

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



19 December 2012

at 2.00 p.m.

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors Beck, Cook, Gibbon, Jackson, Loynes, Payne and Tempest.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 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**

No items.



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment' – Climate Change

7.1 Environment Investigation – Climate Change

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) One Planet Living Presentation – *Representatives from Middlesbrough Council*

Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment' – Cleanliness/Enforcement

7.2 Cleanliness/Enforcement – Evidence from HBC Environment Team

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Presentation – *Environment Team*

7.3 Cleanliness/Enforcement – Evidence from Cleveland Police

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Presentation – *Representatives from Cleveland Police Neighbourhood Policing Team*

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

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

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting 16 January 2013, commencing at 1.00 p.m. at the Civic centre, Hartlepool.**



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

14 NOVEMBER 2012

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Sylvia Tempest (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Steve Gibbon and Robbie Payne.

Officers: Graham Frankland, Assistant Director, Resources
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Alistair Smith, Assistant Director, Transport and Engineering
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

34. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Cook, Jackson and Loynes and the Mayor, Stuart Drummond, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods.

35. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

36. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2012

Confirmed subject to the addition of apologies for absence from Councillor Payne.

In relation to Minute No. 30, The Assistant Director, Transport and Engineering updated the Forum on the Council's use of electric vehicles. The Council currently had three electric vehicles; one car and two vans, which had been purchased through a government grant. Based on current usage, the car, a Nissan Leaf, had provided a saving of £2500 on mileage claims. One of the vans was primarily used by Highways Inspectors and its use had saved £6200 on mileage claims if the staff had used their own vehicles. The two vans had covered just over 7000 miles saving £956 on fuel for equivalent vehicles. Charging costs for all three vehicles only amount to £70.

The Assistant Director did highlight that there were still issues with the use of electric vehicles in the long-term due to residual values and the replacement

costs of the battery packs. The capital outlay for the vehicles was also an issue with them being significantly more expensive than equivalent petrol or diesel vehicles. The savings in CO2 emissions were, however, very significant. In response to Member questions, the Assistant Director indicated that there were electric charging points within the Civic Centre and Council Depot parking areas and also two at the Interchange car park. All these were high capacity charging facilities which meant a vehicle could be fully charged within a few hours. The current vehicles were still being evaluated but there was a case for the authority to look to purchase more electric vehicles in the future, possibly including an electric bus.

The Assistant Director also highlighted to Members the Salary Sacrifice Scheme for contract lease vehicles which employees could access. All the vehicles available produced less than 120g/km CO2 and also incurred lower mileage costs for the authority when they were used on council business. Through the vehicles being used under this scheme, the Assistant Director indicated that around 50 tonnes of CO2 emissions had been saved.

Members welcomed and noted the Assistant Directors comments.

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

No items.

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

No items.

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

The Assistant Director, Resources opened the presentation setting the savings the department had to achieve over the next two years in context. Some of the savings proposals had already been reported to the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum.

The overall departmental target of savings of £1.1m in 2013/14 was broken down to the following targets for the four divisions –

Resources	£228,000
Regeneration and Planning	£201,000
Neighbourhood Services	£400,000
Transportation and Engineering	£254,000

Within the remit of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, the Assistant Directors highlighted the following savings targets and outlined how these were to be achieved.

Resources

Collaboration – Revised Proposal £50,000

The Assistant Director, Resources indicated that this would be achieved through increased income through project work and the selling of services provided by the Logistics Section. There were obvious risk associated with this but officers considered that these had been minimised.

Members questioned the Council's current membership of the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) and whether the authority should consider withdrawing or at least becoming only an 'associate' member. The Assistant Director indicated that he was aware of Members concern in relation to NEPO and indicated that various options were being considered to ensure that the savings achieved through being part of NEPO were not negated or lost. The Assistant Director confirmed that there was a review of NEPO underway. Members requested an update report on NEPO for a future meeting.

Members also questioned the continuation of internal recharges for services within the authority and asked what progress had been made in removing these. The Assistant Director indicated that this change was ongoing and budget and trading accounts had been brought together in an attempt to address issues within the department, although there were still areas to address corporately.

Waste Management

Waste Management (dry recycling collection contract) - £400,000

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services indicated that the new dry recycling collection contract which would simplify the process of collection of recyclables would bring the total amount of savings required in 2013/14. Residents would receive a new grey wheeled bin in which they could place all paper, card, cans and plastic for recycling. Glass recycling collections would still be maintained through use of the blue boxes for health and safety reasons.

The new contract would commence April 2013 along with other changes to the operation of the waste collection service which included moving to a four-day working week in line with the other authorities in the Tees Valley. Consultation feedback had been positive and the new working practices would meet the advice issued by the Health and Safety Executive following a national inspection of waste services. The new collection service would be based on all paper, card, cans and plastic recyclables being collected from the new wheeled bin; segregation of recyclables used to bring the best prices but technology had now improved significantly to make a single collection viable. It was also estimated that this would bring an increase of 10-20% in

recyclables collected which would reduce waste disposal costs and bring the total savings to around £600,000 from 2014/15.

Members noted from the report circulated that potential areas of waste management had included a 'subscribed' green waste collection. The Assistant Director indicated that a range of options had been considered to deliver the current projected savings. These did include amendments to the green waste service, however this was no longer necessary. This potential saving may have to be reconsidered in the future. Two jobs had been identified as being at risk due to the changes being introduced to the dry recycling collection service, but circumstances had led to this now not being an issue.

The Chair commented on the many complaints that were received with litter following collections. The Assistant Director indicated that the use of the new wheelie bins should tackle much of this and it was also a performance measure under the new contract. The contract would also run until 2020 at which time all the main waste collection and disposal contracts for the Tees Valley authorities would end, making viable the potential for a cost-effective multi-area contract. Members were supportive of the proposal and welcomed the potential increase in recycling this may bring, especially given the budget pressure identified in relation to landfill tax.

Transport and Engineering

Total savings of £254,000 for 2013/14 comprising of the following savings / income: -

Engineering and Design Management Account - TOS Fee Income	£50,000
Road Safety - School Crossing Patrol (reconfiguration of service)	£35,000
Retirement - Highways/Asset Management	£34,000
Collaborative Working - Operational efficiencies	£50,000
Health Partnership - Direct Service Provision Opportunities	£50,000
Highways Contribution - Verge signage enforcement	£10,000
Highways - Winter Maintenance	£25,000

The Assistant Director, Transport and Engineering indicated that Technical Officer Salary (TOS) fee income was an account where the officers already had to generate their salary through income already. This additional income should be achievable through the work the section was undertaking for other local authorities and the Environment Agency. The reconfiguration of the school crossing patrol service would look at the continuation of providing crossing patrols on Puffin (light controlled) crossings and income generation through sponsorship. In response to a member question it was stated that the crossing patrols were not a statutory function.

The targets set under collaborative working may be difficult to achieve, though the Assistant Director indicated that the saving may have to come from core budgets otherwise. The verge signage enforcement was simply removing a fee paid for the work and adding it to the normal day to day roles of officers. Reduction of £25,000 from the existing winter maintenance budget will be achieved from improvements to existing assets and a renewal programme

ensuring better and more reliable equipment for the future.

The potential income through partnerships with health providers was an area that officers were still discussing. There were potential opportunities for the authority to provide services particularly through the Integrated Transport Unit and these would be reported on as they arose. Members indicated their support to the continuation of discussions.

The Assistant Director, Resources highlighted the principles behind the savings that had been proposed; collaboration, minimal impact on front line services and maximising income generation for example. Minimising the impact on jobs was one of the main principles throughout the process and while these savings may produce up to seven redundancies, it was hoped that through voluntary redundancies and redeployment this figure could be accommodated.

There were, however, a series of budget pressures that the department would be seeking corporate support in meeting. They were -

Shopping Centre Income Inflation	£24,000
Car Parking	£37,000
NFFO (Non Fossil Fuel Obligation)	£279,000
Landfill Tax	£29,000

The car parking pressure arose from an increase in the rates payable on the shopping centre car park land. The issue was still subject to discussion with the shopping centre management.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services commented that the authority had always know that the NFFO subsidy would be ending next year. The NFFO offset the cost of burning waste at the Waste to Energy incinerator. The amount would reduce as the amount of waste recycled increased. The landfill tax pressure was due to the governments increase in tax of £8 per tonne of waste that was sent to landfill. The ash landfilled from the Waste to Energy plant was also affected by this increase.

In relation to car parking income, Members questioned why there were no charges on the Maritime Experience car park. The Assistant Director, Transport and Engineering commented that all parking was being reviewed. In response to questions on the Transport Interchange, the Assistant Director indicated that further discussions had been held with Arriva and a number of coach companies in relation to moving more services to the interchange. The use of the car parks was, however, very high.

Members noted from the report that there were potential savings identified from Neighbourhood Management and questioned if these would affect street cleaning and enforcement. Both issues were already a concern for the general public. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services commented that the savings were a 'target' which could involve reduced use of vehicles and potential a revision of management structures. These had not, however,

been discussed with staff so it would be unfair to raise them through the forum. Any changes to the service would take account of the comments of the forum through its forthcoming investigation.

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services also indicated that there could be significant budget concerns following the election of the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). A number of Local Authority budgets would transfer to the PCC from April 2013,. It was hoped the situation relating to these would become clearer over the next few months.

Members also voiced concerns in relation to the lifeguard service. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services indicated that this was not a statutory service but the Council did see value in providing a service during the summer holiday weeks when the beaches were at their busiest.

Members also raised the issues of safety for other events in the town, particularly in relation to first aid provision. The Assistant Director, Transport and Engineering commented that the council was aware of this issue and there was an officer group, the Independent Safety Advisory Group that involved specialists from the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service for example. The group could advise organisers on minimum cover standards for events but officers were noting that such reviews were very time consuming.

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation and contributions to the meeting.

Recommended

That the presentation and discussions be noted and that Members comments be forwarded to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

40. Items for Discussion

No items.

41. Issues Identified from the Forward Plan

No items.

The meeting concluded at 2.10 p.m.

CHAIR

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

19 December 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION IN THE JSNA TOPIC OF 'ENVIRONMENT' – ONE PLANET LIVING PRESENTATION - MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that representatives from the Middlesbrough Council One Planet Living Team have been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 1 August 2012, Members agreed the Scope and Terms of Reference for their forthcoming investigation into the JSNA topic of Environment.
- 2.2 Subsequently, officers from Middlesbrough Council have agreed to attend this meeting to provide Members with information on the 'One Planet Living' initiative adopted by the Council and to outline how this links to the JSNA topic of Environment, under the following topic headings (where appropriate):-
- (a) What are the key issues?
 - (b) Who is at risk and why?
 - (c) What is the level of need?
 - (d) What services are currently provided?
 - (e) What is the projected level of need / service use?
 - (f) What evidence is there for effective intervention?
 - (g) What do people say?
 - (h) What needs might be unmet?
 - (i) What additional needs assessment is required?
 - (j) What are the recommendations for commissioning?
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session, Members should be mindful of the Marmot principle to 'Create and Develop Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities'.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence from the representatives from Middlesbrough Council in attendance at this meeting and seek clarification on any relevant issues where required.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Environment – Scoping Report' Presented to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum on 1 August 2012.
- (ii) Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum held on 1 August 2012.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

19 December 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION IN THE JSNA TOPIC
OF 'ENVIRONMENT' –
CLEANLINESS/ENFORCEMENT PRESENTATION -
COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that officers from the Environment Team have been invited to attend this meeting to provide information in relation to the investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 1 August 2012, Members agreed the Scope and Terms of Reference for their forthcoming investigation into the JSNA topic of Environment.
- 2.2 Subsequently, officers from the Environmental Team have agreed to attend this meeting to outline the following (where appropriate) in relation to the Cleanliness/Enforcement element of the JSNA topic of Environment:-
- (a) What are the key issues?
 - (b) Who is at risk and why?
 - (c) What is the level of need?
 - (d) What services are currently provided?
 - (e) What is the projected level of need / service use?
 - (f) What evidence is there for effective intervention?
 - (g) What do people say?
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3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence from officers of the Environment Team in attendance at this meeting and seek clarification on any relevant issues where required.

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JSNA Scrutiny Investigation:

Local Environmental Quality (Cleanliness)

Local Environmental Quality

DEFRA states that;

‘Local environment quality is an important issue that can have knock on effects on several aspects of society.

Left unchecked, dirty streets and neighbourhoods affect the perception of the local community which can lead to anti-social behaviour, disorder, vandalism and eventually serious crime.

There is also a direct link between local environment quality and the quality of life in communities.

Local environment quality encompasses issues such as litter, graffiti, flyposting, flytipping, abandoned vehicles, dog control orders and dog fouling.’



Marmot Review 2010-Fair Society, Healthy Lives

You can see the deprivation. All you have to do is look outside. It is in your face everyday –litter everywhere, rats and rubbish, it is a dump..... It feels like people around you have no meaning to life. I keep my curtains closed at times. It doesn't give you a purpose to do anything.

(Focus group participant)



Why is LEQ Important?

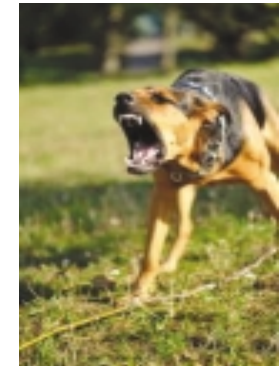
- **Effects on mental health & wellbeing:**
 - + **Encourages social contact and integration**
 - + **Extensively researched and proven that good quality green spaces have direct benefits to mental health and well-being**
 - **Residential disputes**
 - **Perceptions of crime**
 - **Anti-social behaviour**



Why is LEQ Important?

- **Effects on physical health:**

- + Decreased blood pressure and cholesterol
- + Increased opportunities to exercise – decreased prevalence rates of cancer, diabetes, and migraines and obesity
- Pollution- poorer communities higher pollution leads to increased cardio-respiratory
- Pests – disease
- Dogs – disease and animal attacks



Why is LEQ Important?

- **Prevent negative downward spiral:**
 - ‘Broken Windows Theory’



What Services are Currently Provided to improve LEQ

- Operational
- Education
- Enforcement



Operational

Environmental Street Cleansing Service



Neighbourhood Cleansing Team alongside Neighbourhood Policing Team



Impact

- **Quality of environment impacts on sense of well being and future aspirations**
- **Seven out of the eleven wards in Hartlepool contain neighbourhoods that fall within the top 5% most deprived nationally**
- **If you live in any of these neighbourhoods you will feel limited control over your environment and what happens to it**



Staffing Levels and Vehicles

- Staffing levels currently run at 40 Environmental Operative and two Environmental Supervisors
- 14 Mechanical Sweepers
- 14 Other Vehicles



Cleansing Rounds

- The quality of the service has continued to improve due to structured rounds that have been implemented, we now visit every street the day after the refuse and recycling collection and sweep only if required



Dog Warden Service

- Collected 346 stray dogs in 2011/12
- 24 hour service 7 days a week
- All dogs scanned and if possible returned directly to owner
- Unclaimed dogs re-homed through successful partnership working
- Free micro-chipping sessions for all Hartlepool residents



Allotments

- Around 1100 allotment plots in the town
- Under the management of Waste & Environmental Services team since 2010
- More stringent inspection and enforcement regime introduced
- New rules and regulations of tenancy 2012 developed in conjunction with tenant focus group
- Probationary period introduced for new tenants
- Bonfire permit system to regulate fires
- Programme of improvements to commence 2013



Enforcement

Dog Control Orders

Hartlepool introduced all 5 dog control orders in 2008, these were reviewed in 2011

- A) Failing to remove dog faeces
- B) Not keeping a dog on a lead
- C) Not putting, and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- D) Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
- E) Taking more than the specified number of dogs onto land



Enforcement

- Litter
- Untaxed & abandoned vehicles
- Metal thefts / 'stop, search and seize'
- Waste – Section 46 notices and flytipping
- Flyposting & graffiti
- Tethered horses
- Allotment enforcement (new rules and regulations 2012)



Education

Responsible dog ownership

- Environment Roundabout - Planet Toxic
- Individual schools with issues
- Essential Guide for Dog Owners
- Facebook page
- Dogs' Day Out Event
- Allotments



Education

Litter

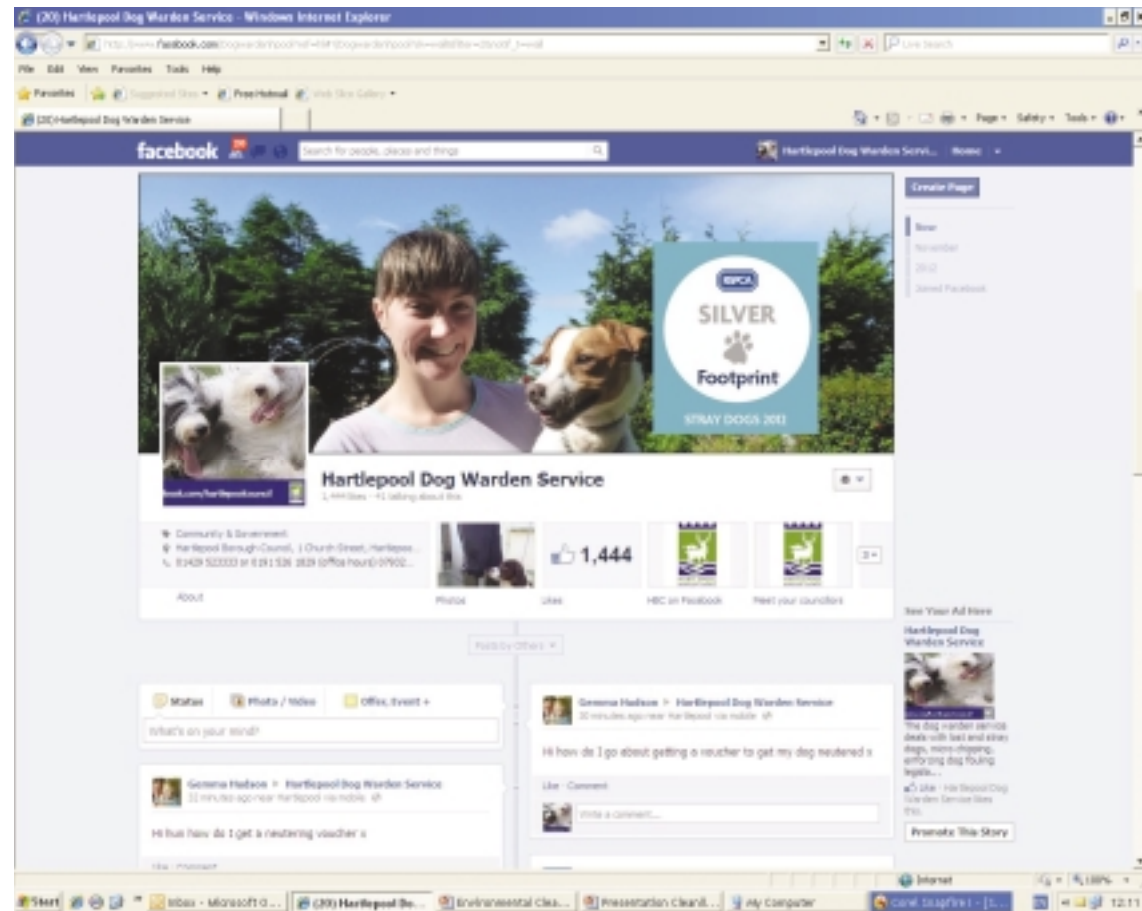
- Clean Streets Detectives
- ASBAD (every year 7 pupil)
- Litter Awareness Course
- Litter picking events



Communications

- **Webpage**
- **Press releases**
- **Radio**
- **Facebook & Twitter**
- **Letter drops to specific target areas**
- **Newsletters**
- **No such thing as the 'Poo Fairy'! – posters**
- **Banners – produced by schools**
- **Schools Environmental Action DVD**
- **Complaints & service requests**





Impact

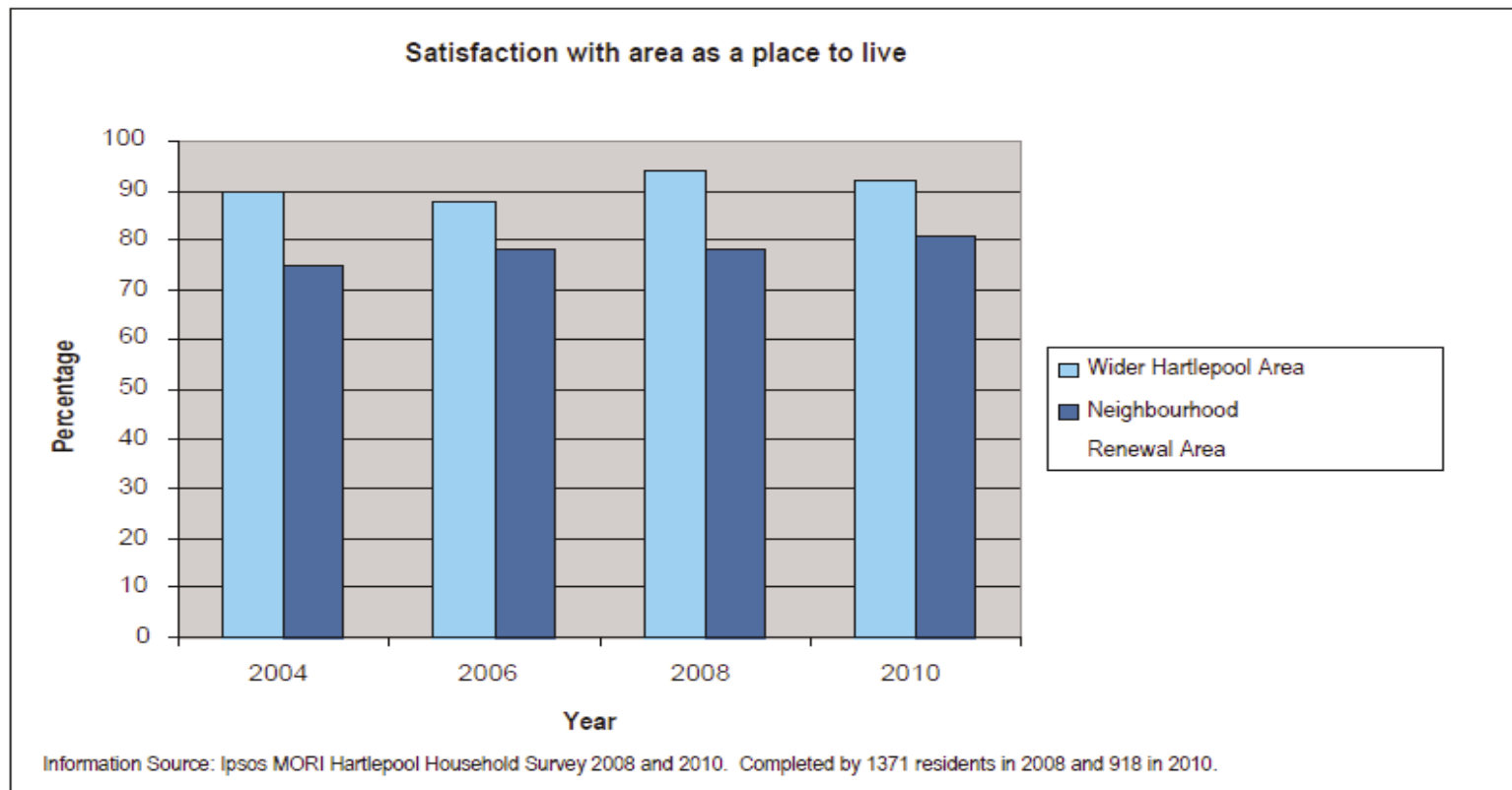
Quality of environment impacts on sense of well being and future aspirations

Seven out of the eleven wards in Hartlepool contain neighbourhoods that fall within the top 5% most deprived nationally

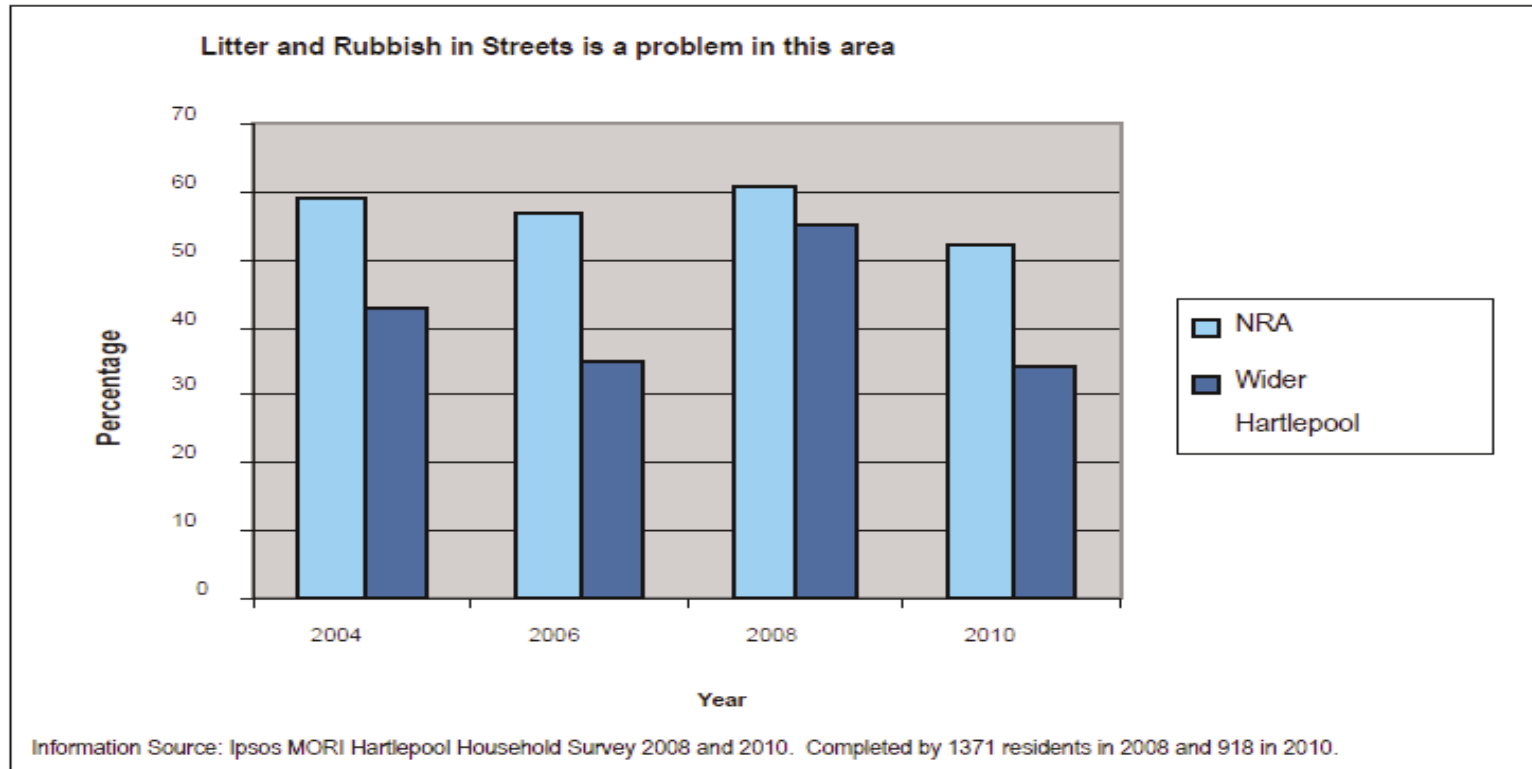
If you live in any of these neighbourhoods you will feel limited control over your environment and what happens to it



Public Perception



Public Perception



Performance

- **NI 195 Inspections.**

NI 195 is reported as the percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly-posting that fall below an acceptable level.

- **APSE (Association for Public Service Excellent)**

This data collection is used to benchmark against other Local Authorities.



NI 195 Out-turn Figure

Grade	Litter	Detritus	Combined	Graffiti	Fly Posting
A	33	31	64	129	169
B+	49	52	101	13	6
B+	77	67	144	21	0
B-	11	13	24	2	0
C	3	3	6	6	0
C-	2	8	10	3	0
D	0	1	1	1	0
N/A	0	0	0	0	0
	175	175	350	175	175

	NI 195a	NI 195b	BVPI 199a	NI 195c	NI 195d
No of sites grade B- (divide by 2)	11	13	24	2	0
No of sites grade C, C-, or D	5	12	17	10	0

NI 195 Score	6%	11%	11.7%	6%	0%
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Service Delivery

- Even in these times of austerity there has been no reduction to this frontline service.
- The latest NI195 figures show a steady improvement in cleanliness covering the five areas Litter, Detritus, Graffiti, Fly Posting and Dog Fouling.



Enforcement Action

- Fixed Penalty Notices Issued

Year	Type of Notice	Number issued
09/10	Dog Control Order	333
10/11	Dog Control Order	359
11/12	Dog Control Order	268
09/10	Littering	728
10/11	Littering	565
11/12	Littering	581



Evidence of Impact

- **Stray dogs Number of stray dogs picked up in Hartlepool 2011/12 and outcome.**

Outcome	Count of Number of dogs	Percentage %
Died at vets	1	>1
Escaped	3	>1
Gifted*	176	51
PTS**	11	3
Reclaimed	93	27
Retained by finder	6	2
RTO***	56	16
Grand Total	346	100

*Gifted to kennels ** PTS –put to sleep ***RTO returned to owner directly



Evidence of Impact

- Comparison of Hartlepool stray dog statistics to national figures.

Outcome	Hartlepool %	National %
PTS	3	7
Strays received (already micro-chipped)	38	6
Returned to, or reclaimed by owner as a result of micro-chip***	52	22
Total returned to, or reclaimed by owner	43	47
Rehomed	51	33

*** as a percentage of total number of dogs returned to, or reclaimed by owner



Evidence of Impact

Quality Standards

- Tidy Britain Group – Innovation Award
- RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints 2012; Silver Stray Dogs Footprint
- Green Flags for parks
- Eco-Schools - all schools minimum bronze standard



Risks & Pressures

- **Legislation changes**
 - Section 46
 - Changes to reporting procedures (eg NI195)
- **Current economic climate**
 - Loss of external funding (eg NRF, WNF, ERDF, NDC, Housing H/pool)
 - Budget cuts (mainstream)
 - Reliance on other resources - Community Payback Partnership, placements from DISC (Developing Initiative Supporting Communities), Nordic Pioneer Apprenticeship scheme, Future Apprenticeship Scheme in partnership with HCFE
- **Effects of climate change**
 - Increased number and severity of windy days
 - Increased flooding
 - Increased tourism – more litter and dog related matters
- **Managing public expectations, in light of the above points.**



Recommendations

- Engage partners to deliver on the same aims and objectives
- High level support in problem areas (e.g. Manor School)
- Increased public awareness
- Increased/maintained resource levels for operational, enforcement and education elements
- Greater efficiency, coordination, collaboration.



Thank you



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

19 December 2012



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION IN THE JSNA TOPIC
OF 'ENVIRONMENT' –
CLEANLINESS/ENFORCEMENT EVIDENCE FROM
CLEVELAND POLICE - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that representatives from Cleveland Police Neighbourhood Policing Team have been invited to attend this meeting to provide information in relation to the investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 1 August 2012, Members agreed the Scope and Terms of Reference for their forthcoming investigation into the JSNA topic of Environment.
- 2.2 Subsequently, officers from Cleveland Police Neighbourhood Policing Team have agreed to attend this meeting to provide the forum with information in relation to the cleanliness and enforcement element of the JSNA topic of Environment. This evidence will include details of the powers the police have in this area and partnership working arrangements currently in place and (where possible) will also outline the following:-
- (a) What are the key issues?
 - (b) Who is at risk and why?
 - (c) What is the level of need?
 - (d) What services are currently provided?
 - (e) What is the projected level of need / service use?
 - (f) What evidence is there for effective intervention?
 - (g) What do people say?
 - (h) What needs might be unmet?
 - (i) What additional needs assessment is required?
 - (j) What are the recommendations for commissioning?

- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session, Members should be mindful of the Marmot principle to 'Create and Develop Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities'.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence from officers of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in attendance at this meeting and seek clarification on any relevant issues where required.

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

Subject: THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Neighbourhood 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 Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum are shown below for Members consideration:-

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 74/11 – FORMER LEATHERS CHEMICAL SITE

Key Test Decision (i) applies

Nature of the decision

Following "determination" of the dunes area as "contaminated land", to consider a report identifying responsible bodies and to decide upon progressing action against those bodies in accordance with the legislation.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The former Leathers Chemicals site is situated in the Seaton Ward.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in January 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

Potential responsible bodies, Natural England and the Environment Agency will be consulted in writing.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Following, the Environment Agency investigation and the determination of the site as contaminated land, Cabinet will be presented with a report setting out the findings of the legal process to establish those liable to contribute to the permanent remediation of the site, and to decide upon the issuing of Remediation Notices.

How to make representation

Formal representations can be made to Alastair Smith (Assistant Director Transportation and Engineering), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523802 or e-mail alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be sought by contacting Stephen Telford (Senior Engineer – Environmental Issues) on 01429 523245 or stephen.telford@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 11 / 12 PUBLIC LIGHTING STRATEGY

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

To approve the Public Lighting Strategy for Hartlepool

Who will make the decision?

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

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in January 2013

Who will be consulted and how?

There will be no direct consultation on the Strategy which is based on current industry best practice to optimise energy savings and illumination levels whilst maintaining safety standards.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Public lighting provision is a vitally important highway service which helps to increase the use of highways after dark. The provision and maintenance of public lighting gives highway users more confidence and improves the sense of personal safety and security.

The reduction of night-time accidents and the subsequent increase in the night-time safety of road users is a major benefit to be gained by the provision of public lighting. Lighting can reduce night-time road accidents by 30%. The potential reduction in night-time accidents can be used as a means of assessing the value of public lighting as a road safety action as contained in the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions Advice Note TA/49/86 'Approval of New and Replacement lighting on Trunk Roads and Trunk Road Motorways'.

Road safety is not the only benefit from the provision of public lighting. Studies on crime levels show that the provision of good public lighting can reduce levels and the fear of crime. This needs to be balanced, however, with consideration of energy usage and in this respect the Council will look towards the utilisation of the most modern technology to achieve the best balance between energy usage and illumination levels to maintain the safety elements whilst reducing operating costs. This will also contribute towards the carbon reduction targets set by the Council to meet its statutory obligations.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523802 or e-mail alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager, 1 Church Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7DS. Telephone: 01429 523252. Email: mike.blair@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN18 /12 LEASING OF LAND TO A WIND TURBINE DEVELOPER FOR THE ERECTION OF WIND TURBINES ON LAND AT BRENDA ROAD.**Key Decision Test (i) and (ii) applies****Nature of the decision**

That Cabinet considers the appointment of a wind turbine developer to undertake in-depth investigations into the feasibility of large scale wind energy generation on land owned by the Council at Brenda Road, with a view to leasing the site to the developer for the construction and operation of one or more wind turbines subject to satisfactory terms being agreed.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The land in question is situated in the Seaton ward, following changes to ward boundaries. The turbines, depending on size proposed by developers, would potentially be visible from neighbouring wards. Any proposed development is likely to result in a community benefit fund, which may be spent to improve community facilities in any ward within the borough.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in December 2012.

Who will be consulted and how?

If approval is given for the Council to progress this project, a full and comprehensive consultation process will be undertaken to ensure that needs and views of the wider community and Members are considered. It is anticipated that this will be undertaken by the developer in collaboration with the Council. It should be noted that public consultation will then be undertaken throughout the process. It will be a requirement for any selected developer to demonstrate this level of commitment to public consultation before any lease is awarded.

The construction of the wind turbines will require planning permission and will be subject to relevant consultation.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

It is widely accepted that the public sector has a major role to play if the UK is to meet its challenging renewable energy targets. However, funding costly large scale renewable energy projects is difficult, and many public sector bodies do not have the funds nor the highly specialist skills to deliver such projects.

The Council was approached by Partnership for Renewables (PfR) in 2009. PfR proposed to lease land from the Council, with the intention of erecting wind turbines on that land. The Council would benefit from an income from the lease of the land, and also from a share of the income from electricity generated.

PfR were invited to undertake basic, informal investigations into a number of sites owned by the Council. One of these sites – Brenda Road – was chosen for further investigation. In November 2009, a report went to the Joint Community Safety & Housing and Finance & Performance Portfolio Holders. The next step was for the Council to sign an exclusivity agreement ourselves. However, the project was put on hold pending the review of Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy.

The Council has since undertaken some further market testing with other contractors to discuss the proposal further and to ensure that the Council receives the best arrangement possible.

It is likely that any arrangement will lead to the following:

- The erection of wind turbines, which would be owned by the developer third party.
- Leasing of the land, by the Council, to the developer. This would attract an annual fixed price income.
- The Council would receive a further payment, linked to energy generation performance.
- A community benefit fund may also be provided by the developer.
- Any final contract would be likely to lead to a 25 year lease on the land, with the Council receiving an index-linked income for this period of time.

Cabinet at its meeting on 4th October 2012 agreed to progress with a competitive procurement which will then allow the Council to consider the options and benefits more fully.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services), Level 3, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone (01429) 523800. E-mail: denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Denise Ogden as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 34 / 12 - ADOPTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE LONG TERM COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COVERING THE FRONTAGE FROM CRIMDON TO NEWBURN BRIDGE.

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

Formal adoption of the recommendations and policies for the long term strategic management of the coastline from Crimdon (the boundary with Durham County Council) down to Newburn

Bridge; contained within the Coastal Strategy Review Document. Authorisation of Officers to progress the recommendations of the strategy by undertaking maintenance of key frontage lengths and also producing detailed Project Appraisal Reports (PAR'S) leading to significant capital construction schemes subject to the necessary approvals, availability of funding and contributions from key beneficiaries of the works including the Council and the Private Sector.

Who will make the decision?

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

Ward(s) affected

Coastal erosion and flooding are Borough wide issues, however the strategy directly affects the Headland and Harbour and De Brus Wards.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in January 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

Public consultations and presentations, stakeholder meetings and press releases were all undertaken throughout the duration of producing the strategy; responses received were considered in formulating the final strategy reports. Further consultation on the conclusions of the strategy will not be carried out, however consultations on individual schemes will be carried out through production of the Project Appraisal Reports and through the formal Planning process. Final dissemination of the strategy conclusions is planned after formal adoption by the Council and the Environment Agency's Large Projects Review Group.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The information to be considered is the Strategy Study Review for North Sands to Newburn Bridge (incorporating Hart Warren) which is produced in 3 parts namely:-

- Stage A Report – Comprising an assessment of the current condition and analysis of future performance of the existing coastal defence structures; includes a detailed topographical survey, visual walk-over survey, intrusive investigation of existing structures and photomontage;
- Stage B Report - Technical, Environmental and Economic evaluation of feasible options and selection of preferred options to manage the long-term coastal defence of the frontage; includes detailed numerical modelling and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (of the options), Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment and a Water Framework Directive Assessment;
- Stage C Report – Strategy Appraisal Report (StAR) which details the justification and business case for carrying out the recommended works; an essential requirement to secure Government Grant (Flood Defence Grant in Aid).

How to make representation

Formal representations can be made in writing to:-

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)
Hartlepool Borough Council,
Bryan Hanson House,
Lynn Street,
Hartlepool,
TS24 7BT.

alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Tel No: 01429 523802

Further information

Copies of the strategy documents will be made available at the Civic Centre, Bryan Hanson House and the Town Centre and Headland Libraries and the Council's coastal website <http://www.hartlepoolcoastal.com>. Further information can be obtained from Dennis Hancock – Principal Engineer 01429 523207 or dennis.hancock@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 38/12 – COMMUNITY ENERGY COLLECTIVE SWITCHING**Key Test Decision (ii) applies (affects all Wards)****Nature of the decision**

Cabinet will be asked to consider pursuing a collective switching scheme where the Council will, through a specialist third party organisation, bring together a group of bill payers to increase their negotiating with energy suppliers.

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Ward(s) affected

The ward(s) affected are all

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in December 2012 / January 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

If approval is given for the Council to progress this project a comprehensive consultation process will be undertaken with residents and businesses in order to explain the scheme and its benefits. Thereafter assistance will be given to those people wishing to join the scheme.

Consultation will be undertaken directly through Council sources and through the specialist third party organisation who may be appointed to administer the scheme. Vela as the town's largest housing provider have also indicated their wish to be involved to ensure their tenants benefit.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Collective switching is a concept whereby a group of billpayers get together to increase their negotiating power with energy suppliers. The concept relies on energy suppliers competing to offer low prices in order to secure the business of multiple householders, whereby economies of scale dictate a lower price for the consumer.

It is common for a third party organisation to administer the scheme, such as the 'Switch with Which?' campaign undertaken by the consumer focus organisation Which?. There are several Council-led schemes developing across the country which are being encouraged.

Collective switching is usually led by a third party organisation who takes responsibility for collating details of all members of a scheme. This organisation will liaise directly with energy suppliers or wholesalers to secure the best price for members of the group.

Both the third party and also member organisations would expect to make a profit for each household introduced, via a commission based scheme. In the case of a local authority, this commission may be used to take further action to tackle fuel poverty.

The introduction of a collective switching scheme for Hartlepool Borough Council would present a number of benefits, including:

- Reduction in fuel poverty for residents.

- Increase in disposable income for residents, some of which would be re-circulated in the local economy.

A small income for the Council from commission for each household signing up.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY. Telephone 01429 523800 e-mail: denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk or Graham Frankland, Assistant Director (Resources), Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone: 01429 523211. E Mail: Graham.Frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be sought by contacting Denise Ogden or Graham Frankland on above number

DECISION REFERENCE: RN 39 / 12 - TOWN WALL COASTAL WORKS: CONSTRUCTION OF SET-BACK FLOOD DEFENCE WALL AND ASSOCIATED WORKS

Key Test Decision (i) and (ii) applies

Nature of the decision

To approve the scheme following completion of the final detailed design of the set back flood defence wall and associated works involving drainage and highway elements.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Cabinet.

Ward(s) affected

The Headland and Harbour Ward.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in February 2013.

Who will be consulted and how?

The development of this scheme has been ongoing since 2008 and various public consultations and presentations, 1 to 1 meetings with residents of the Town Wall, stakeholder meetings and press releases have all been undertaken.

The detailed proposals will be presented to the Hartlepool Headland Residents Association and details of the scheme and a feedback form will be delivered to residents situated within the predicted flood zone; along with an offer for residents to view the scheme proposals in detail and provide feedback.

The scheme details will also be included in the November 2012 edition of Hartbeat.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The information to be considered by Cabinet will consist of a report comprising the following:-

- A detailed background to the need for the scheme and results of consultations already carried out;
- Progress made to date;
- Description of the final design and the detailed design process;
- Financial and risk implications.

How to make representation

Formal representations can be made in writing to:-

Alastair Smith
 Assistant Director (Transportation and Engineering)
 Hartlepool Borough Council,
 Bryan Hanson House,
 Lynn Street,
 Hartlepool,
 TS24 7BT.

alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Tel No: 01429 523802

Further information

Copies of the drawings and feedback form can be accessed on the Council's coastal website <http://www.hartlepoolcoastal.com>. Further information can be obtained from Dennis Hancock – Principal Engineer 01429 523207 or dennis.hancock@hartlepool.gov.uk

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

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
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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 prior to the meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Neighbourhood 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 Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum in advance of the decision being made.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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