

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



20 March 2013

at 1.00pm

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. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2013**
- 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

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment' – Water

- 7.1 Environment Investigation – Water Quality
 - (a) Covering report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
 - (b) Bathing Water Presentation – *Parks and Countryside Team*
 - (c) Drinking Water Presentation – *Public Protection Team*

Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment' - Air

- 7.2 Environment Investigation – Air Quality
 - (a) Covering report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
 - (b) Presentation - *Public Protection Team*

Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment'

- 7.3 Hartlepool Draft Environment JSNA Entry
 - (a) Covering report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
 - (b) Draft Environment JSNA Entry
- 7.4 Formulation of recommendations for the JSNA topic of 'Environment'
 - (a) Covering report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
 - (b) Formulation of recommendations - *Members of the Forum*

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting: 17th April 2013, commencing at 1.00pm in Committee Room B.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES

13 February 2013

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

Present:

Councillor: Sylvia Tempest (In the Chair)

Councillors: Brenda Loynes and Robbie Payne.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii), Councillor Jim Ainslie was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Paul Beck.

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Adrian Hurst, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Nicholas Stone, Neighbourhood Safety Co-ordinator
Karen Oliver, Facilities Management Manager
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

62. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Beck, Rob Cook, Steve Gibbon and Peter Jackson.

63. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

64. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2013

The minutes were confirmed subject to the commencement time being amended to indicate the meeting started at 1.00pm.

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

None.

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

None.

67. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

None.

68. School Meals – Consultation Exercise *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

The report informed Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum of the results and details of Facilities Management's school meals consultation exercise undertaken in 2012. There were 7,500 questionnaires issued to all parents of primary school children with 1,445 responding. In addition to this, a number of focus groups were held with parents, governors, catering staff and primary school pupils. Details of the responses were included within the report along with a number of quick win measures that had been introduced. A further survey of English Martyrs Sixth Form College students had been undertaken along with a small discussion group of students. The findings and actions from this survey were attached by way of appendix.

It was noted that further consultation was planned during 2013, particularly in relation to Secondary Schools. Monitoring of those areas where improvements were implemented will be ongoing and will form part of the overall aim towards continuous improvement and increased uptake.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues:

- (i) A Member questioned the take up of school meals at Springwell School which it was indicated was at 111%. The Facilities Management Manager confirmed that the additional take up over 100% was where children had adult carers with them.
- (ii) Clarification was sought on the take up of free school meals. The Facilities Management Manager indicated that not all children who were eligible for free school meals were aware they were eligible and some children who were eligible, chose to take a packed lunch. A number of schools where it was considered there was a high level of families in receipt of benefits, had been targeted to raise awareness of free school meals and encourage an increased take up.
- (iii) It was highlighted that at the last meeting of the Forum, Members had suggested Officers should attend parents' evenings within schools to raise awareness of eligibility for free school meals and clarification was sought if this had commenced. The Facilities Management Manager confirmed that Officers had attended both primary and secondary school open evenings prior to the September intake. Work was ongoing to

promote free school meals through cluster groups of schools and speaking to Head Teachers and Governing Bodies.

- (iv) A Member noted that all children attending Greatham Primary School were unable to take packed lunches and had to stay for a school meal at lunchtime and questioned if this could be encouraged in other schools. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that this change in school policy had been implemented a number of years ago and was reiterated to parents at every opportunity, including open evenings. Several Head Teachers had indicated their wish to eradicate packed lunches from their schools as a blanket policy but were reluctant to do so as they were concerned at what the reaction of parents would be. Whilst the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that Officers could encourage the take up of school meals, she was unsure if a policy incorporating a ban on packed lunches could be introduced, however further information on this issue would be sought and fed back to Members.
- (v) A Member sought clarification on whether children accessing free school meals were identifiable as accessing free school meals and whether there was a stigma attached to this. The Facilities Management Manager confirmed that free school meals were accessed in the same way as paid school meals depending on what system was in place at that school. The funding was provided automatically through the schools without identifying the individual children in receipt of the free school meal.
- (vi) In relation to the costs to provide school meals, a Member questioned whether this was sustainable and whether the schools could contribute toward this cost. The Facilities Management Manager confirmed that currently the Government provided around £147k subsidy for the provision of school meals and the Council contributed a subsidy of approximately £140k. School meal provision was sustainable whilst the subsidies were available, although an increase in take up to around 70% may reduce the requirement for a subsidy. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that when schools were asked previously to make a financial contribution to the provision of school meals, they declined which resulted in the cost of meals increasing by 15p per week.
- (vii) The Facilities Management Manager confirmed that schools receive a pupil premium from the Government for every pupil eligible for free school meals. The broad aim of this pupil premium was to tackle disadvantage through targetting the most disadvantaged pupils and it was suggested that this might provide the schools with some flexibility in allocating their budgets. The importance of school governing bodies encouraging the take up of school meals was stressed as in some cases, it might be the only hot meal that child receives for the day.
- (viii) Members were concerned that the subsidies currently being utilised for the provision of school meals may not be available in the future and felt that the schools should take on more financial responsibility for providing these meals for pupils.
- (ix) A Member questioned who provided and funded the school kitchen equipment. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

- confirmed that in the past the Council received £2.5k per school to fund kitchen equipment but that ceased when funding became unringfenced.
- (x) The importance of involving school governors was discussed. The Facilities Management Manager suggested that this may be an issue that should be considered further by the Schools Head Teachers' Forum. It had been suggested that a financial strategy should be developed including the potential to incorporate a reduced cost where there was more than one child receiving school meals. This would potentially increase the take up of school meals, which in turn might reduce the need for the local authority school meal subsidy. A proportion of the subsidy could then be ploughed into a programme to improve school kitchens.
 - (xi) A Member sought clarification on whether children were educated in their eating habits such as using knives and forks. The Facilities Management Manager confirmed that some schools had dinner nannies to would assist very young children. However, over the years and due to budgetary constraints, the level of staffing had been reduced, although additional support was provided to children in their first year of school.

Recommended

- (i) The report was noted.
- (ii) That the Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement be contacted with a view to include the issue of school meals take up at the Head Teachers' Forum to facilitate discussions.
- (iii) That the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods explore the feasibility of introducing a policy of banning packed lunches in schools.

69. Scrutiny Investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment' - Noise *(Scrutiny Support Officer/Public Protection Team and Anti-Social Behaviour Team)*

The Principal Environmental Health Officer and Neighbourhood Safety Co-ordinator provided detailed and comprehensive presentations on the JSNA topic of Environment in relation to noise. The presentations covered statutory nuisances, the different services provided, who was at risk and why and the powers of the Local Authority to deal with noise nuisance.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues:

- (i) It had been highlighted that the Local Authority had the power to deal with misfiring burglar alarms by disconnecting them where necessary. A Member questioned whether there was any liability for the Local Authority should the property be burgled once the alarm was disconnected. The Principal Environmental Health Officer commented that nothing would indicate that a house was empty and therefore susceptible to burglary more than a continually sounding house alarm.
- (ii) A Member sought clarification on the timescales involved in the priorities

of DEFRA who had identified a number of roads in the Town to be resurfaced to reduce road noise when a number of the roads had recently been resurfaced by the Local Authority. The Principal Environmental Health Officer confirmed that the DEFRA priorities would be implemented as part of the Local Authority's normal programme of resurfacing works.

- (iii) A member of the public questioned whether the Local Authority had any jurisdiction to stop instances of continuous disturbance of noise in residential areas due to maintenance on properties, such as the use of a buzz saw. The Principal Environmental Health Officer confirmed that this was difficult as it was recognised that any building works would cause a disturbance in the short term. However, if builders were causing a disturbance out of normal working hours, restrictions could be introduced to restrict their work to day time hours.
- (iv) In response to a question from a member of the public, the Principal Environmental Health Officer confirmed that any complaints about noise disturbance could be reported either by telephone on 01429 523325 or by email to environmental.protection@hartlepool.gov.uk
- (v) A Member sought clarification on any progress made with a particular family in the Central Area of the town who had been the source of anti social behaviour in the community and had not been resolved. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods recognised this issue and would provide that Member with an update outside of the meeting.
- (vi) A member of the public commented that the responsibility for enforcing Anti Social Behaviour powers appeared to be with the Local Authority Officers as well as the Police. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that Government policy dictated whether Local Authorities or the Local Police had certain powers and whilst changes were currently being considered by Parliament as a Draft Bill, it might be amended before it becomes an Act in April 2014. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that the Police were suffering severe budget cuts as were Local Authorities.
- (vii) In relation to Community Protection Notices, a Member questioned how the decision was taken whether the noise being complained about was a nuisance or not. The Neighbourhood Safety Co-ordinator confirmed that the Officer attending the complaint would make a decision whether to issue a warning or a fine based on his opinion after undergoing appropriate training. A Member highlighted a concern that this would de-skill of Officers. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that it was difficult enough to ascertain the name and details of people being issued with Fixed Penalty Notices and may prove more difficult in circumstances where drugs and alcohol were involved.
- (viii) A Member commented on the Government's consultation on Anti Social Behaviour powers and questioned whether the Council had submitted a response. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership had contributed to the Police and Crime Commissioner's response as a collective response provided more scope for lobbying.

Recommended

The presentations and discussed that followed were noted.

70. Scrutiny Investigation in the JSNA Topic of 'Environment' – Feedback from Neighbourhood Forums *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The report provided Members with details of the discussions that took place at the Neighbourhood Forums on 3 October 2012 regarding the JSNA topic of 'Environment'.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods highlighted the issues raised and provided the following responses:

- (i) The 'Friends of North Cemetery Residents' Group requested the cemetery to be included in the dog control orders and raised a number of concerns in relation to the grass cutting method used in the cemetery. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods provided the background to the designation to the North Cemetery as an 'off-leads' area but indicated that polite notices have been erected requesting dogs to be put on leads in areas around burial grounds. In addition to this, Officers do have powers to make people use leads if their dogs are being unruly or causing a nuisance. The effectiveness of these enforcement measures will be monitored.
- (ii) A resident had suggested that water pollution checks should be undertaken at beaches other than just at Seaton Carew. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that due to the locality of the docks and shipping channel and under EU regulations, the Environment Agency had indicated that the beaches at the Headland would not be suitable to be designated as bathing beaches. However, testing could be undertaken at non-designated beaches but this would result in a cost to the Authority.
- (iii) A member of the public had queried whether there had been any reports of noise from the docks. The resident was advised that the main causes of noise complaints to the Council were dogs, alarms and people and that very few complaints regarding industry were received.
- (iv) A resident had questioned whether there would be an option for battery recycling alongside other forms of recycling. Whilst the resident was advised that no decision had been made on this at the time, the new kerbside dry recycling contract which was due to commence on 1 April 2013 had the provision to increase the type of recyclable material collected from households. The feasibility of collecting batteries as part of this new contract was being explored.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues:

- (v) A Member sought clarification on whether any complaints had been

received in relation to the operation of the docks. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that monitoring equipment remained in place in the residential area surrounding the docks but was unaware of any recent complaints. However, clarification on this issue would be sought and fed back to the Member direct.

- (vi) Clarification was sought on the commencement date of the new recycling contract. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that the new contract would commence week commencing 1 April 2013, however as there were no actual collections on a Monday as part of the new contract, the first collections would take place on Tuesday 2 April 2013 and would incorporate any collections that may have been due to be undertaken on a Monday.

Recommended

The feedback from the discussions held at the Neighbourhood Forums was noted along with the discussion that ensued.

71. Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's Recommendations *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer provided details of progress made on the delivery of the agreed scrutiny recommendations against investigations undertaken by the Forum since the 2005/06 municipal year. The report included a chart which provided the overall progress made by all scrutiny forums since 2005 and provided a detailed explanation of progress made against each recommendation agreed by this Forum since the last six monthly monitoring report presented in September 2012.

It was noted that since the 2005/06 municipal year, 93% of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's recommendations had been completed with 1% in progress, 5% cancelled and 1% overdue.

It was highlighted that in relation to action SCR-NS/9b a new due date of 31 March 2013 was proposed.

Recommended

- (i) The progress against the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's agreed recommendations since the 2005/06 Municipal Year was noted.
- (ii) The proposed date change in relation to the action SCR-NS/9b was approved.

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

The Executive's Forward Plan for February to May 2013 relating to the

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum was provided to give Members of the Forum the opportunity to consider whether any items within the Plan should be considered by this Forum.

A discussion ensued which included the following issues:

- (i) Clarification was sought on the process for the approval of the Town Wall Coastal Works. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that whilst the Works required Planning Committee approval, Cabinet would need to consider the cost of the Works as it was a key decision.
- (ii) A Member questioned the procedure for reporting street lights that were not operating. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that all street lights had a telephone number on them for the public to ring and report any lights that were not working. Due to recent budgetary constraints, it was not feasible to have officers carrying out inspections of street lights across the whole town and the Corporate Management Team were currently developing advice and guidance on an effective process to report broken street lights. The Director confirmed that on occasions when the cause of a broken light was due to a fault with the utility company and therefore out of the Council's control, residents were informed of this. The Director indicated that she would look into instances where street lights had been reported broken but there appeared not to have been a resolution.

Recommended

- (i) The Forward Plan was noted.
- (ii) That the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods to look into any examples provided of broken street lights that had not been repaired after being reported broken.

73. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 3.35 pm

CHAIR

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

20 March 2013



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that officers from the Public Protection and Parks and Countryside Teams 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 Public Protection and Parks and Countryside Teams have agreed to attend this meeting to provide the Forum with presentations outlining the following (where appropriate) in relation to the bathing and drinking water quality elements 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?
 - (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 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
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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

20 March 2013



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that officers from the Public Protection 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 Public Protection Team have agreed to attend this meeting to provide the Forum with a presentation outlining the following (where appropriate) in relation to the air 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?
 - (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 Public Protection 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
e-mail: elaine.hind@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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- (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.
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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

20 March 2013



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION IN THE JSNA TOPIC
OF 'ENVIRONMENT' – DRAFT JSNA ENTRY -
COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the JSNA 'Environment' entry for consideration as part of the ongoing Forum investigation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 1 August 2012, the Scope and Terms of Reference for the forthcoming investigation into the JSNA topic of 'Environment' were agreed, with the overall aim being:-

To strategically evaluate, and contribute towards the development of, the 'Environment' topic within Hartlepool's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, whilst reflecting (where possible / appropriate) on the Marmot principle to 'Create and Develop Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities.'

- 2.2 A draft of the Environment JSNA entry can be found at agenda item 7.3 (b). Members are today asked to consider the content of the JSNA Environment entry in its entirety and express a view in relation to the entry.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum consider the draft JSNA 'Environment' and express a view in relation to the content.

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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.

TEES JSNA WEBSITE - Hartlepool

Environment

The environment has a significant impact on health and wellbeing. High quality environments have a key part in the enabling people to live healthier and happier lives. Environmental problems such as noise, air pollution, food safety, pest control and contaminated land can have a significant impact on individual and population health. Climate change continues to pose significant future risks for human health and if actions are not taken now to reduce the carbon emissions and reduce energy demands to sustainable levels.

This topic is most closely associated with:

- Housing
- Transport
- Physical Activity
- Obesity

What are the key issues?

Hartlepool's environment needs to be improved in terms of: tackling derelict land and buildings; making streets safer, cleaner and greener; and developing, maintaining and improving green spaces, parks and recreational areas.

If climate change is to be tackled, then greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced and Hartlepool needs to prepare for the anticipated impacts of climate change such as: increased storm events; increased risks from pests and diseases; increased risk of food poisoning; and potentially higher rates of skin cancer.

Sea defences must be maintained in order to prevent major flooding in coastal areas. Surface water flooding poses a threat to other areas of Hartlepool, and the likelihood and severity of such incidents will increase.

Four areas in Hartlepool are identified as important areas to develop noise action plans. Six stretches of highway in Hartlepool have been identified as priority or important areas under the Environmental Noise Directive. There are high levels of complaints regarding noise from domestic and commercial premises, building sites and road transport.

There are estimated to be 6,900 dwellings (21.2%) which contain households in fuel poverty within Hartlepool. Improving the energy efficiency of existing homes will have significant health benefits and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

There is a large demand for pest control treatments in Hartlepool.

What commissioning priorities are recommended?

2012/01

Create sustainable neighbourhoods by bringing derelict land and buildings back into use; making streets safer, cleaner and greener; and developing, maintaining and improving green spaces, parks and recreational areas.

2012/02

Ensure that a proactive response to climate change is adopted in Hartlepool by: ensuring that buildings do not suffer from water ingress; raising awareness of the risks of skin cancer; planning and testing emergency responses to flooding.

2012/03

Tackle nuisance noise by: developing noise action plans in identified areas; tackling highways where noise is a problem; and ensure that noise investigation and enforcement services are maintained.

2012/04

Maintain air quality and reduce pollution so that no Air Quality Management Areas are designated in Hartlepool.

2012/05

Ensure a decent standard of housing by: reinvigorating priority neighbourhoods with high quality design and construction new homes, giving access to vulnerable groups; driving up standards in existing homes where a priority will be improving energy efficiency and providing affordable warmth products; and investing in property to enhance fuel efficiency.

2012/06

Provide an effective pest control service to mitigate against pests which harbour diseases, bacteria and parasites that affect public health.

2012/07

Ensure water quality by sampling both drinking and bathing water (for example, in swimming pools, hydrotherapy/spa pools and Jacuzzis).

2012/08

Reduce work-related death, injury and ill-health, ensuring that resources are focused on the areas which present the highest risk. Management of asbestos, gas safety and cellar safety are identified as priority areas.

Who is at risk and why?

Age

Older people are at increased risk of death in winter months compared to other times of year and other age groups. Fuel poverty and a lack of affordable warmth affects older people more than other age groups and contributes towards excess winter deaths.

The people most at risk from the effects of air pollution are the very young, older people and those who already have a predisposing illness which air pollution can exacerbate. People with asthma are particularly at risk during episodes of high air pollution levels. One in eleven children and one in twelve adults in the UK suffer from asthma (Asthma UK, 2010). In certain situations it is possible that air pollution plays a part in the induction of asthma in some individuals who live near busy roads, particularly roads carrying high numbers of heavy goods vehicles (Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution, 2010).

Socioeconomic status

It is estimated that climate change will have a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged, vulnerable and deprived groups compared to the rest of the population. The following health impacts of climate change for the UK are identified (Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK, 2008, DH):

- heat-related health problems and worsening air quality, causing increased pollution-related illness and deaths;
- increased risk of contaminated drinking water, water-borne infections and exposure to toxic pollutants;
- increased prevalence of food poisoning and water-borne disease linked to warmer weather;
- increased rates of sunburn and skin cancer;
- social disruption, injury, disability and death as a consequence of extreme weather-related events such as hurricanes and river, coastal and flash floods.

Noise can cause annoyance, interfere with communication and sleep, cause fatigue and damage hearing. Physiological effects of exposure to noise include constriction of blood vessels, tightening of muscles, increased heart rate and blood pressure and changes to stomach and abdomen movement. Occupational noise can lead to temporary or permanent hearing loss. Noise is reported to be responsible for 3% of ischaemic heart disease in the UK, for 3% of tinnitus and causes a rise in stress hormones leading to increased risk of strokes, heart attacks and reduced immune system (WHO, 2011b). The same report says 2% of Europeans suffer severely disturbed sleep and 15% can suffer severe annoyance. People living near busy roads and those with noisy neighbours are most at risk, including the most vulnerable such as housebound, the already sick (who's condition could be worsened), the young and elderly. Noise proliferates in areas of deprivation where houses are most densely populated and more likely to be near busy roads.

Reports on the medical effects of air quality suggest that the short-term impact results in the premature death of between 12,000-14,000 vulnerable people in the UK each year and between 14,000-24,000 hospital admissions /readmissions per year. Air quality is one of the government's 68 indicators in the Sustainable Development Strategy. People in poorer areas tend to live close to pollution sources

including busy roads and industrial sites.

Air quality

Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health. By reducing air pollution levels, the burden of disease from respiratory infections, heart disease, and lung cancer can be reduced (WHO, 2011a). Poor air quality results in the premature death of between 12,000-14,000 vulnerable people in the UK each year and between 14,000-24,000 hospital admissions /readmissions annually.

In cities, people inside vehicles are exposed to greater levels of fine particulate matter and carbon monoxide concentrations than cyclists and pedestrians (Kaur et al, 2007). However, due to increased respiration and longer travel time, pedestrians and especially cyclists may inhale greater concentrations of pollution over the course of their journey – except when they are able to use walk/cycle paths away from motorised traffic (Dirks et al, 2012).

The Lancet series 'The health benefits of tackling climate change' (2009) documented the benefits of reducing emissions such as the reduction of motor vehicle use through more walking and cycling. This will not only diminish transport emissions but reduce obesity, lower the rate of chronic diseases caused by physical inactivity and lessen the health-damaging effects of air pollution.

Contaminated land

Contaminated land poses risks to both human health and the environment depending on the types and volumes of pollutants present at particular sites.

Pest control

Infestations by pests can affect everyone, but tend to affect disadvantaged populations more due to poorer housing conditions, improper storage of food waste and cleanliness. About 80% of mild or moderate asthmatic children have a positive allergy skin test to cockroach and dust mite allergens. Rats can spread several diseases (for example, salmonellosis, leptospirosis, and typhus) and carry mites and lice. Rats, mice, cockroaches and bedbugs can be a source of anxiety, affecting mental health and wellbeing (WHO, 2008).

Energy efficiency

Climate change is, in large part, driven by emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. To reduce emissions will require a level of energy efficiency in homes and buildings that is currently uncommon in the UK. Major policy changes on new buildings, and incentives to modify existing buildings, plus a large shift to strategic and local renewable energy generation and smart power grids is required.

Green space

Access to the natural environment and other open spaces has significant benefits for health and wellbeing, by reducing stress, improving mental well-being and encouraging greater levels of physical activity across all age groups. Safe, green spaces have the potential to increase communal activity in different social groups, increase residents' satisfaction with their local area and improve air and noise quality. Open space provision also acts to mitigate climate change, reducing the impacts of flooding and heat waves and reducing CO₂ emissions.

The frequency of visits to open space declines significantly with increasing distance from the open space, with the exception of young people. There is a statistically significant decrease in the likelihood of achieving physical activity recommendations and an increase in the likelihood of being overweight or obese associated with increasing distance to formal green space (Natural England, 2011).

What is the level of need in the population?

Flooding

Energy efficiency and home energy conservation

An estimated 11,300 dwellings in Hartlepool (34.8% of the stock) are classed as non-decent. The majority of dwellings are non-decent because of Category 1 hazards (18.5%) and thermal comfort failure (15.4%). In Hartlepool non-decent dwellings are most associated with low rise, purpose built flats, the private rented sector and properties built before 1919. Non decency is also associated with heads of households aged 16 to 24 and those aged over 75. The Central sub-area has 44.1% of dwellings classed as non-decent. The total requirement for repair in all dwellings that fail under the repair criterion of the Decent Homes Standard is £21.2 million, an average cost of £4,500 per dwelling.

Fuel poverty and affordable warmth

A fuel poor household is one which cannot afford to keep adequately warm at reasonable cost. This is defined as when a household needs to spend more than 10% of its disposable income to adequately heat the home. There are estimated to be 6,900 (21.2%) households in fuel poverty in Hartlepool (Private Sector House Condition Survey, 2009), significantly above the 11.5% found in the English House Condition Survey, 2006. The highest rate of fuel poverty was found in the Central sub-area at 25.8% followed by the South sub-area at 19.1%. Average energy efficiency in Hartlepool, using the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure, is 51 (on a scale of 1 to 100), slightly higher than the England average of 49.

Green space

Air quality

Pest control

In 2011/12, there were 1,323 requests for pest control treatments in Hartlepool.

Noise

DEFRA has identified four areas in Hartlepool which they classify as Important Areas for Noise Action Plans.

There continues to be high levels of complaints regarding noise issues emanating from domestic and commercial premises, building sites and road transport.

There are currently 6 stretches of highway in Hartlepool that have been identified as priority or important areas under the Environmental Noise Directive. The national noise action plan requires the highways authority to implement an action plan to reduce the levels of traffic noise at each of these locations.

Water quality

Hartlepool Water supplies around 33 million litres of water to 90,000 people in Hartlepool, including the surrounding villages of Greatham, Dalton Piercy, Elwick, Hart and Wynyard. Northumbrian Water Ltd supplies the village of Newton Bewley.

In addition to public water supplies, Hartlepool Council monitors the water quality of 5 swimming pools and 5 hydrotherapy/spa pools.

Working environment

Hartlepool Council is responsible for enforcement of health and safety legislation in approximately 1,300 premises, primarily comprising offices, shops, hotels and catering and leisure activities. During 2011/12, 16 visits were made to investigate work-related accidents and 64 following requests for health and safety service. In 2009/10 there were 59 major injuries in Hartlepool, an increase from 54 in 2008/9 (Source: Health and Safety Executive).

What services are currently provided?

The following services are delivered to address environment-related priorities, and incorporate a range of reactive and proactive measures:

- **Neighbourhood management** – Neighbourhood Area Teams provide day-to-day environmental and amenity maintenance of the highway and other public areas, including services such as street cleansing, grounds maintenance, minor repairs to street lights, footpaths and highways.
- **Waste and environmental services** – Provide waste and recycling services including household and trade refuse, recycling and bulky waste collection. The team promotes waste minimisation and offers a subsidised home compost bin service. In addition, environmental action and enforcement services are provided.
- **Regeneration and planning services** – Provide consultancy and enforcement services on aspects of building and development control, including a planning advisory service: one-stop-shop and access to the Government's online planning portal. The service ensures that buildings in Hartlepool meet building regulations and regulates the impact of new

development on its surroundings. Other services include encouraging occupancy and improvements to vacant commercial properties; Seaton Carew regeneration master planning; Hartlepool's built heritage (comprising over 200 listed buildings and 8 conservation areas); Hartlepool's ecology, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), local wildlife sites and nature reserves; arboriculture including advice and information on trees in conservation areas, tree preservation orders and planning considerations with regard to trees and high hedges legislation; planning policy including preparation and adoption of the Local Plan for Hartlepool and links including Neighbourhood Planning.

The Public Protection section of Hartlepool Borough Council consists of three discrete teams:

- The Commercial Team carries out inspections, complaint investigation and sampling to ensure that food is safe and fit to eat and that workplaces are safe.
- The Environmental Protection Team is involved with noise and pollution related matters, pest control and managing and promoting the open market.
- The Trading Standards & Licensing Team ensures that the business sector complies with a wide range of trade and consumer legislation. The team also issues and carries out enforcement relating to a large variety of licences, including Alcohol, Entertainment, Takeaways, Taxis, Gambling and Fireworks.

Climate Change

Information on low-carbon living is available on the Council website [Smarter Living page](#).

The Energy Saving Trust is a national organisation that provides advice and information on energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

Feed in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive offer financial incentives for renewable energy installations, such as solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and heat pumps.

The Green Deal is a Government scheme introduced in 2013, that provides low-interest loans for energy efficiency projects, such as insulation and renewable energy installations. The guiding principle of the Green Deal will be that savings on energy bills will be sufficient to meet loan repayments, so there will be no extra financial outlay for the recipient.

The Environment Agency offers a free Flood Alert service to residents and businesses. Once subscribed, any flood alerts that may impact upon the resident or business are communicated via text message or email, so that action can be taken (for example, sand bags, water pumps).

Registered providers in Hartlepool are investigating photovoltaic systems (these use daylight to generate electricity for use in the property) for their stock.

The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) is another Government initiative to improve energy efficiency and reduce household bills. CESP is an obligation on the bigger gas and electricity suppliers to deliver energy saving measures to

households. The programme specifically targets areas of low income using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Homes owned by Tees Valley Housing in Hartlepool are being improved through this programme. However, this programme is due to end in December 2012.

The emerging Core Strategy also has a requirement for a minimum of 10% of the energy on new housing developments (of 10 dwellings or more) to be supplied from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.

Housing services

Regional loans assists owner-occupiers and private landlords to undertake essential home improvements which help improve residents' long-term health and wellbeing and maintain their independence.

Financial assistance for empty property owners is delivered in partnership with Housing Hartlepool to help landlords to bring long-term empty properties back into use through a lease and repair model.

Selective licensing operates in 6 designated areas for privately rented dwelling houses.

Landlord accreditation is a voluntary scheme for landlords which aims to improve management and conditions in private rented housing.

Housing regeneration support services, which included empty properties, highlight the significant needs and numbers of vulnerable households.

Noise, air pollution and pest control

Public protection provide a wide range of services including:

- inspections & investigation of complaints in relation to noise control
- air pollution control
- air quality management
- pest control

'Out of Hours' Noise Patrol – Hartlepool Borough Council currently operates a late night service at weekends that responds to complaints about excessive noise nuisance. The service operates between June and August.

Water quality

Public Protection Officers, currently

- sample the public drinking water supply for bacteriological and chemical quality.
- sample private water used for commercial food production purposes.
- monitor the water in commercial bathing and leisure facilities, such as swimming pools, hydrotherapy/spa pools and Jacuzzis etc.

Working Environment

Health and safety interventions are carried out including inspections, campaign visits, investigations into reported work-related accidents and complaints. These

visits frequently focus on topics such as management of asbestos, gas and electrical safety, slips, trips and falls, working at height, etc.

What is the projected level of need?

Climate Change

Average temperatures in North East England are expected to increase by up to 2.4°C by 2050. Average annual rainfall is expected to increase by up to 20%, and much of this will fall during extreme weather events, leading to an increase in the risk of flooding.

Fuel poverty and affordable warmth

The level of fuel poverty in Hartlepool is forecast to increase for several years – due to rising fuel prices and prevailing economic conditions.

Noise

The public is becoming more aware of noise and the expectation of a quieter environment has increased in recent years. It is predicted that the number of complaints about noise will increase over the next few years.

What needs might be unmet?

- An average of 50 additional people die each winter in Hartlepool. Their needs for more appropriate housing and care may contribute to this.

What evidence is there for effective intervention?

Reducing particulate matter (PM10) pollution from 70 to 20 micrograms per cubic metre can cut deaths related to air quality by around 15% (WHO, 2005).

What do people say?

In 2010, 26% of people living in Hartlepool cited that improvements to the environment were required to improve their quality of life, and this was highlighted as one of the key priorities alongside Crime and Community Safety. This primarily encompassed the general appearance of the area, litter and rubbish, dog fouling and run down, empty or boarded up properties.

In the Household Survey in 2010, up to one-quarter of residents said that derelict buildings are a particular issue within the coastal and central areas of Hartlepool.

The Ward Councillor consultation in 2012 included the following:

- Create safer and more sustainable neighbourhoods by decreasing levels of anti-social behaviour, litter (including drug related) and dog fouling and improve road safety through traffic calming and management measures.
- Improve access to public transport and ensure services are fit for the needs of the population.
- Provide accessible and quality green spaces and facilities for local people (including young people).

- Address key vacant buildings and land that are currently of detriment to adjacent neighbourhoods.
- Promote partnership working to ensure effective and efficient service delivery in environmental management.

Climate change

A range of climate change-related questions were included in the Council's Viewpoint survey in 2010, with the following findings:

- 98% of respondents were aware of climate change;
- 76% of respondents claim to know 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount' about climate change;
- 14 % claimed to be unconcerned about climate change;
- 5% are not willing to make lifestyle changes to help tackle climate change; and
- 59% of respondents are fearful for the wellbeing of future generations as a result of climate change. Only 14% are not fearful. The remainder were unsure.

Wide ranging consultation was undertaken during the development of Hartlepool's Housing Strategy 2011-2015. The main themes emerging from consultation that link with the environment were:

- Sustainable communities – reducing anti-social behaviour, preventing homelessness
- Sustainable / environmental homes – installing solar panels, feed-in tariffs
- Affordability – rents; cost to buy homes; cost to build / renovate homes; financial inclusion / fuel poverty
- Making links between housing, health, education, planning, transport, services
- Dealing with the issue of empty homes and how to drive demand
- Effective management of the private rented sector and use of enforcement powers

The Council's Viewpoint panel in 2008 found:

- 93% considered rubbish to be a big or fairly big problem in the town centre,
- 82% thought people vomiting or urinating in public was a big or fairly big problem,
- 68% thought noise from people leaving pubs and clubs was a big or fairly big problem.

What additional needs assessment is required?

Explore investment opportunities for public realm initiatives, improvement of green open spaces and derelict land and buildings.

Key contact

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

20 March 2013



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: INVESTIGATION INTO THE JSNA TOPIC OF
'ENVIRONMENT' – FORMULATION OF
RECOMMENDATIONS - COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum with the opportunity to formulate views and make recommendations in relation to the JSNA topic of 'Environment'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 1 August 2012, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry/Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation. In accordance with those terms of reference Members are requested to formulate a view in relation to:-
- i) the needs of Hartlepool residents; and
 - ii) the current level and quality of service provision to meet those needs.
- 2.2 Members are also requested to make recommendations to inform the development and delivery of the health and wellbeing and commissioning strategies.
- 2.3 Throughout the course of the investigation Members have considered the responses to the 10 questions outlined in the 'Environment' JSNA entry, it is recommended that the evidence presented at today's and previous meetings of the forum is utilised to formulate a view and make recommendations as outlined in paragraph 2.1 and 2.2.
- 2.4 During the formulation of recommendations, Members should be mindful of the Marmot principle 'Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities'.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the evidence presented during the course of the investigation to:-
- i) Formulate a view in relation to:-
 - a) the needs of Hartlepool residents; and
 - b) the current level and quality of service provision to meet those needs; and in doing so
 - ii) Make recommendations to inform the development and delivery of the health and wellbeing and commissioning strategies.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in 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.