

**Legal, Governance and Human
Resources Department**

Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: 01429 266522
www.hartlepool.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Jo Stubbs Tel: 523019
Email: jo.stubbs@hartlepool.gov.uk

Our Ref: JS
Your Ref:

5th December 2025

COUNCIL:

Councillors Allen, Bailey-Fleet, Boddy, Buchan, Clayton, Cook, Cranney, Creevy, Darby, Dodds, Doyle, Dunbar, Feeney, Hall, Hargreaves, Harrison, Holbrook, Jorgeson, Leedham, Lindridge, Little, Male, Martin-Wells, Moore, Morley, Napper, Nelson, Oliver, Reeve, Riddle, Roy, Scarborough, Smith, Thompson, Wallace and Young.

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL – 11 December 2025

Please find attached a replacement agenda and supporting documentation for consideration at the above meeting in accordance with the following agenda item:-

13 – Business Report – *Chief Executive*

Please place this information with the agenda papers already circulated.

Yours faithfully



JO STUBBS
PRINCIPAL DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND LEGAL SUPPORT OFFICER
LEGAL GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

REPLACEMENT AGENDA



Council Agenda

Thursday 11 December 2025 at 6.30pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

- (1) To receive apologies from absent Members;
- (2) To receive any declarations of interest from Members;
- (3) To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business;
- (4) To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 2 October 2025 as the correct record;
- (5) To answer questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting of Council;
- (6) To deal with any business required by statute to be done;
 - (a) Director of Public Health Annual Report – Report of Interim Director of Public Health
- (7) To receive any announcements from the Chair, or the Head of Paid Service;
- (8) To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any Committee to which such business was referred for consideration;
- (9) To consider reports from the Council's Committees and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
 - (a) Further Periodic Review of the Constitution – Report of Constitution Committee

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone. The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

- (b) A19 / Elwick Road/North Lane Junction and Elwick Northern Bypass / Hartlepool Western Link Project Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), Side Roads Orders (SROS) and Slip Roads Order (SLRO) – Report of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services Committee
- (10) To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
- (11) To consider reports from the Policy Committees:
 - (a) proposals in relation to the Council’s approved budget and policy framework
 - (i) Statement of Licensing Policy 2026 – Report of Licensing Committee
 - (ii) Local Council Support 2026/27 – Report of Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee
 - (iii) Council Tax Base 2026/27 – Report of Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee
 - (b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework
 - (i) Acquisition of 9 Houses for Housing Revenue Account on the South West Extension – Report of Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee
- (12) To consider motions in the order in which notice has been received;

(1) A Fifth Licensing Objective to Tackle Alcohol Harm

Council notes:

- The Licensing Act 2003 sets out four statutory objectives:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder,
2. Public safety,
3. The prevention of public nuisance, and
4. The protection of children from harm.

- Despite the significant burden that alcohol places on the NHS, emergency services, community safety, and families — particularly in the North East — there is no specific objective related to public health in the Licensing Act.

- Local authorities, while able to act as licensing authorities and responsible authorities under the Act, are limited in how effectively they can use licensing policy to reduce alcohol harm, even in areas with high alcohol-related hospital admissions or early mortality.



- Public health organisations, including Balance (the North East Alcohol Office), the Alcohol Health Alliance UK, and the Local Government Association, have long called for the introduction of a fifth licensing objective to better protect communities.

Council believes:

- A new licensing objective, "the protection and promotion of public health in relation to alcohol," would empower councils and Directors of Public Health to:
 - Object to or condition alcohol licence applications based on local evidence of alcohol-related harm;
 - Manage outlet density and late-night availability;
 - More effectively protect vulnerable residents and reduce health inequalities.
- This change would align England with Scotland and Northern Ireland, where public health is already recognised in licensing legislation

Council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Home Secretary to call for an urgent review of the Licensing Act 2003 and to introduce a fifth statutory objective: "To protect and promote public health in relation to alcohol."
- Write to Balance, the North East Alcohol Office, asking it to support this call and to lead or coordinate a refreshed regional campaign to strengthen licensing powers in relation to alcohol harm.
- Work with other councils, public health partners, and the Local Government Association to promote the inclusion of public health as a licensing objective through joint lobbying and information-sharing.

Signed by: Councillors Harrison, Oliver, Hargreaves, Creevy, Allen, Dunbar, Holbrook, Hall, Boddy, Morley, Bailey-Fleet, Male, Cook, Nelson, Jorgeson, Thompson, Wallace, Scarborough, Riddle and Dodds

(2) Learning Disability Nursing

This Council Notes That:

A coalition of leading health and disability organisations, spearheaded by the learning disability charity Mencap and including the Royal College of Nursing, recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, warning of the "imminent collapse" of the Learning Disability (LD) Nursing profession.

The number of Registered Learning Disability Nurses in England has declined by a shocking 43% since 2009, with projections indicating that the domestic supply of newly qualified LD Nurses could cease by as early as 2028 if urgent intervention is not taken.



LD Nurses are essential in addressing severe health inequalities; the recent Learning from Lives and Deaths Review (LeDeR) highlighted that people with a learning disability die on average 20 years earlier than the general population and are twice as likely to die avoidably.

The letter highlights the alarming rate of course closures at academic institutions, which is leaving entire regions without localised training programmes for future LD Nurses.

Mencap and the coalition have called on the Government to recommit to funding the training targets outlined in the 2023 NHS Workforce Plan, guarantee financial support for students and employers, and introduce minimum staffing levels to safeguard patient lives.

The Council believes that:

The crisis in Learning Disability Nursing constitutes a real threat to the health and human rights of residents with a learning disability within the Borough of Hartlepool.

As a Council committed to addressing health inequalities, we have a responsibility to advocate for the specialist healthcare workforce that protects our most vulnerable residents.

The skills and specialist advocacy provided by LD Nurses are critical and irreplaceable, ensuring person-centred care, reducing inequalities, and preventing avoidable deaths in all healthcare settings, from primary care to acute hospitals.

This Council resolves to:

Support this campaign by writing to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, the Chief Nursing Officer for England, and the Chief Executive of the North East and Cumbria Integrated Care Board, formally endorsing the demands of the MENCAP-led coalition and urging them to enact the proposed 'rescue plan' for the profession.

Use the resources of Hartlepool Borough Council to promote the work of Learning Disability Nursing in our community and highlight the benefits of this as a profession. As well as highlighting the importance of LD nursing in combatting the stark inequalities faced by people with a learning disability

Use all possible influence to encourage Teesside University to continue their pre-registration LD Nursing Degree route continues and ensure that the relevant NHS Trust has a robust plan to ensure the supply of LD nurses in our area for the future.



Signed by: Councillors Hargreaves, Boddy, Allen, Morley, Holbrook, Harrison, Oliver, Cook, Creevy, Dunbar, Nelson, Jorgeson, Hall, Thompson, Bailey-Fleet, Wallace, Male, Scarborough, Riddle and Dodds

- (13) To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary;
- (14) To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 9;
- (15) To answer questions of Members of the Council under Rule 10;
 - a) Questions to the Chairs about recent decisions of Council Committees and Forums without notice under Council Procedure Rule 10.1
 - b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 10.2
 - c) Questions on notice to the Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority
 - d) Minutes of the meetings held by Cleveland Fire Authority on 6 June 2025 and 1 August 2025 and the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel on 16 September 2025

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Thursday 15 January 2026 at 6.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool



TVCA Organisational Improvement Update

On 3 April 2025, Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) received a non-statutory Best Value Notice (BVN) from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The notice will be reviewed after 12 months in April 2026.

Following extensive engagement workshops with partners, officers, and members, TVCA developed an [Organisational Improvement Plan \(OIP\)](#) approved by Cabinet on 27 June 2025 and subsequently submitted to MHCLG.

The Plan focuses on four key themes:

- Partnerships & Continuous Improvement
- Use of Resources
- Governance
- Culture

TVCA is supported and challenged by a Local Government Association (LGA) facilitated Independent Advisory Board (IAB) throughout the improvement journey.

Ongoing Partnership and Engagement

Implementation of the plan is underpinned by continued engagement. The Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team are working closely with the five constituent authorities and actively engaging senior regional stakeholders, including MPs, business and other key partners.

On 2 December, the Executive Leadership Team met with Hartlepool Borough Council's Leader, Policy Committee Chairs, Chief Executive, and senior officers to discuss current projects, future priorities, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration.

Additional engagement activities include:

- Informal Cabinet workshops
- Strengthened portfolio holder arrangements
- Ongoing dialogue with Local Authority officer groups
- Continued support from the LGA

Further workshops with key partners and stakeholders are being planned with the LGA early in the new year.

Engagement and communication remain central to the Improvement Plan, ensuring Members and staff are informed and involved throughout. External challenge and validation are integral, with the IAB, LGA, and other partners providing guidance and assurance on progress.

Overview of TVCA Projects and Headlines**Transport**

- £978m secured from Government over the summer to unlock major projects.
- Work underway with Transport Committee and Cabinet to consider how we best support bus services with available funding.

Education, Employment and Skills

- £5m **Youth Guarantee Trailblazer** programme to support youth employment with high-quality paid work placements & work taster sessions. 1,200 young people have expressed interest.
- £17.6m delivery plan approved for **Connect to Work**, 5-year programme to help 5,000 people with disabilities, long-term conditions & barriers to meaningful, sustainable jobs.

- £2.9m People & Skills support through **Move Forward** programme for employment and skills.
- Cabinet considering a report on 12th December on 2026/27 Adult Skills Fund.

Business Support

- Developing new approach to business support working closely with constituent local authorities.
- £8.2m Supporting Local Business programmes in delivery, including **Tees Valley Export Fund** – offering a £500,000 funding pot to help businesses take their products and services to international markets with grants of £3,000 to £10,000.
- **Tees Valley Labs** - programme continuing after a successful first year supporting more than 30 Tees Valley start-up businesses with more than £1.5m.

Inward Investment

- New Director of Inward Investment and Marketing appointed.
- Inward Investment Strategy being created in collaboration with constituent local authorities, business and other stakeholders to market the whole of the Tees Valley.

Creative & Visitor Economy

- Working alongside Hartlepool Borough Council, North East Screen and Hartlepool Development Corporation to develop Northern Studios expansion in Hartlepool.
- Sonic Futures project nurturing & amplifying our vibrant music scene with events, training and advice.
- Continued work to support Visit Tees Valley, boost tourism, events and our region's businesses bolstered by the formation of new Local Visitor Economy Partnership board to get the voice of industry behind and involved in plans.

Net Zero

- Driving major industrial decarbonisation with ongoing support for the Net Zero Teesside (NZE) carbon capture, utilisation and storage programme & wider projects to position the region as the UK's first decarbonised industrial cluster.
- Delivering regional Net Zero programmes via the North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub, including large-scale housing retrofit, energy-efficiency upgrades, and support for local authorities and partners to accelerate heat decarbonisation and renewable energy projects. Delivering the Mayoral Renewables Fund in partnership with our Local Authorities.
- Backing clean-growth innovation and skills, including continued investment in the Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre and Net Zero Launchpad initiatives to support SMEs, hydrogen technologies, offshore renewables, and the development of a skilled low-carbon workforce.