request agreement to public consultation of this SPD.

Tees Valley Waste Management Developments – SPD to provide a focused direction to the Waste Management issues within Hartlepool. It is proposed that a report will be presented to Cabinet in April/May 2013 to request agreement to public consultation of this SPD.

(c) Local Development Orders

Local Development Orders (LDOs) are a tool which can be used to simplify planning controls for designated areas of land. Whilst LDO's must be in general compliance with the key policies contained in the Development Plan (Local Plan/Core Strategy) an LDO will provide the planning policy framework within these areas, providing development meets the criteria established in the LDO. The government is currently encouraging the use of LDO's as a means of promoting development and supporting community led planning and sees these as a mechanism to support the delivery of their Enterprise Zone initiative. The Tees Valley has recently been successful in securing Enterprise Zone status under this initiative and the successful bid includes sites in Hartlepool at Queens Meadow and the port estate and Oakesway.

Cabinet in October endorsed the preparation of draft LDOs for the Enterprise Zones, and undertake public consultation on these including submission of the LDOs to the Secretary of State prior to adoption by Council in April 2012. Government regulations mean that the LDOs for Enterprise Zones have to be adopted and in place by 1st April 2012.

The other documents within the Local Development Framework which must be prepared but which do not form part of the development plan are:

- a) Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how and when the Council will consult on planning policies and planning applications;
- b) Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out a rolling programme for the preparation of local development documents, and
- c) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) assessing the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which current planning policies are being implemented.

The Statement of Community Involvement was adopted by the Council on 26 October 2006. A review was undertaken during 2009 with public consultation being held April – June 2009. A report was made to Cabinet on 7 September 2009 and it was reported to Council on 10 December 2009 with formal adoption in January 2010.

The first Local Development Scheme (LDS) as approved by Cabinet came into effect on 15 April 2005. The Scheme has been updated annually and the most recent scheme was approved by Cabinet in October 2011.

Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR) have been produced each year since 2004 / 5. The most recent AMR was completed in 2011 relating to the year 2010 / 11. This reviews progress against the RSS and generally assesses the effectiveness of planning policies and the extent to which they are being implemented. The AMR relating to 2011 / 2012 is to be presented to Cabinet December 2012.

Further Information:

Chris Pipe, Planning Services Manager Regeneration and Planning Services Department,
Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT Tel. 01429 523596 e-mail
Christine.pipe@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 90/11 MILL HOUSE SITE DEVELOPMENT AND VICTORIA PARK**Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies****Nature of the decision**

To consider proposals for the master planning for the Mill House site including potential land transactions with Hartlepool United Football Club in connection with Victoria Park.

Who will make the decision?

There will be a range of recommendations to be made around the future development of the Mill House site in addition to the potential sale of Victoria Park. Recommendations may be made by Cabinet or an Executive Committee of Cabinet as appropriate and then to be considered by Council.

Wards affected

The wards affected are in the Victoria and Headland and Harbour Wards in particular, but there is town wide interest in the provision of recreational facilities generally and the Football Club itself.

Timing of the decision

The decision on Victoria Park is expected to be made in December / January 2013. Further decisions on the Masterplan will follow in January / February 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

Hartlepool Indoor Bowls Club
Hartlepool United Football Club
Local Residents
Ward Members
All Council Members
Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Options for the future development of the Mill House site are being considered as part of a master planning exercise which will aim to regenerate the area as well as promote community and recreational facilities. The Football Club are still interested in taking ownership of Victoria Park and are willing to be involved in the master planning exercise which will also consider the potential sale and development of Victoria Park.

Any potential sale of the football club will need to be considered against the following:

- Regeneration opportunities
- Recreation and sports strategies
- Economic impact of the Football Club
- The Council's asset management planning and medium term financial strategy
- Local community needs and views.

An Economic Impact Assessment of the value of the Club to the town has been completed and will be considered by Cabinet and Council in the decision making process on the potential sale of the land to the Football Club.

Expressions of interest were invited from developers in connection with a Masterplan for the Mill House and a preferred developer has been appointed by Cabinet at its meeting on 19th March 2012.

Cabinet considered the Masterplan and the potential disposal of Victoria Park to the Football Club at the meeting on 19th March 2012 and it was agreed that the disposal should be referred to Full Council for decision. A Members presentation was held on 18th June 2012 in advance of the full Council meeting with the result that Members required more information on the masterplan and the land arrangements prior to it being considered by Council. Further discussions have taken place with the developer in relation to leisure provision and the regeneration of the site as a whole. Some further details on options have been provided but more detailed viability assessments are awaited. Audit Committee have also considered relevant aspects of the proposals.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), or Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211.

E mail: Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk

E mail: Damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 99/11 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

Cabinet will be asked to consider the implications of undertaking work to produce a draft charging schedule for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This levy will be charged on all new development in the Borough in the future. The money raised through CIL will be used to deliver Borough wide infrastructure requirements set out in the Local Infrastructure Plan.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The Community Infrastructure Levy would impact across the Borough.

Timing of the decision

The decision to progress preparatory work and evidence gathering was made by Cabinet in February 2012 and the decision to approve the appointment of external consultants to undertake viability testing on a range of development types to illustrate whether it is viable to implement a CIL in Hartlepool was made in June 2012.

The key decision in relation to the introduction of the CIL charging schedule will be taken following this work, it is anticipated that this will be end of January beginning of February 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

As the CIL is developed consultation will take place with stakeholders to ensure the approach taken is the right approach for Hartlepool. People will be able to comment on the draft charging schedule and the levels and types of infrastructure covered. Comments will be asked for during a formal consultation period which is likely to last for a minimum period of 6 weeks.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet were asked for permission to undertake preparatory work, evidence gathering and viability testing which will inform the development of the draft CIL charging Schedule. This will need to be worked up so that it can be brought into use when the Local Plan is adopted next year. A further report will be brought back to Cabinet following the completion of this preparatory work for a formal decision whether to introduce a CIL charge.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523400. E mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523400. E Mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 5/12 SEATON CAREW DEVELOPMENT SITES – RESULTS OF JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENT WITH PREFERRED DEVELOPER**Key Test Decision (i) applies****Nature of the decision**

Previously Cabinet has endorsed the selection of Esh Group as preferred developer to take forward development sites in Seaton Carew (December 2011). As part of that endorsement it was agreed that officers would work jointly with the developer to confirm the draft development proposals and layouts for the sites, carry out a programme of public consultation, undertake an assessment of the commercial market in Seaton Carew and draft a development agreement. Cabinet therefore will consider this further development work once completed and be asked to agree the proposed way forward.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

Seaton Ward will be directly affected by the proposals.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2012

Who will be consulted and how?

As part of the period of joint working the developer and the Council will consult widely on the regeneration and development proposals for Seaton Carew.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Within the report, Cabinet will be requested to consider the suggested development proposals and the feedback from the public consultation exercise on those proposals.

Cabinet will also be asked to consider the key elements of the draft development agreement which will form the terms of reference for taking forward the development of the sites. This will include details on the timetable for development, land disposal, the value and timing of key payments and the roles, responsibilities and obligations of the Council and the developer within the overall programme of development.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523400. E Mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 10/12 - ACQUISITION OF THE LONGSCAR BUILDING, SEATON CAREW**Key Test Decision (i) applies****Nature of the decision**

To seek authority for officers to pursue the acquisition of the Longscar Building, Seaton Carew in order to facilitate the delivery of the Seaton Carew Masterplan.

The Longscar Building is currently empty and occupies a prominent position on The Front, Seaton Carew. The building's under-use, significant size and its poor condition has a negative influence in the centre of Seaton Carew's commercial and visitor area. The Council currently owns land on either side of the property and is currently developing regeneration proposals for this whole area that will attract new investment and encourage visitors to Seaton Carew. The inclusion of the site that the building currently occupies in these proposals will be critical in the delivery and success of that regeneration scheme.

Cabinet has previously agreed the appointment of the Esh Group as a preferred developer, to work in partnership with the Council to develop other Council owned sites in Seaton Carew (and help to deliver the regeneration proposals.) Working in partnership with Esh, the development of these sites will release funding that will provide the resources to deliver the regeneration proposals at The Front including the Longscar Building, as outlined above.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

Seaton Ward

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2012.

Who will be consulted and how?

Public consultation exercises have been carried out previously in Seaton Carew. Further public consultation will be carried out with Ward Councillors as part of the regeneration proposals now being developed with the Esh Group. These are likely to take the form of public events, briefing sessions and public drop-in sessions.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

In considering the acquisition of this property, Portfolio Holder will need to contemplate the rationale for acquisition. The details of the proposed regeneration scheme will need to be considered, including the progress regarding the timetable for the delivery of that scheme. Valuation of the property and planning policy considerations will also need to be taken into account.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523400. E Mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 20/12 SELECTIVE LICENSING**Key Decision Test (i) and (ii) applies****Nature of the decision**

To consider the findings of the evidence gathered from the consultation as prescribed by guidance together with a timetable of possible implementation of additional Selective Licensing areas in Hartlepool.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

Various wards depending on the areas of private rented housing that members may consider could benefit from the introduction of an additional selective licensing designation.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in January / February 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

Extensive consultation, in compliance with detailed government guidance, will be necessary incorporating all stakeholders within any area proposed for an additional Selective Licensing designation, including;

- Residents
- Landlords
- Letting and managing agents
- Community groups
- Local businesses
- Ward Members

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The Housing Act 2004 introduced a discretionary power for Local Housing Authorities to designate areas for the selective licensing of private sector rented housing suffering from, or likely to suffer from, low demand and/or significant and persistent anti-social behaviour. The current designation of Selective Licensing was implemented in May 2009 covering 6 areas of the town and in September 2011 Cabinet agreed to delay their decision to extend the scheme into a further 9 areas for 12 months until a thorough evaluation of the evidence available from the existing scheme has been undertaken. This was reported to Cabinet on the 17th September 2012 giving detailed information and a report will provide an analysis of the impact the scheme has had on each of the existing 6 areas and indicate the effectiveness of Selective Licensing in Hartlepool. This further report will inform members of the outcome and evidence gathered from the consultation into introducing additional Selective Licensing areas in Hartlepool in addition to the areas which currently have selective licensing of private landlords operating in selective areas.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523400. E Mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 22 / 12 CHOICE BASED LETTINGS POLICY REVIEW 2012**Key Test Decision (ii) applies****Nature of the decision**

Key decision to approve changes to the Tees Valley Choice Based Letting (CBL) policy.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

All Wards

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2012

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation will be carried out throughout the Tees Valley by all partners to the Common Allocation Policy; this will include tenants, applicants, stakeholders and elected members. Consultation will take place via a range of methods including questionnaires and presentations.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

In November 2011, the Government published its Housing Strategy for England. This contains policies and initiatives already in place because of the Localism Act 2011. One of the principles set out in the Strategy is the reform to make better use of social housing.

A range of measures contained in the Localism Act 2011 make changes to the way people access social housing (including flexible/shorter tenancies; changes to homelessness; ending of 'open' waiting lists).

The Government consulted on Allocation of Accommodation: guidance for local housing authorities in England between 5th January 2012 and 30th March 2012. The final guidance on allocations is expected to be issued to local authorities during June 2012. It will make clear that social homes are not “to be allocated to people who don’t need them” while those “in genuine need should be prioritised”.

A 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 will also consider other amendments to the policy that may be required as a result of the impact of welfare reforms

Cabinet will consider how changes to the Tees Valley Common Allocations Policy will meet current and future social housing needs for Hartlepool.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523400. E Mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 27/12 COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND ROUND 2 APPLICATION

Nature of the decision

To seek approval to implement a programme for coastal communities should a bid to the Coastal Communities Fund be successful

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Portfolio Holder

Ward(s) affected

It is anticipated that a number of wards could be affected, depending upon the nature of the bid.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in January 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation will take place with the private, voluntary and community sectors to explore the potential for partnership working to deliver a bid.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The Coastal Communities Fund is a government initiative to support the economic development of coastal communities. Grants in excess of £50,000 are available for projects

which benefit coastal communities. The fund is equal to 50% of the revenues generated by the Crown Estate's marine assets. The UK wide fund will be hosted by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG Fund), and will be delivered on a local level in conjunction with country specific boards.

The objective of the fund is to *'support the economic development of coastal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs, so that people are better able to respond to the changing economic needs and opportunities of their area'*.

Project proposals are required to meet a number of specified criteria and those resulting in the highest level of economic growth will be prioritised.

A bid for funding submitted by the Council in April 2012 was unsuccessful. Further funding for 2013/14 is expected (although the level remains unknown) and timescales will be announced by the fund administrators in 2012, following a review and evaluation from year one. It is anticipated that the application process and timetable for submission will be similar to the round 1 timetable with submissions required in April 2013.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY. Tel: 01429 523400 Email: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 31 / 12 - CITY DEAL

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

To consider Hartlepool Borough Council's inclusion in a Tees Valley bid for a City Deal proposal with the Government.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet which will need to be ratified by Council.

Ward(s) affected

All wards

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2012

Who will be consulted and how?

All Council members
Tees Valley Directors of Place
Tees Valley Leader and Mayors
Tees Valley Chief Executives
Tees Valley Unlimited/Local Enterprise Partnership Board

Information to be considered by the decision makers

On 8th December 2011, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Cities, jointly published "Unlocking Growth in Cities" which invited the eight core cities in England to submit proposals for tailored deals, consisting of new powers and innovative projects to unlock growth.

The eight core cities have been working with Government to develop the detail of their city deals, with Liverpool and Manchester publishing their agreed documents earlier in the year and others, including Leeds and Newcastle following suit when the remaining deals were announced on 5th July 2012.

A second wave of City Deals will be announced shortly and Hartlepool as part of the wider Tees Valley could potentially be included in a City Deal based on the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership area.

In essence, Government has agreed to devolve new powers to England's largest cities or functional economic areas, such as Tees Valley in a series of very unique and specific deals that will help them invest in growth and unlock job creation, support local businesses, control budgets, improve critical infrastructure and improve local skills. In return, the core cities have agreed to put in place stronger, more accountable local leadership and to spend their resources more efficiently

How to make representation

Representations should be made to

Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Level 3, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel: (01429) 523400. E-mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 32 / 12 – EMPTY PROPERTY PURCHASING SCHEME - LOCAL AUTHORITY FLEXIBLE TENANCIES

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

Key decision to adopt Local Authority Flexible Tenancies for properties let through the Empty Property Purchasing Scheme.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

All wards in Hartlepool will be affected.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in December 2012.

Who will be consulted and how?

Detailed public and stakeholder consultation completed on the Tenancy Strategy concluded in August. The Strategy was required through the Localism Act November 2011 and set out details of Local Authorities power to grant flexible tenancies which are the subject of the required decision. Detailed consultation has also been taken forward as part of the Empty Homes Strategy and Members have considered a number of reports in relation to the Empty Property Purchasing Scheme.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The report will provide details of the proposed tenancy arrangements for properties purchased and refurbished through the Empty Property Purchasing Scheme. It will propose the introduction of flexible tenancies and provide the background for this proposal and implications. The Local Authority currently only issues secure tenancies, The Localism Act

provided Local Authorities with the opportunity to introduce a new form of flexible tenancy at a affordable rent and following the success of Hartlepool Borough Councils Cluster Fund bid 100 empty homes will be brought back into use and the business plan has been developed using 80% of market rents. Allowing tenancies to be let as flexible tenancies will give greater flexibility to the scheme creating opportunities for home ownership options to be introduced in the future if required. This is in line with the principles in the Tenancy Strategy creating flexibility in specific and exception circumstances.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523400, e-mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 33 / 12 – HIGH STREET INNOVATION FUND

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

To seek approval to implement projects from the High Street Innovation Fund.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder.

Ward(s) affected

The High Street Innovation Fund is targeted at the Town Centre which is within the Victoria and Burn Valley Wards.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in January 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation will take place with the Economic Regeneration Forum who have established a Working Group to develop projects for the High Street Innovation Fund. Initial discussions have already taken place around potential project ideas.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The High Street Innovation Fund is one of a number of new initiatives that have been launched by the Government to help create prosperous town centre's in response to the recommendations of the Portas Review, an independent review of the English high street.

The Government's response to the Portas Review sets out a challenge for partners to "*re-imagine their town centres and high streets, ensuring they offer something new and different that neither out-of-town shopping centres nor the internet can match-an experience that goes beyond retail, with creative use of public spaces and a vibrant evening economy*". Communities are encouraged to develop innovative ideas that address local issues.

Hartlepool has been awarded £100k through the new £10m High Street Innovation Fund, which aims to address empty properties on the High Street by providing an opportunity to implement innovative local projects.

A wide range of activities are eligible for support including the provision of business rate discounts for new start-up businesses taking on empty properties. Temporary enterprises that

will occupy vacant units, and apprenticeship schemes to train young people in shop fitting and refurbishment are also eligible for support.

Approval to develop a project for the Indoor Market and for additional signage within the town centre was approved by the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder on the 28th September 2012. A further report will be considered in November to allocate the remaining £75k from the High Street Innovation Fund.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning) , Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523400, e-mail: damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 35/12 – EUROPEAN COMMISSION ‘YOUTH GUARANTEE SCHEME’

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

To seek approval from Cabinet to deliver the European Commission Youth Guarantee Scheme programme which is aimed at supporting young people to enter into education, employment or training on leaving school. This decision will be subject to the Council successfully securing this European funding through an open and competitive tendering process.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

Potentially all wards could be affected, but particular focus will be on the most deprived wards.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in January 2013. A report will be submitted to Cabinet on 29th October 2012 which will provide details of the Youth Guarantee Scheme tender specification.

Who will be consulted and how?

Schools, career guidance services, voluntary and community sector organisations, public & private employment services, colleges, work-based learning providers and employers have been consulted. All of these key stakeholders have been invited to a briefing session on Monday 15th October 2012 to discuss the tender specification and the proposed delivery model for Hartlepool.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

In August 2012, the European Commission announced a €4million call for proposals to develop a Youth Guarantee Scheme in local, regional or national areas where youth unemployment is above 22.7%. This will build on existing Youth Guarantee approaches in some Member States (particularly Austria, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden).

The Commission expects to finance at least 15 proposals across the European Union. The amount of grant needed to implement the programme will be between €100,000 and

€250,000 with organisations only able to bid for 95% of the funding required. All projects are expected to last no longer than 12 months.

Within the tender outline, the Commission has called for proposals that will aim to *'ensure that all young are in a job, further education or activation measures within four months of leaving school and to provide this as a 'Youth Guarantee'.*

The Council will submit an application for this funding to the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium by the deadline of 22nd October 2012. Organisations will be notified of the results by the end of January 2013.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Level 3, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523400, email damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk or Dean Jackson, Assistant Director (Performance and Achievement) Level 3, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523914, email dean.jackson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 36/12 – LANDLORD ACCREDITATION

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

Members will be asked 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.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

All wards will be affected.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2012.

Who will be consulted and how?

The potential removal of the Landlord Accreditation was discussed with members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum as part of its investigation into Private Sector Housing in 2011/12.

Consultation has taken place with all landlords participating in the existing scheme and all landlords and managing agents operating within the designated areas for Selective Licensing within the town.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The Landlord Accreditation Scheme was first introduced in 2002 and aimed 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.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Damien Wilson, Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523400, e-mail: Damien.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be sought by contacting Lynda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Housing Options Centre, Park Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 284177. Email: Lynda.igoe@hartlepool.gov.uk

2.5 A summary of all key decisions are detailed in the Timetable of Key Decisions below:-

TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

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

1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN DECEMBER 2012

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

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN JANUARY 2013

RN 74/11 (page 40)	Former Leathers Chemical Site	Cabinet
RN 99/11 (page 47)	Community Infrastructure Levy	Cabinet
RN 11/12 (page 53)	Public Lighting Strategy	Portfolio Holder

RN 20/12 (page 57)	Selective Licensing	Cabinet
RN 27/12 (page 64)	Coastal Communities Fund Round 2 Application	Portfolio Holder
RN 33/12 (page 72)	High Street Innovation Fund	Portfolio Holder
RN 34/12 (page 74)	Adoption of the Review of the Long Term Coastal Management Strategy covering the frontage from Crimdon to Newburn Bridge	Cabinet / Council
RN 35/12 (page 76)	European Commission 'Youth Guarantee Scheme'	Cabinet

3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN FEBRUARY 2013

CE 46/11 (page 11)	Review of Community Involvement & Engagement (including LSP Review) : Update on decisions taken 'in principle'	Cabinet / Council
CAS 129/12 (page 21)	Collaboration in Child and Adult Services	Cabinet / Council
CAS 136/12 (page 26)	Updated Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan	Cabinet
CAS 137/12 (page 28)	Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Cabinet / Council
RN 37/12 (page 80)	Early Morning Alcohol Restriction Order	Council
RN 39/12 (page 83)	Town Wall Coastal Works: Construction of set-back flood defence wall and associated works	Cabinet
RN 40/12 (page 85)	Review of Concessionary Fare Payments to Bus Operators for 2013-2014	Cabinet

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MARCH 2013

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

- 2.6 Copies of the Executive's Forward Plan will be available at the meeting and are also available on request from the Scrutiny Team (01429 523647) prior to the meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum:-

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

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 Hartlepool Borough Council
 Tel: 01429 523647
 Email: james.walsh@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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