

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

8 December 2025

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Owen Riddle (In the Chair)

Councillors: Sue Little, Michael Jorgeson, Amanda Napper, and Christopher Wallace

Also Present: Councillor Carole Thompson as a substitute for Councillor Martin Dunbar in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Parish Council Representatives:

Stephen Smith, Greatham Parish Council

Officers: Kieran Bostock, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services
Scott Parkes, Consultancy Manager
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

14. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martin Dunbar.

15. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Michael Jorgeson, Amanda Napper, Sue Little and Carole Thompson declared interests as members of Planning Committee.

16. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2025

Received.

17. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTPF) 2026/27 to 2029/30 *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital and Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the MTPF and to enable the Committee to scrutinise/comment on the savings proposals referred from the Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services presented the report which reiterated that all councils across the country were facing significant financial challenges owing to the impact of inflation and demand on services along with historic inadequate increases in government funding to meet these challenges. As outlined at Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee in November, the Council had a forecast budget deficit of £8.572m for 2026/27 and £20.591m over the full MTFP period.

As in previous years, addressing the deficit needed to be managed through budget saving actions which sought to minimise the impact on services where possible and limited use of reserves. With regard to savings, proposals totalling £4.117m had been proposed for 2026/27. Pending publication of the local government finance settlement in late December, the acceptance of the proposals for 2026/27 would leave a remaining budget gap of £4.300m. This would mean the budget could not be signed off as robust without significant increased Government funding, further significant budget cuts or savings and/or an increase in Council Tax for 2026/27.

An outline of individual departmental savings was provided with further details included within Appendix B. The proposals within the remit of this Committee related to waste and recycling and fees and charges.

A Member raised concerns at the financial challenges the local authority was currently facing and the savings being required from the Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services Department given the provision of the most public facing services from this Department. In addition, clarification was sought on the length of time recycling had been undertaken across Hartlepool and how recycling was not being maximised across the Borough. The Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services confirmed that an additional officer would be recruited to raise awareness and maximise the benefits of the food waste collection. A Member highlighted that recycling and managing waste collection was about future sustainability.

In response to a request for the clarification, the Vice Chair confirmed that the financial settlement from the Government should be announced around 17 December.

Decision

The savings proposals detailed in Appendix B relating to the services within this Committee portfolio were approved to be reported back to Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee on 19 January 2026.

18. 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) *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – NRS 104/25

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the A19/Elwick Road/North Lane Junction and Elwick Road/Hartlepool Western Link Project (the Scheme) and requests approval to the making of the relevant legal orders.

There was a degree of detail in respect of the order documentation and plans that will ultimately need to be finalised following approval by the Committee and the Council and Members will therefore note that provision was made in the recommendations for the Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources to amend and finalise the documentation as necessary prior to the making and sealing of the various orders.

Delivery of this Scheme was integral to the strategic development to the west of the Hartlepool urban area in accordance with the Hartlepool Local Plan. Details of the Scheme and the future growth of Hartlepool had previously

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services presented a detailed and comprehensive report that provided an update on the A19/Elwick Road/North Lane Junction and Elwick Road/Hartlepool Western Link Project (the Scheme) and requests approval to the making of the relevant legal orders.

The Scheme will achieve the following objectives and have the following benefits:

- Improve the operation of, and road safety, at the at-grade A19-Elwick junction by the construction of a new grade-separated junction and also contribute to wider improvements in road safety and functionality along the A19 corridor.
- Improve connectivity by creating an additional main junction on the A19 and enhanced link to Hartlepool.
- Contribute to the strategic and local traffic management by relieving pressure on the existing A179 and A689 routes from Hartlepool to the A19.
- Contribute to the regeneration and growth in accordance with the key principles and spatial vision in the adopted Hartlepool Local Plan ("the Local Plan") particularly in order to bring forward housing development and associated social infrastructure. The delivery of a key housing allocation at High Tunstall being dependent on the delivery of the Scheme.
- Improve road safety, bring environmental benefits to, and protect the character of Elwick, by reducing existing through traffic from the village.

Further details were provided in the report around the key milestones in the scheme along with progress to date and the necessary land acquisition process through the need for Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) and requirements for Side Road Orders (SROs).

The Chair commented that the progression of this project was imperative to road safety and alleviating traffic pressure on the highways going in and out of the town.

Decision

That Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services Committee requested that Full Council:

- (1) Approves the Council entering into an agreement with National Highways pursuant to Section 6 of the Highways Act 1980 ("the Section 6 Agreement") relating to highway works at the A19 / Elwick Road / North Lane junction and the exercise by the Council of all National Highways' powers in respect of the making, publishing and seeking confirmation of the A19 SRO and taking all other related steps necessary to give effect to paragraphs 14.2 and 14.3 of the report, with delegated authority given to the Director (including any acting Director) of Neighbourhood Services ("the Director") in consultation with the Director of Legal, Governance and HR to reach agreement with National Highways as to the form of such an agreement which shall generally be in accordance with the draft attached as an appendix and with delegated authority to the Director in consultation with the Director of Legal, Governance and HR to agree a commuted sum with National Highways if so required

provided that agreement to pay such a commuted sum does not result in any prudential borrowing beyond that already approved by the Council in respect of the Scheme.

- (2) Approves the Council (both for itself and in exercise of the powers of National Highways delegated pursuant to the Section 6 Agreement) exercising powers under Sections 14, 125, 239, 240, 246, 250 and 260 of the Highways Act 1980, the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and all other enabling powers to secure the compulsory acquisition of and otherwise deal with all land and rights and interests in and affecting land necessary to construct the Scheme.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of the approval at paragraph 14.1 of the report, authorises the Director of Legal, Governance and HR (both for the Council itself and in exercise of the powers of National Highways delegated pursuant to the Section 6 Agreement as relevant) to make:
 - (a) The Hartlepool Borough Council (A19 / Elwick Road / North Lane and Elwick Northern Bypass / Hartlepool Western Link) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023 ("the CPO") under sections 239, 240, 246, 249, 250 and 260 of the Highways Act 1980, the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and all other enabling powers, as per the details contained in this report and generally in the form set out in an attached appendix to this report to secure the compulsory acquisition of interests in land and new rights shown on the plans attached as an appendix (the CPO and associated plans being subject to any final amendments the Director considers necessary); and
 - (b) The Hartlepool Borough Council (A19 / Elwick Road / North Lane and Elwick Northern Bypass / Hartlepool Western Link)(Classified Roads) Side Roads Order 2023 ("the SRO") under sections 14 and 125 of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, as per the details set out in this report and generally in the forms set out as an appendix (subject to any final amendments the Director considers necessary);
 - (c) The Hartlepool Borough Council (A19 / Elwick Road / North Lane and Elwick Northern Bypass / Hartlepool Western Link) Side Roads Order 2023 ("the A19 SRO") under sections 14 and 125 of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, as per the details set out in this report and generally in the forms set out as an appendix (subject to any final amendments the Director and National Highways considers necessary);
 - (d) the CPO and SROs being collectively referred to as "the Orders".

- (4) Approves the Council entering into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Transport ("SSfT") and / or the Department for Transport ("DfT") to receive authority or delegation of powers to enable the Council to promote a Slip Roads Order or Orders to be made by the SSfT under sections 10 and 41 of the Highways Act 1980 through to confirmation, including preparation and representations at any Public Inquiry and the exercising of those powers if and when authorised or delegated; or whether or not a delegation is obtained pursuant to this paragraph the Council liaising with and assisting the SSfT and / or DfT in respect of publication and promotion of a Slip Roads Order or Orders under Sections 10 and 41 of the Highways Act 1980 in each case for the designation of the new slip roads created as part of the Scheme as trunk roads;
- (5) In respect of the Slip Roads Order, as necessary:
 - (a) authorises the Director to exercise on behalf of the Council any powers of the Secretary of State under section 10 of the Highways Act 1980 delegated pursuant to an agreement as described in paragraph 14.4 of the report or otherwise to take such steps as may be necessary to liaise with and assist the Secretary of State as described in paragraph above; or
 - (b) in exercise of the powers of SSfT and/or the DfT delegated pursuant to an agreement described in paragraph 14.4 of the report authorises the Director of Legal, Governance and HR to make the Hartlepool Borough Council (A19 / Elwick Road / North Lane and Elwick Northern Bypass / Hartlepool Western Link) Slip Roads Order 2023.
- (6) Approves in principle the Statement of Reasons ("SoR") for the above mentioned Orders generally in the form of the draft set out in an appendix and authorises the Director to agree the final version of the SoR, and the final form of the Orders including authority to make, if necessary, any amendments to the Orders referred to in the above paragraphs necessary to secure the compulsory acquisition of all interests in land necessary to construct the Scheme.
- (7) Authorises the Director of Legal, Governance and HR to seal the Orders and as necessary the Slip Roads Order in their final form.
- (8) Authorises the Director to take all ancillary and necessary steps, including the publication and service of all statutory notices and presentation of the Council's case at Public Inquiry, to proceed with and secure the confirmation of the Orders and as necessary the Slip Roads Order by the Secretary of State, and making of agreements and undertakings with landowners and other affected parties necessary in order to secure the removal of any objections made to the Orders (where such agreements and undertakings are

appropriate), and the vesting of the interests in land and new rights in the Council by way of the making of one or more general vesting declarations under the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 or the service of Notices to Treat and Notices of Entry under the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 and to include authority to request confirmation of the final Orders and as necessary the Slip Roads Order with modifications if, in the light of new information, it appears expedient to ensure the confirmation of the Orders and as necessary the Slip Roads Order.

- (9) That authority be given to the Director of Legal, Governance and HR to acquire all third-party interests in land and the properties subject to the CPO and as required for the Scheme (whether compulsorily or by agreement).

The meeting concluded at 2.20pm

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

PUBLICATION DATE: 11 December 2025