

CABINET AGENDA



2nd April 2013

at 9.30 am

**in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CABINET:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Hill, Lauderdale and Thompson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

To receive the Record of Decision in respect of the meeting held on 18 March 2013
(to be circulated)

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 4.2 Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

5. KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 Low Level Support Services – *Assistant Director – Adult Social Care*

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

No items.



7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

- 7.1 Hartlepool Household Survey – *Assistant Chief Executive*
- 7.2 Local Plan Examination in Public – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

8. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items.



CABINET REPORT

2ND April 2013



Report of: Director Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

- 1.1 The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document, if adopted, will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's authorisation to undertake public consultation on the Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Hartlepool Local Plan will be the key Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies for the Borough for the next 15 years. Contained within the emerging Local Plan, policies ND1, NE1 and NE2 make specific reference to elements which comprise green infrastructure.
- 3.2 The Green Infrastructure SPD outlines the benefits and purpose of Green Infrastructure and its importance to the Borough. It highlights the current areas of green infrastructure within Hartlepool and looks at investment in green infrastructure as well as the management of it. As part of the SPD an action plan is included which looks at improvements and enhancements which are needed over the coming years to continue the successful development of the Green Infrastructure network within the Borough.
- 3.3 The document does not contain any policies; it is intended to guide future development of and investment in green infrastructure and will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications where green infrastructure contributions have been requested or where the application will contribute to the development of green infrastructure in the Borough.

- 3.4 Due to the wide ranging nature of green infrastructure a steering group has been set up which includes a number of disciplines including representation from Natural England as well as the Parks and Countryside team, Ecology, Arboricultural Officer, Neighbourhood Regeneration and Sport and Recreation. The format for the Green Infrastructure SPD was agreed in a Steering Group meeting and members have been informally consulted on the draft SPD and have fed information in to inform the development of the Action Plan which accompanies the SPD.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that Cabinet authorisation be sought to undertake public consultation on the draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and associated Action Plan. Should Cabinet authorisation be granted, consultation would commence in April 2013 and would run for a minimum period of eight weeks. Comments will be taken into account and a finalised SPD will be taken to a future Cabinet/Committee meeting to seek adoption.
- 4.2 The means of public consultation would include:
- Copies of the documents made available at Bryan Hanson House and the Civic Centre
 - A statutory notice in the Hartlepool Mail
 - A local press release
 - Your town, Your say e-consultation
 - Reference on the Planning Policy section on the Council's website
 - Letters to Parish Councils
 - Letters to statutory consultees and other stakeholders

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Hartlepool Compact Consultation and Policy code applies.

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

- 6.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. The Council is committed to securing safe and secure environments within the borough.
- 6.2 Safety and security is a key consideration when assessing landscaping schemes; however the issue is not specifically addressed in the draft supplementary planning document as this is a more strategic level document. Reference to this is made in the Trees and Development SPD

and is covered by policy in the emerging Local Plan and will be taken into account in the consideration of future planning applications.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Green Infrastructure SPD is funded by Natural England who have committed up to £5000 towards its production. However in order to secure this funding a draft document must be out to public consultation in April 2013.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 there is a statutory duty for Local Planning Authorities to ensure, wherever appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees. There is also a duty on the authority to ensure that new development does not increase the risk of flooding; the provision of high quality green infrastructure, which includes SuDS ponds, has the ability to mitigate against potential issues in terms of flooding.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 Consultation on the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and the Action Plan will be carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI was prepared in compliance with the Hartlepool Compact and its associated protocols.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Cabinet is requested to authorise consultation on the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and associated Action Plan attached at **Appendix 1 and 2**.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document, if adopted, will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and compliance with its contents will ensure that sufficient information is submitted to enable the Council to determine in advance the full long-term effects of any new development as it relates to green infrastructure. It is also likely that the adoption of the SPD and Action Plan will enable the authority to draw down funding from other funding pots when it becomes available as the documents will illustrate that the authority has a strategic vision for the

development of Green Infrastructure and has a range of projects identified in the Action Plan.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

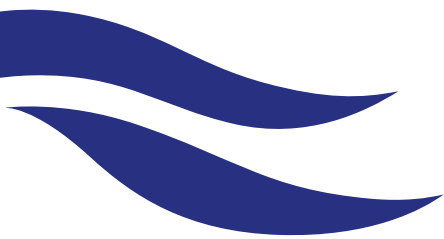
12.1 The emerging Hartlepool Local Plan.

13. CONTACT OFFICER

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Hartlepool Local Development Framework

Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document



April 2013



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Hartlepool Green Infrastructure SPD

Introduction

What is Green Infrastructure?

There are a number of definitions of green infrastructure (GI) but for the purposes of this SPD one has been adapted to more closely reflect GI within Hartlepool:

“GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE BOROUGH'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM – THE NETWORK OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS AND GREEN AND BLUE SPACES THAT LIES WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHICH PROVIDES MULTIPLE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS.”

Green infrastructure planning involves the provision of strategically planned networks that link existing (and proposed) green spaces with green corridors running through urban, suburban, urban fringe, and rural areas. Through the maintenance, enhancement and extension of these networks multi-functional benefits can be realised for local communities, businesses, visitors and the environment. Appropriate strategies, plans and programmes led by the Council and involving local partnerships and individual organisations can help to maintain existing green infrastructure, and promote solutions to remedy deficiencies and create new opportunities.

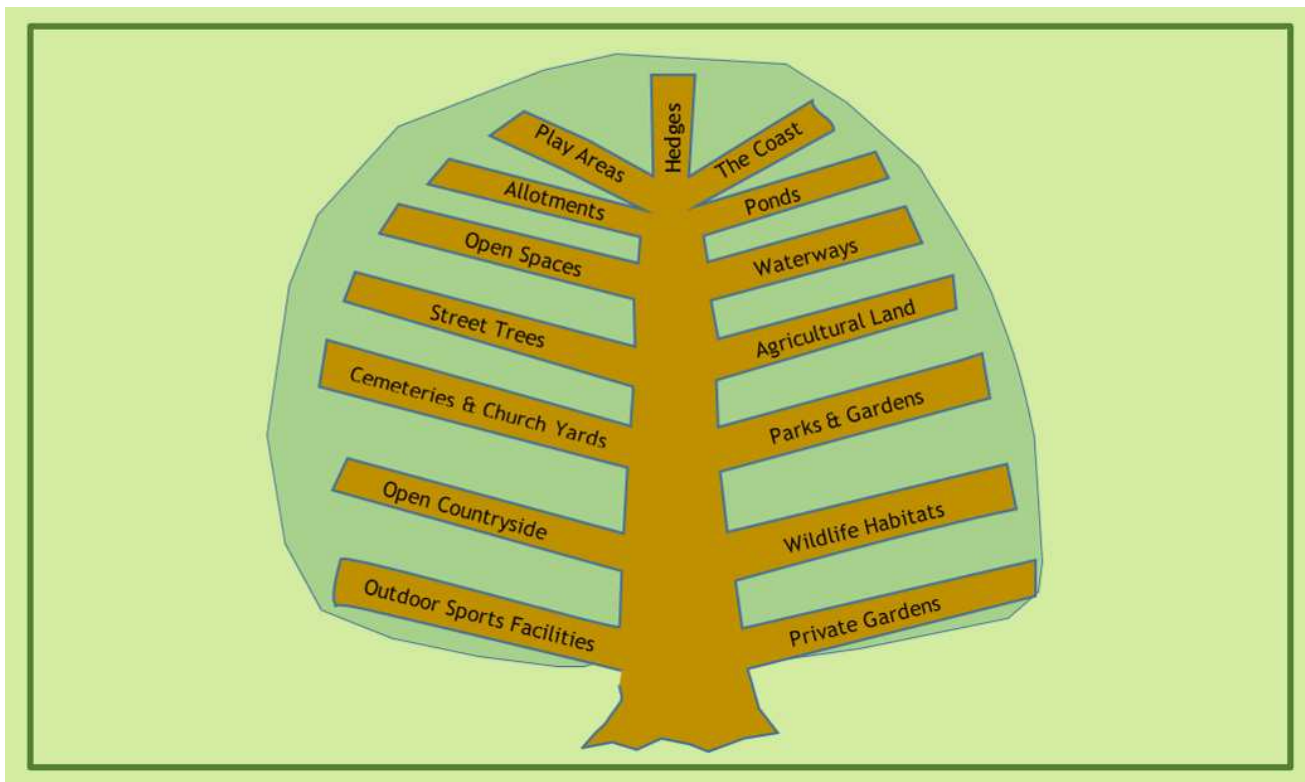
What is the Purpose of the SPD?

This document sets out the future strategy for the development of GI within Hartlepool by assessing the town's current GI and looking at areas which can be improved and where there are gaps in the current provision which need to be addressed in the future, ensuring a green and sustainable future for the town.

Diagram 1, on the following page, illustrates the types of physical components which link together to form GI. Through looking at these green components in a comprehensive way and recognising that they are all intrinsically linked, this strategy will help to ensure that critical elements are not only protected but are also joined together, where possible, to help to develop the networks of GI within the Borough.

This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), once adopted, will form part of the Local Development Framework, linking with the Hartlepool Local Plan to drive forward the development of GI in the town. It will enable the Council, driven forward by a GI working group, to seek funding to help implement distinct elements of the Action Plan contained within the SPD. The Council will ensure that the SPD stays relevant and up-to-date through monitoring and review.

Diagram 1: The Components which form Green Infrastructure in Hartlepool



Who Benefits from Green Infrastructure?

Due to the multi-functional nature of GI, it is capable of delivering a range of benefits in a variety of different situations. One such example would be to consider the value of GI in areas of deprivation where people suffer from higher levels of ill health – in such areas the delivery of high quality GI can contribute to improving wellbeing. Good quality GI can be of considerable economic benefit too. A number of studies from around the world have illustrated how, through the delivery of quality GI, towns and cities have helped to attract inward investment improve the housing market and drive up local economies.

How the SPD fits together

This SPD considers relevant national, regional and local policies which will impact on the delivery of GI. It also sets a number of objectives and an overall vision for the delivery of GI in Hartlepool. The SPD maps the existing GI within the borough, looking at the strengths, weaknesses and a functionality of GI within distinct areas of the town and rural area and thus helping to highlight areas of deficiency and where connections and improvements can be made in the future to further enhance the overall GI within the borough. In order to fund future development of GI identified within the SPD, financial options and investment are considered along with a section looking at the future

maintenance of GI. In order to ensure the vision and aspirations of the SPD are delivered on the ground an Action Plan has also been developed which forms Appendix 1. It will be necessary to monitor and review the delivery of the Action Plan and details of this are also set out within the SPD.



(Figure 1 – Tree lined corridor)

Policy Context

At a **national level** the importance of Green Infrastructure (GI) is recognised in a number of documents which help to highlight the benefit of the protection and enhancement of GI within towns and cities:

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** recognises the positive impact that GI can have in the battle against Climate Change including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. It requires local planning authorities to prepare local plans which positively plan for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- The Countryside Agency, in its publication '**The countryside in and around towns**', also supports the concept of GI. The document outlines a vision of networks of new and improved parks, woodlands and other green spaces that are linked to urban centres and the wider countryside by footpaths, bridleways and cycle ways. Urban parks, country parks and other green spaces would be joined up to form continuous green corridors between town and country.
- Natural England's **Green Infrastructure Guidance** considers the planning and delivery of green infrastructure, recognised it as an essential part of sustainable spatial planning. It highlights the role of green infrastructure as a 'life support system', able to deliver multiple environmental functions, and to play a key part in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

On a **regional level** the importance of GI in making the north east an attractive place to live and work whilst also providing the benefits highlighted in national guidance is outlined in the following documents:

- The **Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)** emphasises the importance of GI throughout and notes that open spaces, woodlands, wildlife habitats, parks and other natural areas will play a key role in the Region's competitiveness and economic strength.
- The **Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy** sets out the strategic vision for the development of GI within the Tees Valley and identifies key strategic corridors including a number within Hartlepool including The Coast – Hartlepool to Cowbar, the Town Centre to Summerhill and Saltholme to Cowpen Bewley, Wynyard and Hartlepool. Along with the development of this strategy an extensive piece of work, the GI Valuation Toolbox, was also undertaken to

illustrate the monetised public and private sector benefit values for a given GI investment. This is a tool which can be used to help illustrate the extensive and multifunctional benefits that can be derived from the implementation of GI.

At a **local level** the importance of GI has been recognised for some time, however, to date the delivery of GI in the town has not always been considered in an integrated manner. At present there are a number of documents which recognise the need to protect, enhance and develop GI within the town in the future to ensure current and future generations enjoy the wide range of multi-functional benefits which GI can delivery.

- Within the **emerging Hartlepool Local Plan 2012** Policy NE1 (Green Infrastructure) sets out the local authorities stance in terms of safeguarding GI and working with partner organisations to actively improve the quantity and quality of GI including sports pitches, cycle routes and greenways over the plan period. The policy provides guidance on green wedges, key green spaces including parks and gardens, play areas green corridors, playing pitches, allotments, amenity green space, natural and semi natural greenspace and other forms of green space. It considers the formation of new green wedges in three separate locations within the borough which will be developed over the next 15 years.

Policy NE2 within the emerging Local Plan is also vital in terms of protecting the natural environment which forms a critical element of GI within the borough. This policy will ensure all national, regional and locally designated nature sites are protected and where appropriate enhanced. Other important elements it aims to protect include existing woodland and in particular ancient semi-natural woodland.

There are a number of other emerging Local Plan policies which will be used to ensure the GI in Hartlepool continues to improve over the plan period, most notably Policy ND1 (Planning Obligations) which enables the authority to seek contributions from development towards a number of elements of GI. Policy CC1 (Climate Change) also seeks to reduce the impacts of climate change through the delivery of GI such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) within new developments.

- The importance of GI is also reflected in the Council's Local Infrastructure Plan which includes a section covering some of the key areas of GI that the local authority is seeking to further develop and enhance over the coming years. Many of the areas covered are within the strategic green infrastructure corridors identified in the Tees Valley GI Strategy however there are others which form smaller, more discrete elements of Hartlepool's GI such as North Cemetery which is an important open space in a densely populated area of the town.

Vision and Objectives

Vision of SPD: ***By 2028 Hartlepool will have a high quality, multifunctional, accessible green infrastructure network which enhances the community's quality of life and also of wildlife.***

An improved rights of way network will make it possible to move safely, easily and comfortably through the borough on foot or by bike, so that those who live in, work in or visit Hartlepool have abundant opportunities to explore its distinctive, historic and valued green neighbourhoods with tree lined streets, historical parks or village greens surrounded by attractive, wildlife rich countryside. Sitting within the town, urban fringe and countryside outstanding outdoor sport facilities, tourism attractions, unique heritage and biodiversity features will help people enjoy the high quality of life Hartlepool is known for.





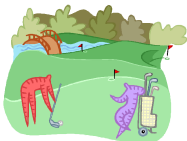


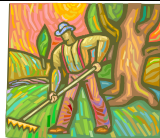


The rural character of the countryside will be protected and the open landscape aspect to the west of the town will be maintained as far as possible. Traditional farming will sit comfortably within a more wildlife friendly and accessible landscape alongside sustainable, small scale rural attractions and renewable energy initiatives, providing those who work and live there with opportunities to make increasingly diverse use of their land.

The capacity of GI to accommodate protected and priority habitats and species, especially in coastal regions, will be enhanced encouraging valuable, healthy ecosystems to flourish, so that wildlife and plants can move, feed, disperse, migrate or reproduce more easily, making them more resilient to climate change. The environment in the built area and the urban fringe will mature and expand providing unique environments where opportunities for recreation, biodiversity, food and fuel production can sit side by side. Making the best use of existing and new greenspaces will provide greater opportunities for play, sport, recreation, relaxation and local food production, promoting active healthy lifestyles close to home. The growing appreciation for the natural environment will be actively captured so people of all ages can value, manage and care for it.

A quality, distinctive and well connected GI network will help attract new investment, encouraging people to live and work in Hartlepool because of its exceptional ability to deliver healthy, safe and sustainable lifestyles. New green neighbourhoods will improve the quantity and quality of greenspace, habitats and trees for people and wildlife while integrating sustainable drainage and flood storage will help the borough mitigate the effects of, and help the natural environment adapt to climate change.

The objectives on the following page link the vision to the rest of this Strategy. The projects identified in the accompanying Action Plan should achieve one or more of

these objectives, to help deliver the vision. As all objectives are interrelated, delivery of one will help to deliver benefits elsewhere. Where the symbols shown in the table below appear in the Action Plan, this will show where an objective is being met.

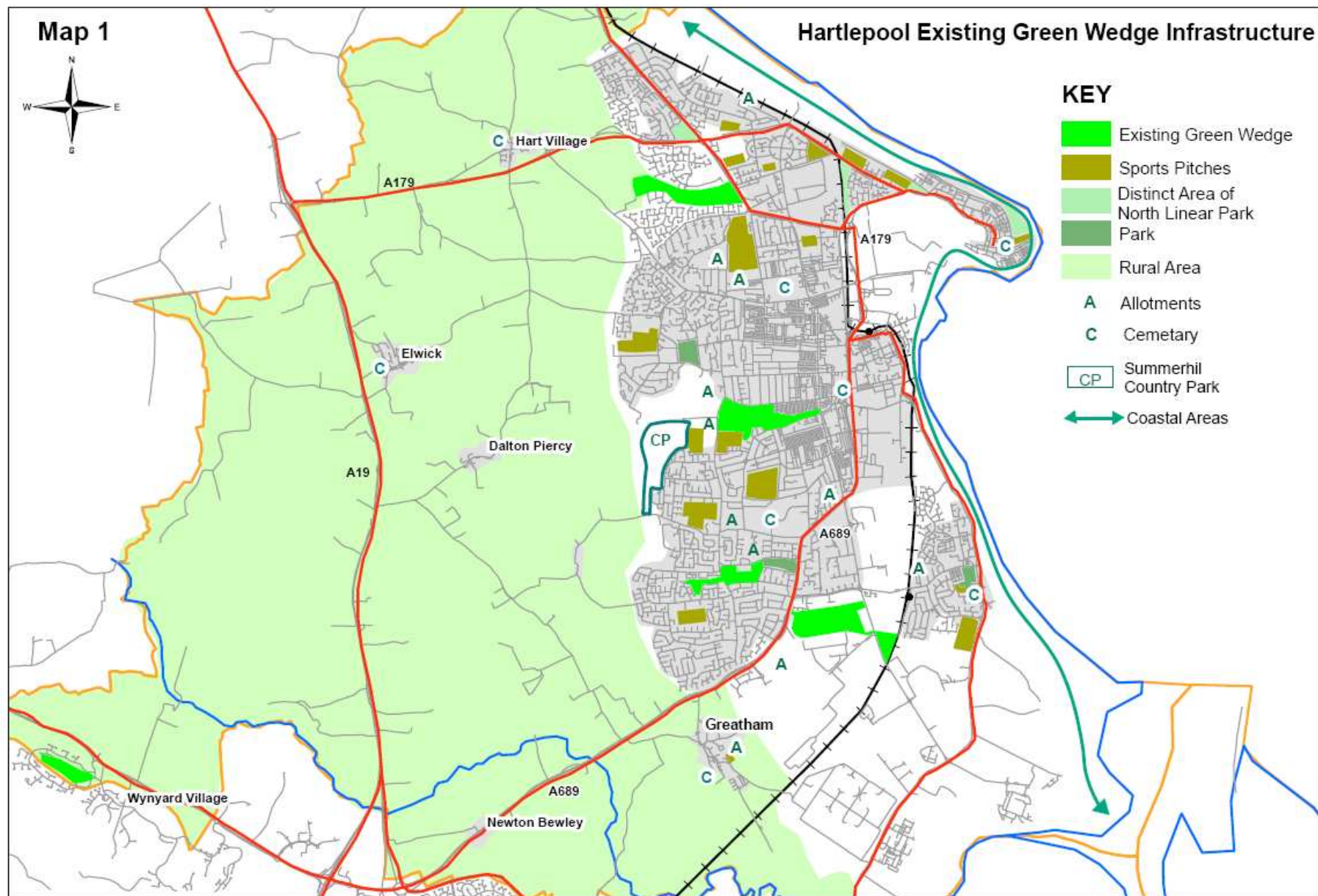
Objective	Key Symbol	Objective Description
1		Protect a high quality visual landscape and townscape, and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of Hartlepool's GI network to contribute positively to its distinctiveness
2		Provide a network of interconnected GI and spaces rich in habitat and home to a diverse range of wildlife which also play a critical role in improving the health of residents through providing attractive opportunities for recreation and sustainable travel.
3		Minimise the impact of and adapt to the effects of climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of resources, the risk of flooding and pollution and provide for species adaptation by maximising the protection and creation of GI.
4		Ensure trees and hedges are protected throughout the borough and integrate planting schemes within all new developments.
5		Protect and enhance a wide range of high quality opportunities for safe and accessible formal and informal sport, recreation and leisure facilities to encourage the community and visitors to undertake a variety of healthy exercise within attractive settings.
6		Involve users and neighbours of GI in its design, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of ownership and pride.
7		Support economic growth and attract inward investment by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive GI.
8		Create a quality, distinctive, and productive GI network to support local food production, rural diversification and tourism to meet the needs of local businesses, landowners and to provide a diverse employment base.
9		Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, play spaces and woodlands, are linked by means of safe and easily accessible green networks that together form a high quality GI grid across the whole of the borough.
10		Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks including working across Local Authority boundaries where appropriate

Existing Green Infrastructure in Hartlepool

Hartlepool currently benefits from a wide range of green infrastructure spread across the Borough. This ranges from traditional parks in the town such as Ward Jackson and Rossmere to significant green wedges running from the countryside into the town, acting as green lungs, and offering a range of different green spaces and activities. Given its coastal location Hartlepool also benefits from a high quality coastline much of which is designated as Special Protection Area (the highest ecological protection) and which is home to a diverse range of species. To the west of the town are vast areas of rural land which bring with them not only opportunities for walking and cycling but also offer a wide range of other opportunities and benefits to the town and the economy. This section will look in detail at the various distinct areas and green infrastructure which the town currently benefits from, considering their strengths and weaknesses. Map 1 on the following page illustrates the main areas of green infrastructure within the Borough. From developing a sound understanding of the current provision, this informs the priorities set out in the Action Plan and will enable opportunities for new green infrastructure, enhancement to current provision or where new linkages are needed to help create a successful and useable network of green infrastructure across the Borough in the future.



(Figure 2: Summerhill Country Park)



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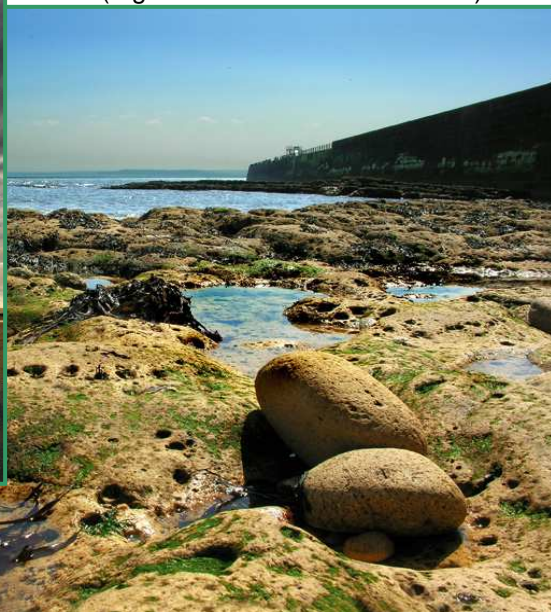
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DEPT REGENERATION & NEIGHBOURHOOD
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Coast

Hartlepool has around 15km of coastline that faces the North Sea with another 2km along its southern border at Seaton Channel. Most of this is fronted by wide and shallow sandy beaches except for a wide fringe of magnesian limestone rock that wraps around the Headland and mudflats along Seaton Channel. Over half of the entire length of the coastline is designated as part of the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA and other sections are also important for their over wintering birds. The Headland, as an elevated promontory over the North Sea, is noted nationally as being of importance for attracting rare migrant birds and locally it is becoming increasingly recognised as a good place to see marine mammals. South of Seaton and north of the Brus tunnel, there are extensive dune systems that are nationally or locally designated for nature conservation.

The beaches from the northern end of Seaton Carew to North Gare are used by large numbers of people for various recreational purposes throughout the year. Much of the remainder of the sandy beaches are used by relatively few people. Other than a 500m length of beach in front of Seaton, all of the beach and rocky areas become inaccessible at mean high tides. However access along the coast continues to be good due primarily to the extensive promenades from Seaton to the Marina and around the Headland. Much of the remaining coastline can be accessed along the dunes although these are delicate systems which can easily be damaged by trampling. Currently there is no regular access around Victoria Harbour and Seaton Channel due to industrial and commercial uses. Access is also difficult for the 2km section of the former industrial works north of the Headland but this may be addressed through the development of the coastal path.

(Figure 3: Seaton Carew Beach)



(Figure 4: Rock Pools at the Headland)



A recent development has been the enactment of the Marine and Coastal Access Path Act 2009; Part 9 of this act has placed a duty for a coastal path to be created along the whole of the English coastline. One of the first stages is being developed between Seaton Common and Roker at Sunderland. This route runs primarily on routes with multi-user rights. When approved and adopted by the Secretary of State (Department Environment Fisheries and Rural Affairs) this route will have the legal status of a Coastal Path and will be recognised as a national trail.

Ward Jackson Park

The park was provided by public money in 1883 to commemorate one of Hartlepool's greatest entrepreneurs, Ralph Ward Jackson. The park is listed in the National Register of Historic Parks & Gardens because of its collection of Victorian and Edwardian features: the Lodge House (1883), the Bandstand (1901), the Fountain (1902), the Clocktower (1925) and the magnificent lake set in its Victorian landscape.

A project to restore and develop the park was recently completed, being funded by Hartlepool Borough Council, The Heritage Lottery Fund and Capital Challenge. This project returned the park to its original splendour and providing for the full involvement of park-users in its future. 'The Friends of Ward Jackson Park' meet to represent the views of park-users, organise events and activities and raise funds for their own Park projects.



(figure 5 – Ward Jackson Park Lake)



(figure 6 – Ward Jackson Park Band Stand)

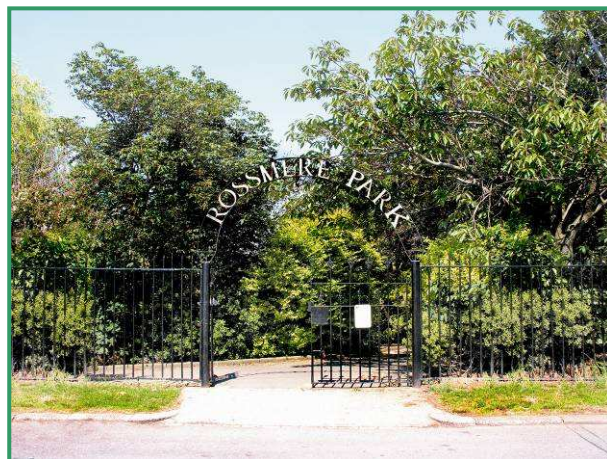
Ward Jackson Park continues to play a crucial role in the provision of attractive green space in the west of the town, acting as a focal point for residents and visitors to enjoy, especially in the spring and summer months when its true beauty can best be appreciated.

Rossmere Park

The park is ten acres in size and forms an important element of the Owton Manor Green Wedge. Set in an urban residential area, the park incorporates open-grassed areas, trees, flower beds, an all weather pitch and a fixed equipment playground (for toddlers and teenagers).



(Figure 7: Lake at Rossmere Park)



(Figure 8: Entrance to Rossmere Park)

There is a lake with a wooded island and a nature area incorporating a pond dipping platform. The park is used for both formal and informal sport and recreation. Facilities are available for basketball, netball, football, tennis on the all weather pitch and angling is permitted on the lake.

The new MUGA and skatepark development at the top end of Rossmere Way, coupled with the pitch provision on Rossmere Way provide a green corridor of activities in this location

Seaton Park

Seaton Park is 16 acres in size and provides a range of facilities for users including a play area, 5 tennis courts, a bowling green, flower gardens and open grassed areas. The park is well used and a valuable asset to Seaton Carew although elements of the park are in need of restoration or replacement.

Owton Manor Green Wedge

This green wedge is probably the least identifiable of the three existing green wedges in the town, running from the rural fringe at Owton Manor through to Rossmere Park in the east and provides a gateway into and out of the urban area. The eastern end of the green wedge including Rossmere Park and the recreation ground on Rossmere Way are major assets to this area of the town and provide space for recreational and sporting activities. The western end of this green wedge is predominantly green open space with

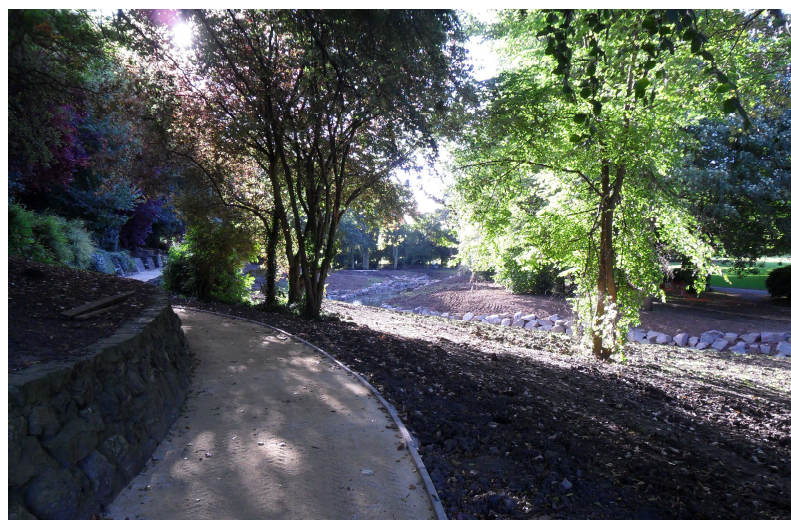
some tree planting. In itself it is not of particularly high quality in terms of green infrastructure and does suffer from anti social behaviour including use by motorbikes and quad bikes which regularly causes significant damage to the grassed areas. However, due to the lack of green infrastructure in the south of the town, it is of great importance to residents. Recently a play builder scheme was created towards the western end of the green wedge which has provided valuable play space for young people in the area.

Burn Valley Green Wedge incorporating Summerhill Country Park

One of the 3 current green wedges within Hartlepool is the Burn Valley Green Wedge running from the centre of town out to the countryside in effect forming a green lung for the town. This park is 19 acres in size with 3 bowling greens a new bowling pavilion, Ornamental gardens, playground and provides a walk through park land from the town centre to family woods and on to open country side.

Works carried out during 2011/12 have seen the improvement in the environmental quality and landscape of the Upper Burn Valley through habitat creation and restoration thereby creating more 'wild places and natural spaces' within easy reach of the urban populace have been coupled with improvements to the public and permissive rights of way to enhance the quality of the green wedge. Specifically the works have seen the extension of the Family Wood, general environmental improvements and resurfacing of paths along with works to the river banks.

There are a number of multi-functional benefits of the work within the Burn Valley section of the link as it will enhance biodiversity as well as providing a safer pedestrian and cycle route which will encourage people to exercise and will further enhance the sense of place within the Burn Valley. In economic terms this will allow people from the western areas of the town to access work in the town centre in a sustainable manner.



(Figure 9: Burn Valley Gardens)

The works have given communities the opportunity to gain knowledge, training, qualification and experience to enable them to take ownership of the area, with the intention of them running the site in the future with support from the Local Authority. Schools and pre-school groups were encouraged to visit during the works for educational, health and recreational purposes, as they will be the future conservation stewards of the borough.

To the west of the Burn Valley, improvements and a new pedestrian / cycle route are proposed which would improve access opportunities to Summerhill for residents and would have a positive contribution to the success of the leisure/tourism facility. Summerhill also offers a cycle maintenance scheme to help to encourage people to use and look after their bikes.

Middle Warren Green Wedge

This green wedge is an integral element of the Middle Warren housing development that has built out over the past 20 years. This is the most northerly green wedge in Hartlepool and begins to the east of Hart Reservoir and forms a valuable green corridor running through to Easington Road. To the east the green wedge is more natural with mature trees in a ravine which leads into a less mature green wedge which has been formed as part of the development. A stream meanders its way through the area forming an attractive feature which has been diverted in recent years to help form wetland areas and to control the waters more in times of high rainfall. Extensive tree planting has taken place over the years with more mature trees tending to be towards the western end of the green wedge with younger trees and saplings towards the eastern end. A network of footpaths allow users to enjoy a variety of walks and routes through the green wedge and the area is well used by locals for walking and running. A new childrens play area has recently been approved and will be constructed to the south of Merlin Way helping to provide further recreational provision within the area.

Wynyard Woods Green Wedge

The green wedge at Wynyard Woods helps to provide an attractive setting for the executive housing product at Wynyard. This green wedge is relatively young having developed over the past decade or so in line with the housing development in this area. It mainly provides a green space with some planting which provides recreational space for running or dog walking. In line with future development in the area there is an aspiration to extend the green wedge through to link with the Castle Eden Walkway.

Golden Flatts Green Wedge

Currently this area is a semi-natural area of land which acts as a barrier between housing on Seaton Lane and the steel pipe mill. The area currently is an unmanaged area which is mainly used for dog walking although it does incorporate SuDS ponds

associated with the recent housing development on Seaton Lane. This area is seen as an area of opportunity and will be developed into a formal green wedge over the coming years which is likely to incorporate tree planting, woodland walks, ponds, play space and possibly some pitch provision.

Allied to Golden Flatts is a small triangular area of land on the other side of Brenda Road. This is at the rear of the Council road salt store and links to the footpath network to Seaton. Several ponds were created on this area in 2010 in collaboration with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

North Linear Park

Within the northern area there are a number of elements of individual green space which currently exist including the Town Moor on the Headland, Central Park, a green corridor on Central Estate, Clavering play area and the Middle Warren Green Wedge as well as areas of accessible, attractive coastline and countryside. These elements all play an important part in the overall green infrastructure within the northern area of the town. However, to varying degrees, they will all need investment and care over the coming years to ensure that residents and visitors are provided with a high quality of environment to enjoy. One of the major issues that has been highlighted is that these key green spaces do not currently benefit from a good standard of connectivity and tend to be areas that people may use in isolation and do not offer an opportunity to move easily between the distinct areas in a safe green environment. The North Linear Park in its entirety will play an important part in the improvements to the access network in the north of the town and to the north west of the town and will form links with other key programmes including Limestone Landscapes, Coastal Access and Hartlepool Pondscape.

A steering group has been formed to help drive forward the aspirations of local people in this area of the town, using a masterplan for the linear park as a basis. Currently it has prioritised its areas of work in the short term to focus on the large open green space on Central estate and Clavering Play Area. In recent years, both of the green spaces have been blighted by a number of issues in relation to anti-social behaviour, vandalism and damage, litter and dog fouling and addressing these issues is seen as key to their development in the future.

The Central estate green space is situated between West View Road and Old Cemetery Road and is located within an area falling within the top 5% most deprived nationally (IMD 2010¹). For some time, the Central estate community has aspired to enhance the natural environment, increase biodiversity, educate local people about wildlife and habitats that are in close proximity, but ultimately to encourage health and wellbeing

¹ Indices of Multiple Deprivation

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6871/1871208.pdf

and improve resident levels of satisfaction. Funding is being sought to implement the masterplan, subject to further consultation and statutory consents.

One of the key aims of the group has been to reclaim this key piece of green space for local community use through the redesigning and planning of the area, driven by the needs and aspirations of local residents. The area has not been subject to investment for a long time, and it is anticipated that improving and enhancing the Central estate green space will also be of benefit to the wider Hartlepool community. It is currently very well used for recreation, is an integral part of the Coastal Access Pathway (of which Hartlepool is one of five National Pilots, funded by Natural England) and is on one of the main key rail routes into the town. The interaction between poor quality environments, areas of high economic and social disadvantage, and reduced levels of health and wellbeing are well documented, and the provision of a formalised park space to utilise will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for those residents living within close proximity. It is also hoped that by aesthetically improving the green space and this important connecting section of the Coastal Access Pathway, that people will be encouraged to exercise more frequently.



(Figure 10: Clavering Play Builder)

Clavering Play Area is situated between West View Road and Easington Road in Clavering, improvement works are anticipated to commence in 2013. The scheme, which is a joint initiative between Hartlepool Borough Council and Groundwork North East and overseen by the steering group includes new fencing, trees, paths, car park, wetland scrape and skate park.

Rural Hartlepool

Hartlepool's rural area covers more than half of the borough's total area with the majority of the public and permissive rights of way path network located there. This network of paths is an important part of the makeup of rural Hartlepool. People rely on these paths for pleasure as well as access to and from work and local amenities. The majority are public footpaths with a few public bridleways located to the north of the borough. A major issue with the rights of way network in rural Hartlepool is the A19 dual carriageway which severs many of the routes and adds a large degree of danger to those walking circular routes where they need to cross the A19.

The main usage of these paths is recreational, with the emphasis on exploration and enjoyment. The majority of these pathways link into a wide range of Hartlepool's green spaces infrastructure. From parks, wild green spaces and local nature reserves to simple green spaces close to or within housing areas, these vital links provide access to and from these open spaces and form part of a wider network that becomes regional in scope and aspect. Regionally the footpath and cycle network is growing and increasing in importance, as organisations such as NHS Trusts, Natural England and Local Communities groups recognise the benefits to mental and physical health that these paths provide for any user of any capability.

Summerhill Country Park lies to the west of the urban area and in effect forms a rural extension to the Burn Valley Green Wedge. This excellent facility provides a wide range of outdoor activities including a circular walk which has areas of ecological interest with signposting to educate users where there are particular flora or fauna of interest. Other activities include a bmx track, boulder park for climbing and cross country running. These facilities are further supplemented by an outdoor play area for children and an information centre and café.

Sports Pitches and Recreational facilities

Hartlepool benefits from a wide variety of sports and recreational facilities which are vital in the future health of residents. The Council appointed consultants in 2012 to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy to assess the adequacy of key pitch sports including football, cricket, rugby and hockey as well as looking at tennis and bowling facilities, all of which play a vital part in the green infrastructure provision. This updates and supplements the information gathered as part of the PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment which was produced in 2008.

The assessments looked at issues including the levels of provision, location, the quality of the pitches and future need. This information helps to assess where investment and

development needs to be focused in coming years. The findings from the study will help to inform the Action Plan however this section reflects the contribution that these sports facilities have on green infrastructure at present.

Over the past decade or so football pitch provision has grown significantly with demand and there are now 105 individual pitches across the Borough on a number of sites and split between adult, junior and mini pitches, therefore catering for all ages. This includes all public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured community use. To compliment this there are also 4 full size artificial pitches which, whilst not natural green infrastructure, play a vital part in the health of the community and provide sports provision in times of poor weather conditions when the grass pitches cannot be used. Most of the pitches which do not benefit from public access are at schools, however many of these do cater for clubs, for example the former Brierton School site pitches are used by Greatham Football Club which has expanded significantly over the past few years. A number of the schools do not currently provide any community access however, in the future it is anticipated that some of these schools may be willing to consider providing some access.

During the consultation exercise, carried out by the consultants who undertook the Playing Pitch Strategy, users were asked for the thoughts regarding the provision of pitches and the quality of the pitches within Hartlepool. It is generally considered that there is approximately the right level of pitches although there is a need for some of the adult pitches to be sub-divided to meet the increasing demand for junior pitches and in fact in the longer term there may be a need to identify additional land for pitch provision. The main issue that was raised by users was the quality of the pitches and the supporting facilities. Concerns over grass coverage, drainage and changing facilities were some of the main issues raised and the need for improvements to pitches are reflected within the Action Plan.

In terms of other sports which contribute greatly to the green infrastructure within the borough there are six cricket pitches and 18 rugby pitches which in quality terms suffer from similar issues to the football pitches such as wear and tear of pitches and quality of changing facilities.

There are a total of 45 tennis courts (in 2013) available throughout the borough. Many of the courts are on school or Council owned sites with 13 courts being on private club sites. In terms of tennis the main issue is the surfacing and a concern with the private clubs is lack of flood lights and a need to improve training facilities.

Bowling is a particularly important sport especially with the ageing population of the town. There are 12 bowls greens on a total of 10 sites across the town (in 2013). The

majority are owned and maintained by the Council however there are 3 private clubs which are successfully operated. In terms of improvements needed most relate to the quality of the surface or drainage ditches. There are however some facilities where either improvements to the existing pavilion facilities or, in the case of Grayfields, a new pavilion is needed.



(Figure 11: Playing Pitch Provision)

Allotments

There are a large number of allotments spread throughout the town which provide a valuable amenity for local residents, allowing for the growth of fresh fruit and vegetables. This is not only beneficial in health terms but also helps in hard economic times when the cost of food is rising. The allotments across the town vary greatly in quality and maintenance terms with some suffering from security issues. Whilst on the whole most allotments are used for their proper use, there are issues with mis-use of allotments for others purposes such as keeping dogs or other animals. This obviously causes issues with noise but also stops the allotments being productive. This is a major issue especially as the Council has a large waiting list for allotments. The Action Plan highlights some of the improvements which it is hoped will be made over time.

Cemeteries

While the principle role of cemeteries is clear and must be respected and pre-eminent in their use, it is also acknowledged that they provide extensive areas of attractive green space which can have important secondary benefits. For example Spion Kop cemetery

is of sub-regional importance for the coastal grassland that is found there and this has been recognised in its designation as a Local Nature Reserve in 2004. North Cemetery is a 12.6 hectare area of wooded greenspace in an area that is surrounded by dense housing and is very well used by local residents for walking. Seaton Cemetery is frequented by bird watchers as its situation as the closest area of mature trees to the coast attracts a range of migrant birds.

Wildlife Habitats

In addition to the internationally designated sites along the coast, Hartlepool has a further four Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 49 sites that are of sub-regional importance for their wildlife or geological interest and six Local Nature Reserves. Many of the other areas of green space have some importance for wildlife. Away from the coast, the wildlife habitats in Hartlepool are generally small in extent and widely dispersed, nevertheless they represent a varied suite of different habitats. Expanding and linking these habitats together is a key objective.

Local Nature Reserves are specifically places that the public can access to appreciate or learn about wildlife but some of the other areas of wildlife habitat are publically accessible and add to people's experience of nature. The range of wildlife habitats and in particular the many opportunities to see wildlife along the coast and to link to adjacent wildlife habitats adjacent to Hartlepool, such as Salholme, has the potential to see an increase in green tourism.

Investment in Green Infrastructure

Ongoing investment is critical in GI to ensure that all forms of GI are provided to the best possible standard. It is not only Council funding that will provide crucial investment into GI and the Council continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations, listed below in order to access various sources of funding:

- Council: funding usually for maintenance;
- Central government: funding for service delivery;
- Government Agencies: from agencies like Natural England, Environment Agency, Sport England;
- The Football Foundation
- National Governing Bodies for Sport such as the Football Association, the RFU, England Hockey etc
- European Union: funding usually has to be matched by the Council;
- Rural Development Programme: from the Government for agri-environment schemes in the rural area;
- National Lottery Fund: external partners bid for funding from the Big Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- Local Transport Plan: from the Government to provide and/or improve the rights of way network and sustainable transport corridors;
- Developer contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy: used to provide, improve and/or maintain green space from new development;
- Landfill Communities Fund: landfill site operators contribute funding to carry out projects that meet the environmental objects of the Landfill Tax regulations;
- Private sector funding: includes sponsorship of a green space or feature like a roundabout;
- Conservation trusts: projects are delivered by groups like the Durham Wildlife Trust;
- Co-operative ownership: community management of spaces like allotments allows committees to bid for external funding;
- Charitable Trusts: funding could be invested and the income generated used with other resources so the Trust can manage the space; and
- Income-generating opportunities: includes rental income from businesses such as cafés and restaurants, sports facilities and the use of greenspaces for events, weddings and private functions.

The various studies and records that are kept by the Council help to identify areas of greatest need and are therefore used to help inform the Action Plan for investment in GI.

Contributions which can be secured as part of the planning process on applications for housing (and to a less extent other forms of development) can be used, within the vicinity of those developments, to seek improvements to GI considered necessary as a result of those developments whether that be in the form of planting, walkways, recreational facilities or sports facilities. It must be noted that these contributions are also highly dependent on the economic situation at the time. Whilst contributions will always be requested where considered necessary, if an applicant can show in viability terms that it is not feasible to provide the amount requested contributions can be reduced if it is considered the other benefits of a development outweigh the benefit of the GI contribution. As such it is very hard to gage the levels of funding for distinct elements of GI that will be drawn down through this source and it is often used to help provide match funding for schemes which are to be delivered through other sources.

Management of Green Infrastructure

For most forms of publicly accessible GI in the borough, the Council is the main organisation with the responsibility for the maintenance and management of these spaces including parks and gardens, play areas, the beaches and coastal margins and the green wedges. The delivery of new GI must be considered against the long term maintenance liabilities it will bring. A critical element of the Action Plan which accompanies this document will be the formulation of a management plan for distinct elements of GI.

As each project is implemented a detailed management plan will be prepared with partners. The mix of stakeholders involved will reflect the necessary actions needed to secure its successful delivery. This will ensure that people with the appropriate skills are available to design projects, bid for resources, deliver the project and to secure its ongoing management. Available on the Council's website, these public documents/plans, will make it clear who has ongoing responsibility for management and maintenance and will include a key contact for each scheme should interested parties wish to ask questions in relation to them.

Monitoring and Review

It is important to the success of this Strategy that measures are put in place to:

- evaluate the impact that the Strategy is having;
- monitor delivery of the Action Plan; and
- use this information to review both the Strategy and Action Plan in the medium and long term.

Each project in the Action Plan will have milestones and targets for delivery which will be used to update the Action Plan. The Green Infrastructure Project Group will monitor and review the Strategy and Action Plan; the results will be published in regular progress reports (at least biennial). Monitoring will be used to help show progress, identify areas where delivery of the Strategy is not taking place and provide vital information to feedback to partners and stakeholders.

A review of this Strategy will be considered where:

- There is significant change in European and national legislation, or national, regional or sub regional policy; or
- The Green Infrastructure Project Group considers that the Green Infrastructure Strategy is insufficiently effective in delivering its vision and objectives.

Who are the Green Infrastructure Project Group?

The project group will consist of representatives from the Council and other stakeholders such as Natural England, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Groundwork North East and neighbouring authorities where appropriate.

Appendix 1 - Commonly Used Green Infrastructure Definitions

Accessible greenspace: space for the public to use free of charge and without time restrictions; some spaces may be closed overnight.

Agri-environment scheme: provides funding to farmers and land managers to deliver environmental management of farmland, includes Entry Level, Organic Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship Schemes.

Ancient woodland: woodland that has existed continuously since 1600 or before.

Biodiversity: variety of life including different plants, animals and micro-organisms, and the ecosystems which they are a part of.

Biomass: material from living or recently living organisms including trees and plants to be used directly or as biofuels to deliver renewable energy.

Buffer zone: area situated around the edge of a wildlife site or corridor or as a connecting zone which links areas, increasing their biodiversity value.

Carbon footprint: total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced by a person, group, organisation town or country.

Climate change: effect of global warming on weather conditions and unpredictable variations in temperatures.

Community woodland: woodland that is provided for community use

Conservation Area: area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Ecosystem: relationships between living things, water, soil and people.

Ecosystem services: are the benefits healthy natural ecosystems provide

directly or indirectly including food, fresh water, clean air, climate regulation or pollination of crops.

Flood plain: flat-lying areas adjacent to a watercourse, where water flows in times of flood or would flow but for the presence of flood defences.

Green corridor: linear green space connecting different types of greenspace, can incorporate walking and cycling routes. Most are also wildlife corridors.

Green infrastructure: strategically planned and delivered interconnecting, visually linked network of public and private multifunctional green spaces, landscapes and natural environments in the urban and rural area used for recreation, biodiversity and food production, which supports natural, cultural and ecological processes, with benefits for people, wildlife and place.

Green infrastructure levy: sum paid by homeowners to be used to maintain greenspace in a new development.

Green wedge: open area between neighbourhoods which helps to maintain their separate distinctive qualities.

Landscape: consistent, distinct pattern of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and settlements.

Listed building: property or structure, protected by the Government because it has special architectural or historic interest.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR): designated by the Council and Natural England for its special local wildlife or geological value and which provide people with opportunities to learn about nature or enjoy it.

Local Wildlife Site: designated by the Council for its wildlife importance.

Multifunctionality: the ability of a space to perform more than one greenspace function at the same time.

Priority habitats and species: habitats and species of principal importance identified in the UK and Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plans.

Protected habitats or species: protected by national legislation because of their vulnerable status.

Public art: permanent or temporary works of art visible to the public either as part of a greenspace, a building or as freestanding artwork.

Public Right of Way: includes public footpaths (walking), bridleways (walking, horse riding and cycling) and byways (walking, horse riding and cycling and vehicles) where the public have the right to go.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens: protected by English Heritage as being of special historic interest.

Renewable energy: energy that occurs naturally and repeatedly in the environment from wind, water, sun and biomass.

Scheduled Monument: nationally important monuments protected against inappropriate development.

Site of Special Scientific Areas Interest (SSSI): protected by the Government it is of national importance for wildlife, geology or geomorphology.

Special Protection Area (SPA): Internationally designated wildlife site.

Surface water run off: excess rainwater or from drains that flow over land.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): reduce and slow the quantity and rate of surface water run off from new development, dealing with it as close to the source as possible.

Wildlife corridor: linear greenspace that provides links for wildlife dispersal

and movement, can have wider amenity benefits.

Wildlife friendly greenspace: space where naturalness dominates.

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Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Action Plan

Introduction

Green infrastructure (GI) planning involves the provision of strategically planned networks that link existing (and proposed) green spaces with green corridors running through urban, suburban, urban fringe, and rural areas. Through the maintenance, enhancement and extension of these networks multi-functional benefits can be realised for local communities, businesses, visitors and the environment. Appropriate strategies, plans and programmes led by the Council and involving local partnerships and individual organisations can help to maintain existing GI, and promote solutions to remedy deficiencies and create new opportunities.

The Green Infrastructure SPD has explored the benefits that can be gained from developing a successful GI network. It is highlighted that whilst Hartlepool currently has many elements of GI that are of great value it also has areas which are not as well served by green space as others, there are links between certain elements of GI that could be created or greatly enhanced and there will always be a need for ongoing investment and enhancement in the facilities and habitats that already exist.

This Action Plan sets out areas of investment and improvement that are needed in the coming years to help develop and grow the GI systems in Hartlepool. It is envisaged that this Action Plan will be a living document that will be updated when necessary to reflect where works are carried out or where new schemes and improvements are identified. For instance, the green wedge at the south west extension will be included once the Hartlepool Local Plan is adopted and if the housing site remains in the Local Plan. The schemes within this document will allow funding to be sought towards their implementation and will also be useful in directing developer contributions, which are sought through planning applications, to schemes relevant to the application. The Action Plan sets out the costs of schemes where the information is available and, where the elements of specific funding are known, lists where funding has already been secured.

The Action Plan forms an integral part of the Green Infrastructure SPD and, once adopted, will form part of the Local Development Framework, linking with the Hartlepool Local Plan to drive forward the development of Green Infrastructure in the town. It will enable the Council to seek funding to help implement distinct elements of the Action. The Council will ensure that the SPD stays relevant and up-to-date through monitoring and review.

Project Areas to meet the Objectives and Vision

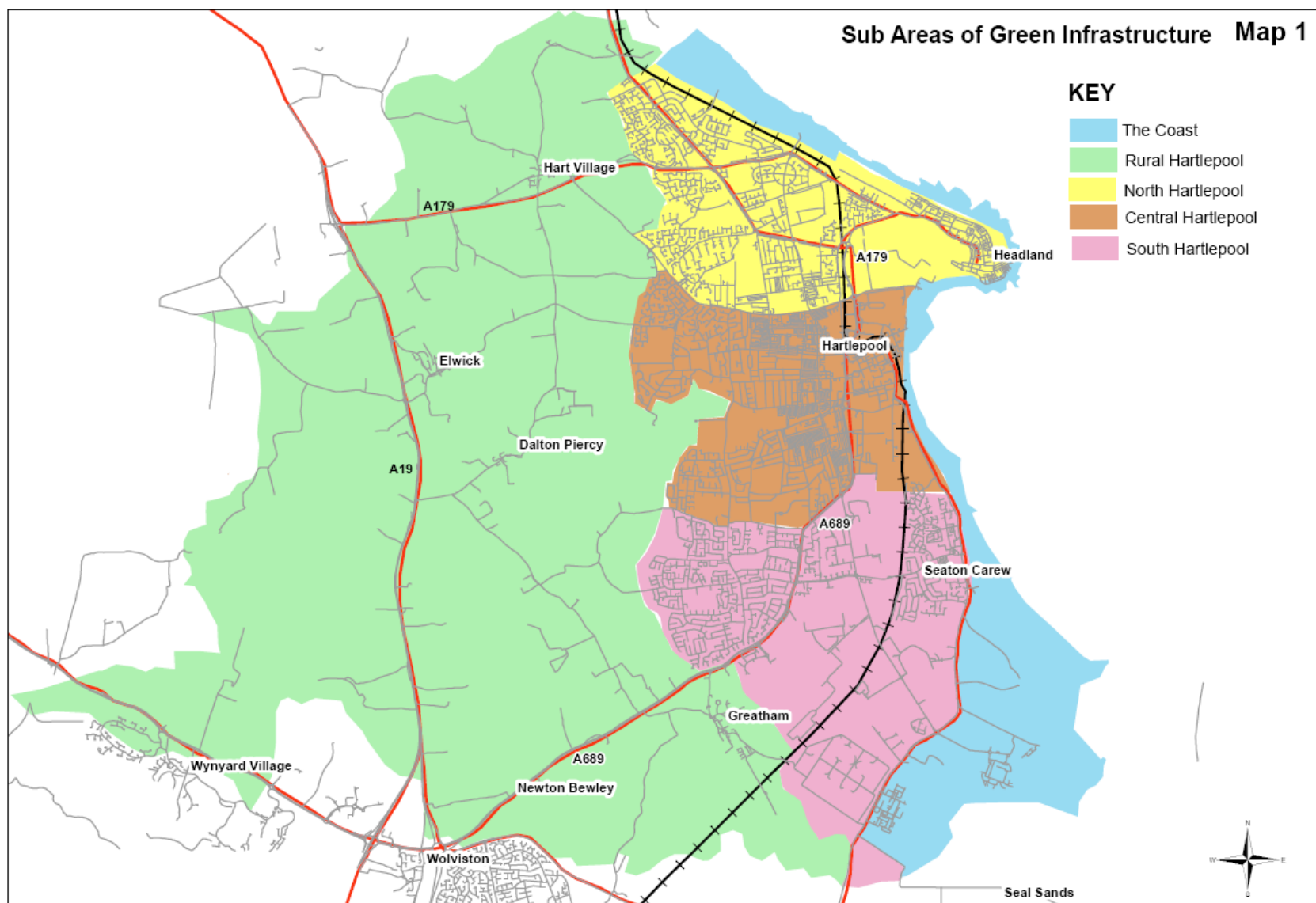
This section looks at the areas within the Green Infrastructure Strategy and looks at project ideas and costs which are needed over the coming years to develop the GI network within Hartlepool. Where schemes will meet an objective set out within the SPD the appropriate symbol is shown alongside the project description. Where available project designs are included to help people to visualise the potential improvements that may be seen on the ground. Maps of corridors are also included to show the wider impact for areas of the town that certain projects could have in the future. Importantly costs of improvements are included to help secure funding packages which will be vital to the future development of GI, especially over the next few years where the economy is likely to remain in a depressed state. Over time however, as the economy improves, and, as the GI develops and enhances, the benefits of the investments will be seen not only in the health of the community but also in prices of homes and businesses. This intrinsic link between good quality GI (from tree lined streets and incidental open space through to parks, country parks and the coast) and the prices of homes and businesses has been illustrated in a number of national studies over the past few years.

In order to keep this Action Plan manageable it has split the town into sub areas looking at the GI within these areas but, importantly, also considers how the sub areas are linked together by GI. The sub areas have been divided into the following:

1. The Coast and its Margins
2. Rural Hartlepool
3. North Hartlepool
4. Central Hartlepool
5. South Hartlepool

These areas are shown on Map 1 on the following page. Those sub areas are then illustrated in more detailed maps showing more localised GI. These more detailed maps help to form a view for where there are gaps in the GI provision in certain areas of the town but also help to demonstrate how movement between these areas is possible.

Map 1: Sub Areas of Green Infrastructure



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Scale 1:62,000

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DEPT REGENERATION & NEIGHBOURHOOD
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Area 1: The Coast and its Margins

The coast of Hartlepool borough continues to attract people to explore the pathways and scenery that are characteristic of the town and its coastline. Walkers and, in certain areas, cyclists and equestrians, are able to access the entire Hartlepool coastline as well as the majority of its beaches and dunes.

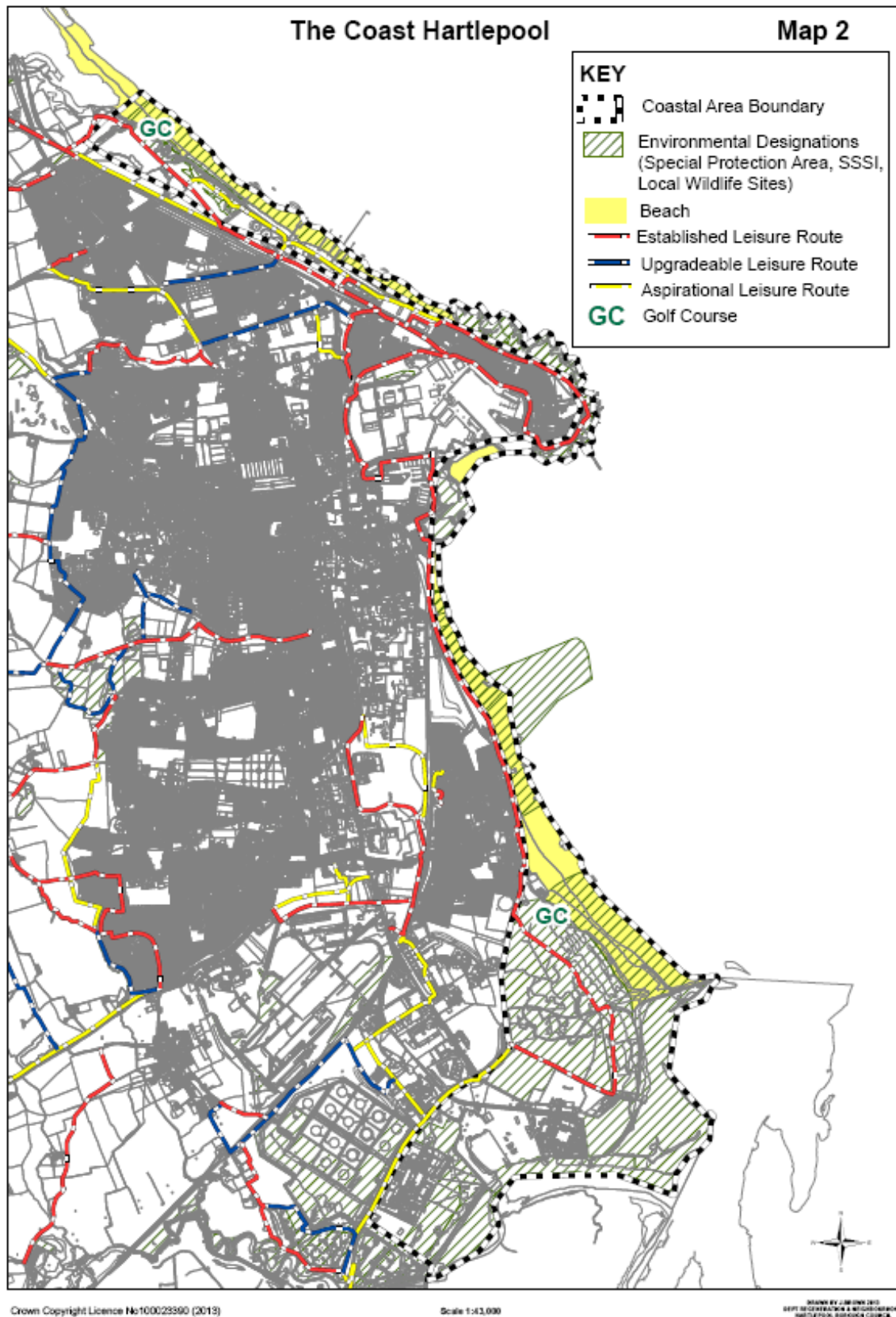
There are a number of rights of way that are located on or close to the coastline; they range from public footpaths to public bridleways and in one case a public byway. The coastline is, for most of its length, an urban environment and as such the majority of the paths and promenades are formally surfaced and maintained at public expense.

At Seaton Carew a new stage of sea defence works will provide new and formal equestrian access to Seaton beach. As part of the flood defence a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was undertaken which illustrated there would be no detrimental impact on the wildlife or ecosystems in the area.

A recent development has been the enactment of the Marine and Coastal Access Path Act 2009; Part 9 of this act placed a duty for a coastal path to be created along the whole of the English coastline. One of the first stages is being developed between Seaton Common and Roker at Sunderland. This path primarily runs on pedestrian routes with occasional sections running over routes with multi-user rights. When approved and adopted by the Secretary of State (Defra) this route will have the legal status of a Coastal Access Path and will be recognised as a National Trail. Again, as part of this work Natural England undertook a HRA which indicated no negative impact.

The Council is aware of the sensitivities that exist between the natural environment and its users, especially in these very delicate ecosystems, many of which are protected by international, national and local designations. The challenge that exists in the future is to ensure that users can continue to enjoy the beauty and variety of these areas whilst at the same time protecting the natural environment from harm. The Council will continue to work with key organisations such as Natural England and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to identify funding sources for enhancement schemes along the coast. Should schemes be identified these would need to be the subject of a HRA at that time.

Map 2: The Coast and its Margins



Area 2: Rural Hartlepool

The rural area of Hartlepool covers over 50% of the Borough. There are six villages, but the majority of the area is undulating farm land. There are a number of footpaths, bridleways, links and access routes which allow access to the rural area. The existing routes along with the aspirational routes can be seen on the map 3 on page 10. One of the main issues which impacts on the rural area is the severing impact the A19 dual carriageway has and this continues to be not only an issue for the creation of circular routes but also a major safety issue. A longer term aspiration of the Council, which is also identified in the Local Infrastructure Plan 2012, is to create a safe link over the A19 in the vicinity of Elwick in the form of a bridge. The creation of such a bridge would vastly improve safety and would allow people to access the western parts of the borough and in particular the employment opportunities at Wynyard. Currently there are no plans drawn up for such a bridge however it has been estimated a multi-user pedestrian bridge could cost in the region of £2m.

There is a need to provide a key route which would run from the Sappers Corner at the south west of the town out to Wynyard. This route will be particularly important in coming years to provide the opportunity of sustainable travel to Wynyard which is one of the main employment areas in the Borough and is likely to be the location of a new hospital to serve the town and surrounding areas. There are no footpaths or cycleways which currently exist along this corridor and it is likely that such a route would cost in the region of £1m to provide. Developments in the Wynyard area could be required to contribute a significant percentage of the overall cost to ensure developments are seen as sustainable.

There are also a number of cycleways in the rural area including the national cycle route one which runs through the western part of the rural area along the Castle Eden Walkway. Developments which occur in and around the Wynyard area will need to link into the green network in this area to ensure that residents have access to key green spaces such as the Wynyard Woodland Park in Stockton.



Summerhill Country Park lies in the rural area immediately to the west of the Burn Valley Green Wedge, in effect acting as a gateway into the countryside. Summerhill is owned and operated by the Council and offers a wide variety of outdoor activities. Key elements of the management of Summerhill are shown in table 1 below. In addition to

this, the Council developed a scheme to create a Myths, Monsters and Legends Trail at Summerhill which is an aspiration of the Council's to deliver subject to funding. The concept is to develop a Trail around Summerhill with some key features in relation to Hartlepool myths and folklore. This would create a significant visitor attraction. The Council also want to further develop the outdoor sports provision at the site. £60k current investment in the BMX track to develop it into a track that can stage national league events.

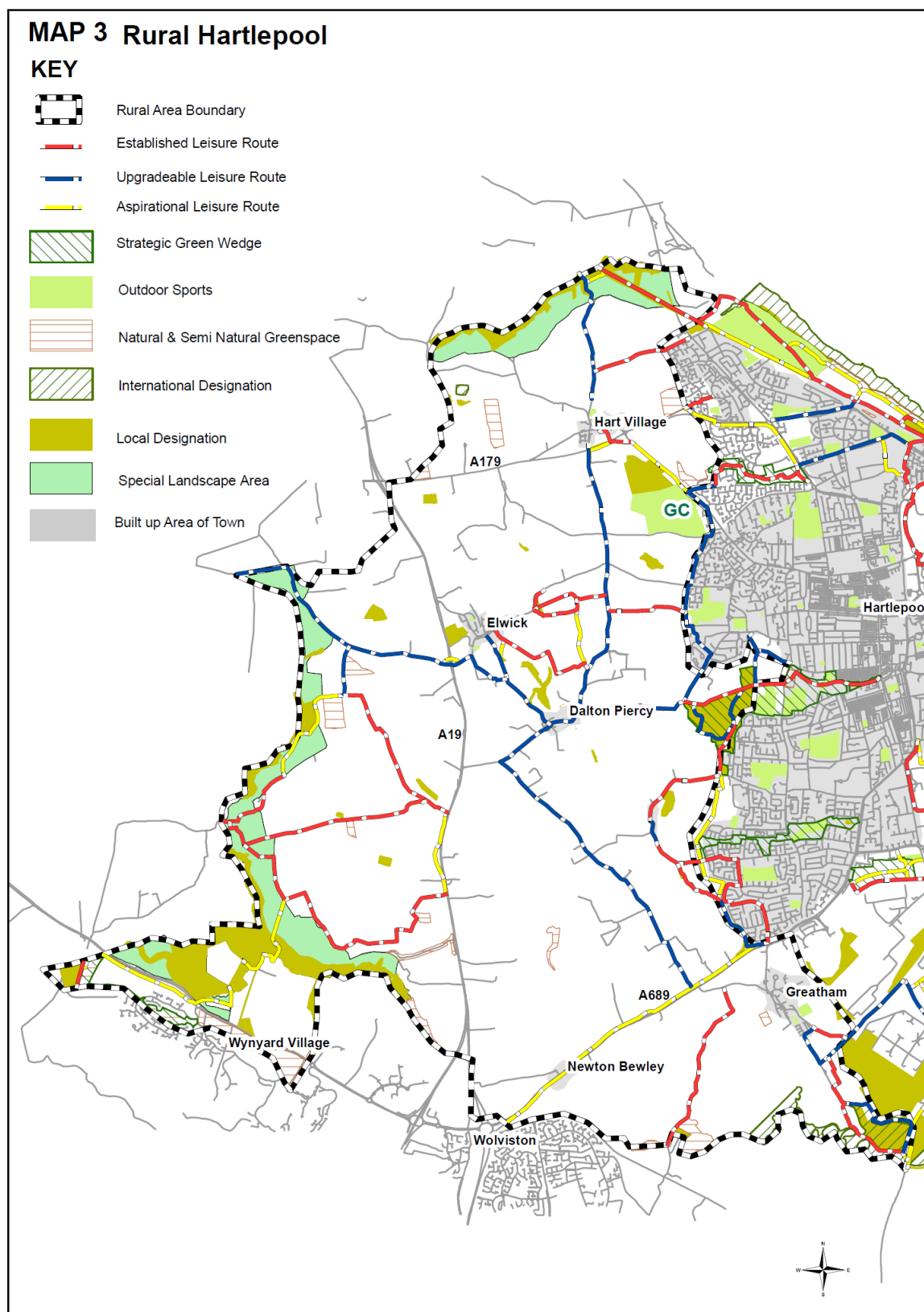
Table 1: Summerhill – Green Infrastructure Action Plan

1 Woodland management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Existing coppicing of selected areas	5 locations identified within Summerhill two of which are cut in rotation	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Year 2 works have been completed.
Future coppicing	Further possible locations have been identified	Funding would be required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with volunteer groups or funding to support private contractors)	Initial ideas only – coppicing management plan to be updated.
Existing thinning of woodland areas	4 locations have been identified within Summerhill	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Two locations have been completed. One location has included further works to create small wetlands
Future woodland thinning	Other areas throughout the developing woodland of Summerhill	Funding would be required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with volunteer groups or funding to support private contractors)	Initial ideas only – thinning management plan to be updated.
2 Hedgerow management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Gap planting	Small amounts of planting to attend to gaps within existing hedgerows. 3 areas identified	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	One area completed, another to be completed before the end of March 2013.
Hedge laying	Annual programme of hedge laying for hedges around Summerhill including those	Funding required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with and organise volunteer groups or funding to	Two key hedges completed, further locations identified for future years.

	planted during the sites' early development	support private contractors)	
3 Wetland management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Management of existing wetlands	At present 9 wetland sites have been identified including areas recently excavated	Funding required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with and organise volunteer groups)	2 small wetland sites recently excavated, one site re-shaped. Small scale species introduction carried out on one site.
Excavation of new or existing wetlands	At present one new pond site has been identified and 3 existing sites that could benefit from further excavations. Plans are subject to management advice regarding the presence of Great Crested Newts	No funding has been identified but as some of the operations could involve heavy machinery funding in the region of £3,000 to 5,000 may be required.	Plans drafted in outline
Watercourse management	Management of 2 streams that run through Summerhill	Funding required to support implementation (e.g. staff to work with and organise volunteer groups)	Work ongoing including clearing streams of litter, planting small scale reed beds and minor excavations
Ditching work	Excavation and management of ditches in and around Summerhill. This includes new ditches and re-excavating existing ditches	Funding required for larger excavations involving bringing in heavy plant. Est £2,000 to 5,000.	Full site ditching plan to be updated.
4 Grassland management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Amenity grassland management	Regular amenity mowing of 9 identified grasslands throughout Summerhill	Work currently carried out by Regeneration and Neighbourhoods work teams	Ongoing programme carried out between April to October
Meadow management	Low intensity management of 6 meadow areas	Operations can potentially generate a small amount of income subject to identifying	No hay was cut in 2012 due to not being able to identify someone who

	within Summerhill. Preferred management is by taking an annual cut of hay	someone who wants the hay. Some meadows may have to be cut for amenity purposes	was interested.
Meadow management through low intensity grazing	One meadow has been identified where management for conservation aims could be carried out by low intensity grazing (grazing over selected summer months by horses).	In order to make the meadow area suitable fencing would be required. Cost would be in the region of £2,500. No funding has been identified. Once set up the grazing could generate income	Meadow area and fencing requirements identified.
5 Access management			
Item	Details	Funding	Current status
Countryside routes vegetation control	Vegetation control of tracks and paths throughout Summerhill. In total there are about 6.8km of tracks and paths	Work part supported under the 5 year Woodland Grant Scheme. Resources will continue to be required to support cut back by utilising works teams or staff/volunteers	Year 2 of Woodland Grant Scheme works completed. Ongoing programme undertaken throughout the summer months and to assist cross-country running events.
Resurfacing of main site route	Shared walkers/cyclists section of the main route that travels around Summerhill. Route is 2km long x 2.5m wide with two sections of non-slip tarmac	The full route requires re-surfacing. Costs depend on specifications and designs and could range from £80,000 to £250,000	Top surface has fully eroded.
Stile and gate works	Upgrading of stile, gates and access points throughout the site.	Most of the works are being funded under the existing 5 year Woodland Grant Scheme programme. Additional works would need in the region of £2,000	Year 2 of Woodland Grant scheme works completed including new stiles and kissing gates.

Map 3: Rural Hartlepool



A diverse range of attractive sites and places of importance for wildlife are located within this rural area and improving access to and enjoyment of these areas is a key aspiration of the Council. These improvements need to be developed in a sensitive manner so as not to impinge on the quality or ecological value of these natural areas. Information and signposting will be an important element of any improvements to ensure that walks provide educational as well as physical enjoyment.



Figure 1: Close Wood, Wynyard

Area 3: North Hartlepool

As is highlighted in the main SPD, there are a wide variety of elements of GI in this part of Hartlepool. The aim of the Action Plan is to ensure that these key elements of GI are enhanced whilst also considered movement to and between these areas.

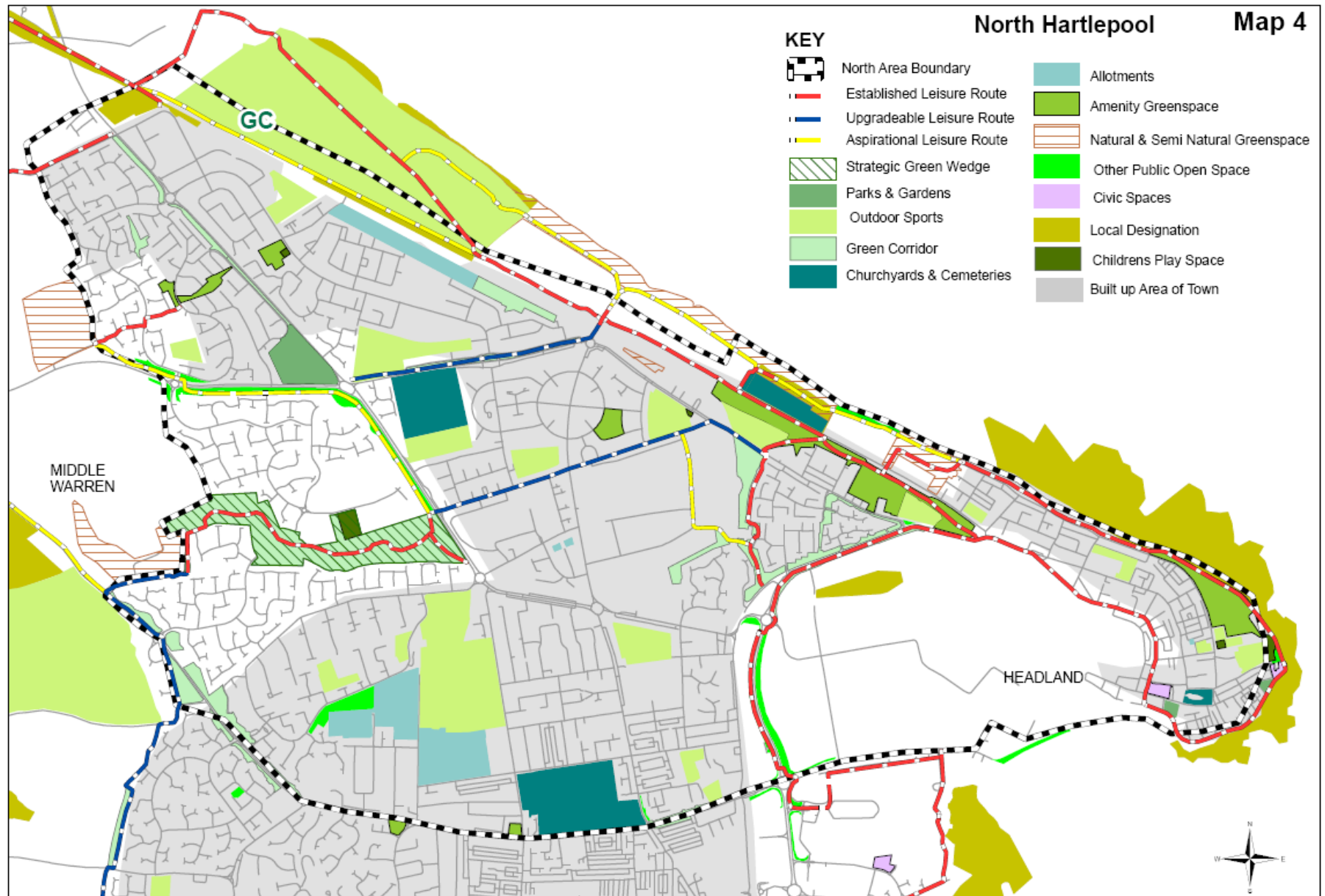
One of the key elements of the North Linear Park concept is the Middle Warren Green Wedge. It is a linear green space that extends from the Easington Road (A179) in the east to the Hart reservoirs in the west. It cuts through the Middle Warren housing development and is a major recreational resource for the area. The wedge has a main housing estate road, Merlin Way, dividing it into two distinct areas.

The eastern area is the more formal of the two with a number of surfaced paths that extend east west and south and north into various areas of housing. It is well used and is regarded as a vital access and recreational link by all of the users. This area is primarily a grassed area with sections planted up with young broadleaved trees. Part of a developer agreement in relation to housing in the area requires the developers to provide a play park to the north linking into this element of the green wedge which will diversify the attractions that this element of GI provides.

The western area is informal in nature with a central path running through the site, extending beyond the wedge, past the reservoir to Hart Lane. The vegetation is natural in character with formal planted areas of semi-mature broadleaf trees. All connecting paths, to the central surfaced path, are natural/unsurfaced. They, like the formal area paths, link to various parts of the housing estate and are vital to the users as they provide the potential to create circular walks.

All of the surfaced paths are used by cyclists as well as pedestrians and are regarded as important links to and from amenities and employment. There are plans to consider dedicating the surfaced paths as public footpaths in the future. At present all of the paths, whether surfaced or otherwise are permissive in nature. The importance of the green wedge to the overall North Linear Park concept can be appreciated in Map 4 on the following page.

Map 4: North Hartlepool



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Clavering Park



Another critical element of the linear park is the open space at Clavering. This area has seen investment over the past few years to provide a modern “play builder” space. This form of play area uses undulations in the land to help create natural play equipment which uses wood to help blend in with the surrounding environment. These recent works have helped to dramatically improve the quality of this green space and formed the first element of a masterplan for the area.

Diagram 1: Clavering Park Masterplan



Further works included within the Masterplan include tree planting, a shallow wetland scrape, fencing and gateway to improve security and safety as well as a skate park. The provision of the access at the south of the park will make the area accessible to people living to the south and east of the park. This is seen as a priority for the North Linear Park steering group as a skate park will cater for older children for older children who are currently not well provided for.

Diagram 2: Clavering Park Skatespot

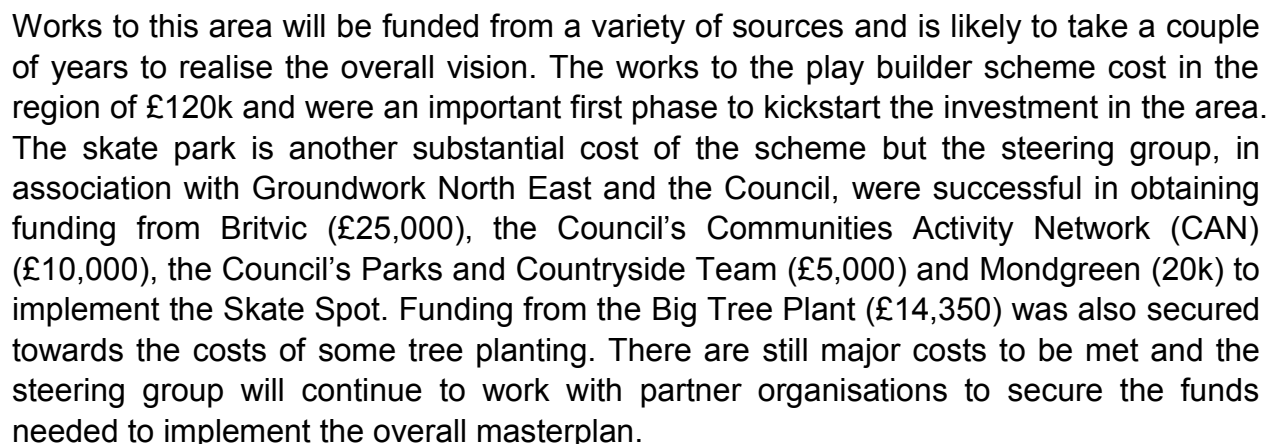


Table 2: Remaining Clavering Park Masterplan Costs

REMAINING CLAVERING PARK MASTERPLAN COST ESTIMATES				
Boundary Fence				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Railings	Lm	90.00	592	53,280.00
Gates - double 2.4m	No.	1,500.00	3	4,500.00
Gates double 4.0m	No.	2,500.00	1	2,500.00
			Total	60,280.00
			Contingency	6,028.00
			Fees	3,978.48
			Total Budget	70,286.48
New Pathways				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Pin kerb	Lm	16.00	738	11,808.00
Block paving kerb	Lm	30.00	40	1,200.00
Bitmac	m2	45.00	630	28,350.00
Drop-kerb works	Item	600.00	2	1,200.00
			Total	42,558.00
			Contingency	4,255.80
			Fees	4,681.38
			Total Budget	51,495.18
Wetland Area				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Wetland scrape excavation	m3	45.00	85	3,825.00
Wetland scrape finishing	m2	10.00	200	2,000.00
			Total	5,825.00
			Contingency	582.50
			Fees	640.75
			Total Budget	7,048.25
Planting Works				
Item	Unit	Est. rate	Quantity	Works Total
Hedge planting	No.	1.20	2400	2,880.00
			Total	2,880.00
			Contingency	288.00
			Fees	316.80
			Total Budget	3,484.80
			TOTAL WORKS BUDGET	132,314.71

Central Park Improvements



This area forms a critical linkage between the Headland and West Hartlepool. Identified as one of the two main priorities by the North Linear Park Steering Group this area has seen little investment over recent years and is in need of much rejuvenation. The area currently has a number of footpaths and informal areas of open space as well as 2 football pitches and a rugby pitch along with some car parking. It is considered that with some significant investment the Central Park area could become a much more multi-functional green space which would attract a far wider range of visitors. A masterplan has been drawn up to illustrate how the park could be re-invented to include play space, wetland scraps and habitat creation alongside much improved walkways (including signage) and improved car parking provision. The pitches will be maintained (and possibly redrawn to provide solely for junior football) and opportunities for enhancing both the pitches and changing facilities will be explored and funding sought.

To the north of this site is an area formerly known as “Steetly” which was previously an industrial area. The site has been cleared in 2012/2013 and an application was approved for 484 new homes. As part of the approval a new road is needed which is proposed to run through the eastern end of the Central Park. As such the masterplan has been designed to minimise the impact that this road would have. The Council have agreed that should this development proceed 50% of the sale price of the land would be reinvested into improving the park alongside a contribution of £20,000 from the developer. This potential funding equates to circa £145,000. The total cost estimate for the masterplan is circa £400,000 and a breakdown of the specific works is included in table below. The North Linear Park Group will continue to liaise with the Council and other organisations in order to try and secure further funding to implement elements of the scheme.

An early phase of tree planting has already taken place. This was delivered through funding obtained from the “Big Tree Plant” and saw circa £5,000 of investment in the Park. In the short term this investment is obviously beneficial to the GI in the area and will provide habitat for a range of species. It is also hoped that this investment will help to kick start the rejuvenation of the park and will see a great deal of GI investment over the coming years.

Diagram 3: Central Park Masterplan



Table 3: Central Park Masterplan Cost Estimates

CENTRAL PARK MASTERPLAN COST ESTIMATES				
Description	Unit	Qty	Rate	Amount
Excavation and Fill				
Reposition existing mounding. Reshape to flowing contours approx. 1.2m high. Topsoil to a min depth of 150mm.	sum			5000.00
Excavate areas to form Wetland Scrape. Deposit spoil on-site to form mounds above.	sum			2000.00
Re-grade existing embankment for new ramp and steps. Infill intermediate track as shown with imported fill and topsoil.	sum			3000.00
Excavate new defensive ditches approx 1m deep. Retain material on site for fill.	m	140	12.00	1680.00
Paving and Kerbs				
Construct new Tarmacadam paving for footpaths and car park, consisting of 20mm depth 6mm nominal size bitumen macadam wearing course.55mm depth 20mm nominal size dense bitumen macadam base course. 150mm depth type 1 sub base . Dispose of arisings in mounding above.	m2	3210	27.00	86670.00
Extra-over for coloured surfacing to key footpath.	m2	1555	5.00	7775.00
Supply and fix 50x100 pc concrete pin kerb concrete haunched..	m	2000	12.50	25000.00
Construct Raisby Golden gravel. 50mm consolidated depth onto 100mm type-1 sub base. Timber edging.	m2	1000	15.00	15000.00
Parking bays formed with existing surface material consolidated.	m2	625	5.00	3125.00
Timber decking to Nature conservation area	m2	40	100.00	4000.00
Fencing and Railings				
Close boarded timber fencing 1.8m high.	m	94	55.00	5170.00
Hoop-topped railings 1.2m high to match.	m	275	75.00	20625.00
Brick piers and railings entrance area.	m	80	150.00	12000.00
Entrance feature. Steel fabrication. Provisional sum.	item			20,000.00

Timber post and rail fencing	m	230	50.00	1150.00
Half tree trunk Timber barriers		30	50.00	1500.00
Play Area				
Play equipment	item	7	10000.00	70000.00
Safety surfacing including play mounds	m2	700	100.00	7000.00
Steps				
Timber steps with bound gravel treads and landings.	item	2	2,500.00	5000.00
Proposed Tree Planting				
Extra heavy standard trees and specimen Pines 1.2m high.	No	200	100.00	20000.00
Whip and transplant tree planting to mounds and Nature area	Item			20,000.00
Cultivation Grass Seeding				
Cultivate to a fine tilth, areas of new mounding and disturbed areas	m2	15000	0.15	2,250.00
Carry out Grass seeding, using hard-wearing Amenity mix, BSH A19 mix or similar at 35gms per m2. Carry out single cut and making good of defects, including over-seeding, prior to hand-over	m2	15000	0.30	4500.00
			Works Total	344,125.00
			Fees and Contingencies at 20%	68,826.00
			Total	413,125.00

The Town Moor



One of the oldest pieces of public open space in Hartlepool, the Town Moor on the Headland provides one of the only publicly accessible green spaces on the Headland. The Town Moor plays host to an annual fair which attracts large numbers of visitors into the area. The Town Moor is extremely open to the elements which minimises the uses and facilities which it can incorporate. It is very popular with dog walkers and provides open space for recreational activities. Given the limited opportunities for improvement there are no significant plans for this area however, as it is the easterly point of the North Linear Park, it is crucial that it continues to be signposted and provide seats and resting places for walkers who may be enjoying coastal routes.

North Cemetery



North Cemetery in Hartlepool is located to the north of the town centre and is a green space covering approximately 12.6 hectares. The whole of the site area is in the ownership of the Borough Council. The cemetery is of particular value to the local community as it is surrounded by areas of dense terraced housing with few attractive open spaces. However, the cemetery is currently under utilised as an open space, suffering from a degree of anti social behaviour and a perceived fear of crime which discourages legitimate users.

In the wider context of the site, there are a number of major regeneration works taking place, which is bringing substantial investment to the area. Two major housing regeneration schemes on the north and south boundaries of the Cemetery are being built and a further scheme is planned to the east of the cemetery. Key Issues for improving the North Cemetery include:

- community safety,
- environmental improvements,
- action to improve the biodiversity,
- boundary treatments,
- management and long term sustainability,
- relationship with the surrounding regeneration works,
- sensitivity around keeping part as a working cemetery whilst encouraging public use, and
- how the cemetery could be used as an educational resource.

The Council have invested £15,000 to create a Masterplan to help address the above issues and to ensure that North Cemetery has a multi-functional future. This work has been undertaken in partnership with the Friends of North Cemetery and other community groups.

As part of the Masterplan study, a comprehensive public consultation programme was undertaken. This identified considerable opportunities to improve what the site has to offer the community in terms of access, recreation, and biodiversity. Combating anti-social behaviour and improving community safety were also identified as key issues to improve the overall attraction of the cemetery. Issues such as safe access, boundary treatment and visual surveillance in and out of the site were all consultee concerns which have been addressed by the Masterplan.

The masterplan proposals include the provision of a more accessible, enhanced green space for the existing community and for the significant area of new housing under development. The proposed access improvements and efforts taken to address security and safety issues will also alleviate public perceptions of 'fear of crime', which has a detrimental impact on casual and recreational use of the area. The masterplan has been designed so that individual elements can be delivered as funding permits.

In addition, the Masterplan proposals seek to protect and enhance site biodiversity and habitat value, both of which will also help make the area more appealing to visitors. Such environmental enhancements, when coupled with access and infrastructure improvements (such as new gateway schemes and footpath rationalisation) will also contribute to the feeling of a sense of place in this area, located as it is, within proximity to a number of key regeneration sites. The total cost of the masterplan to implement would be in the region of £1.2m. Early phases of the work have been undertaken but these only account for in the region of £200,000 of expenditure, still leaving a large amount to be funded.

The Council has also been undertaking work to improve the biodiversity and habitat value of the cemetery over a few years under the guidance of the HBC Ecologist. Completion of the Borough Tree Strategy also highlighted that the existing cemetery woodland cover is all of a similar age, which was likely to be nearing the end of its life in the next 50 years. Tree planting activities using multi-aged replacement stock have, therefore, taken place with local schools. New trees have been planted within controlled areas where the grass has been allowed to grow, stimulating an increase in biodiversity and species numbers amongst wildlife and wildflowers.



Figure 2: North Cemetery Gates



Figure 3: Inside North Cemetery

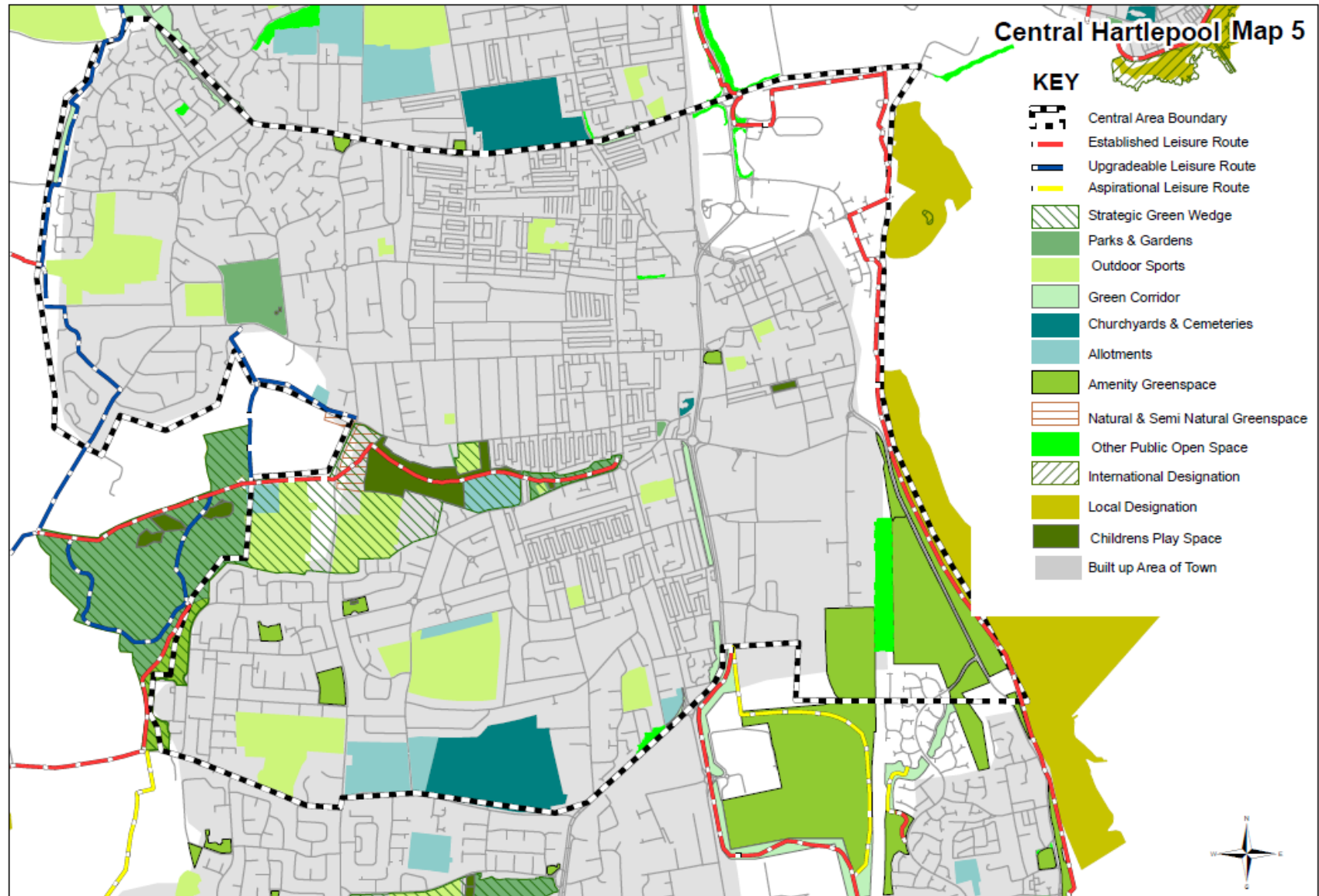
Area 4: Central Hartlepool

The central area suffers from a deficiency of quality GI especially in the town centre area and the northern element of this sub-area. It is however very well served by a range of quality GI within the southern and western areas including the Burn Valley Gardens and Ward Jackson Park. The area is also home to the two largest sports pitch locations in Brierton School and the Rift House Recreational Ground. There are also a number of allotment sites and a major cemetery within this area, all of which help to contribute significantly to the GI of the Borough.

It is evident from map 5 on the following page where the shortfalls in GI are within this area. For this reason it is extremely important to protect the small pockets of GI in the future as well as exploring ways in which the densely populated areas of terraced housing can add elements of GI, such as street trees, helping to enhance the appearance and feel of the street. In any new developments that occur in the east of this area it will be an important element of the planning process to ensure that GI is considered in a positive way, helping to improve the quality of the development whilst also meeting a shortfall in provision.

The importance of grass verges and planting in areas where general green infrastructure is lacking can be extremely beneficial, not only in terms of aesthetics but also to provide much needed habitat for wildlife in the area. The positive benefits that tree planting can have in the battle against climate change is also of great importance and these corridors provide the opportunity for such provision.

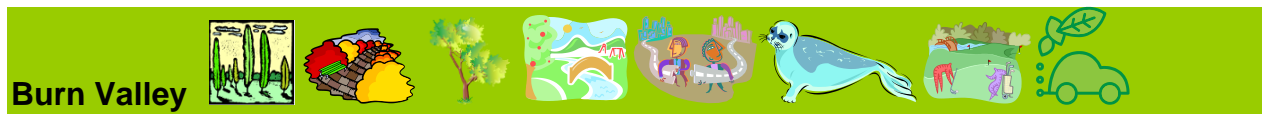
Map 5: Central Hartlepool



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Within this area one of the main assets in terms of GI is the Burn Valley Green Wedge. This area has recently benefitted from significant investment through Natural England and the Environment Agency to improve a number of aspects of the area including realignment of the beck, restoration of habitat and creation of natural spaces. All the capital and revenue works that could be funded from the Natural England funding have nearly been completed but some capital work that is identified in the master plan still remains to be funded and the largest part of this is the creation of a car park on what was the site of the gardens flower nursery. The aim of this part of the project is to create parking space for the users of the bowling green and old boys club so that traffic and pedestrian users can be separated as far as possible. There will be ongoing revenue costs forming two types one being the continuous maintenance of the gardens and the other which is more aligned to soft landscape improvements of a plant management nature that would not be part of the normal maintenance works. For example the planting of bluebell and wild garlic drifts under the tree canopy.

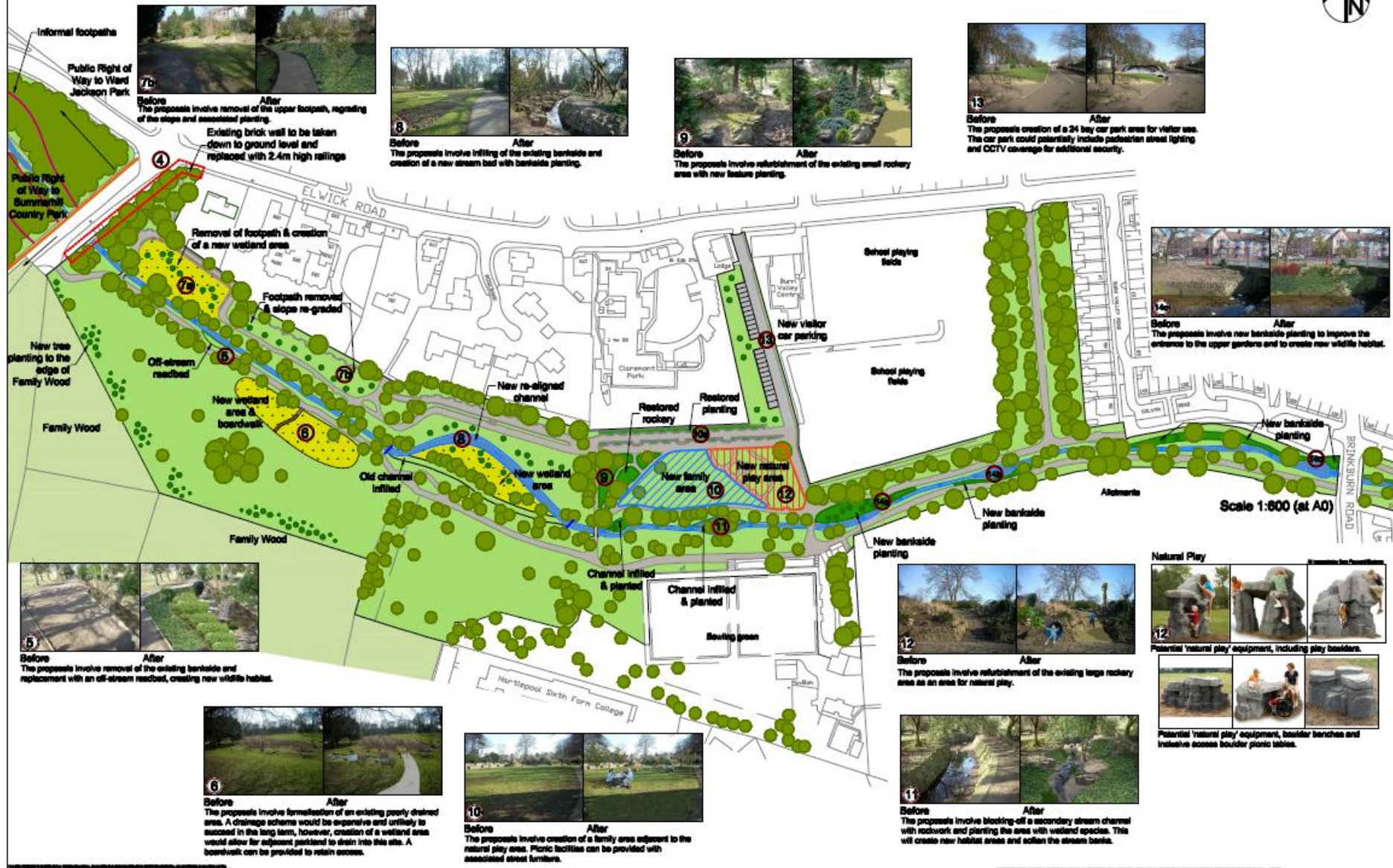
The illustration on the following page shows the masterplan which was drawn up for the Burn Valley Gardens and which is well on the way to be realised on the ground. The Burn Valley plays a crucial part in creating green linkages between a number of areas of the town including the town centre and various residential estates in the central part of the town. The Upper Burn Valley (Family Wood) is the informal westward continuation of Burn Valley Gardens. It is a heavily tree planted area with a formal surfaced path running through it from Elwick Road to Catcote Road. The paths designation is Public Footpath No.10, Hartlepool. Other informal and unsurfaced paths run through the community wood and are used exclusively by pedestrians. The surfaced path has permissive cycle rights placed on it and is a vital safe cycle route for all types of users. The landscape character of Family Wood is informal with areas of good biodiversity value.

Beyond the main area of family wood is a satellite area located on the western side of Catcote Road, at the junction with Elwick Road. Another public footpath (Public Footpath No.8, Hartlepool) runs through this trees area and continues to another section of Elwick Road, opposite Ward Jackson Park. This as with some other urban fringe rights of way has permissive cycle rights placed upon it and is regarded as an important safe route to and from schools. The Council will continue to ensure that these routes are well maintained and upgraded where necessary to help promote the use of sustainable travel. Summerhill Country Park lies to the west of the Burn Valley Gardens and helps to create a green link between the urban and rural area. Ongoing investment in Summerhill is covered within the Rural Section of this Action Plan.

Diagram 4: Burn Valley Gardens Masterplan

Burn Valley Gardens Environmental Improvements Masterplan

Upper Burn Valley Gardens area



Ward Jackson Park



Following substantial works to the park in the late 1990's a Management Plan for the Park was formulated supported by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Friends of Ward Jackson Park in association with the Council produce and update the Management Plan when necessary. Within the Management Plan it sets out a wide range of information including a history of the site covering key historical features, health and safety, staffing, maintenance of the park and environmental sustainability. The Park has been awarded Green Flag status and regular review of this management plan as well as continued maintenance and improvements to the Park will be crucial to maintaining this prestigious award.

The Friends of Ward Jackson Park is an active group which is classed as a charitable organisation. They organise regular events within the park to help with fund raising towards its maintenance and towards the actions set out within the Management Plan. The actions look at different features the park has to offer and how they will be managed and maintained over time such as woodland walks and the need to promote and maintain structural diversity within the woodland belt through maintenance of planting and natural colonisation to develop wildlife potential of site. Other elements covered within this section of the plan and with actions associated with them include the bowling greens, bandstand area, lake, fountain, grass areas, planted areas, path system and the Place in the Park (community building and café). A table of actions for the financial year is maintained by the Council's Parks and Countryside team and where known funding sources are identified. The Friends Group works in association with the Parks and Countryside team to identify funding sources where necessary.

Grayfields Recreational Ground



This site runs north/south along Jesmond Gardens and is operating well with its new pavilion, 3G all weather pitch and protective fencing. The highest quality football pitch in the Borough is located on this site and provides an excellent facility. There is however a requirement for path and road refurbishment, an additional bowling pavilion and improved drainage for the grass playing pitches. Funding for these improvements is currently being sought and a bid will be submitted to the "Protecting Playing Fields" fund for the pitch improvements.

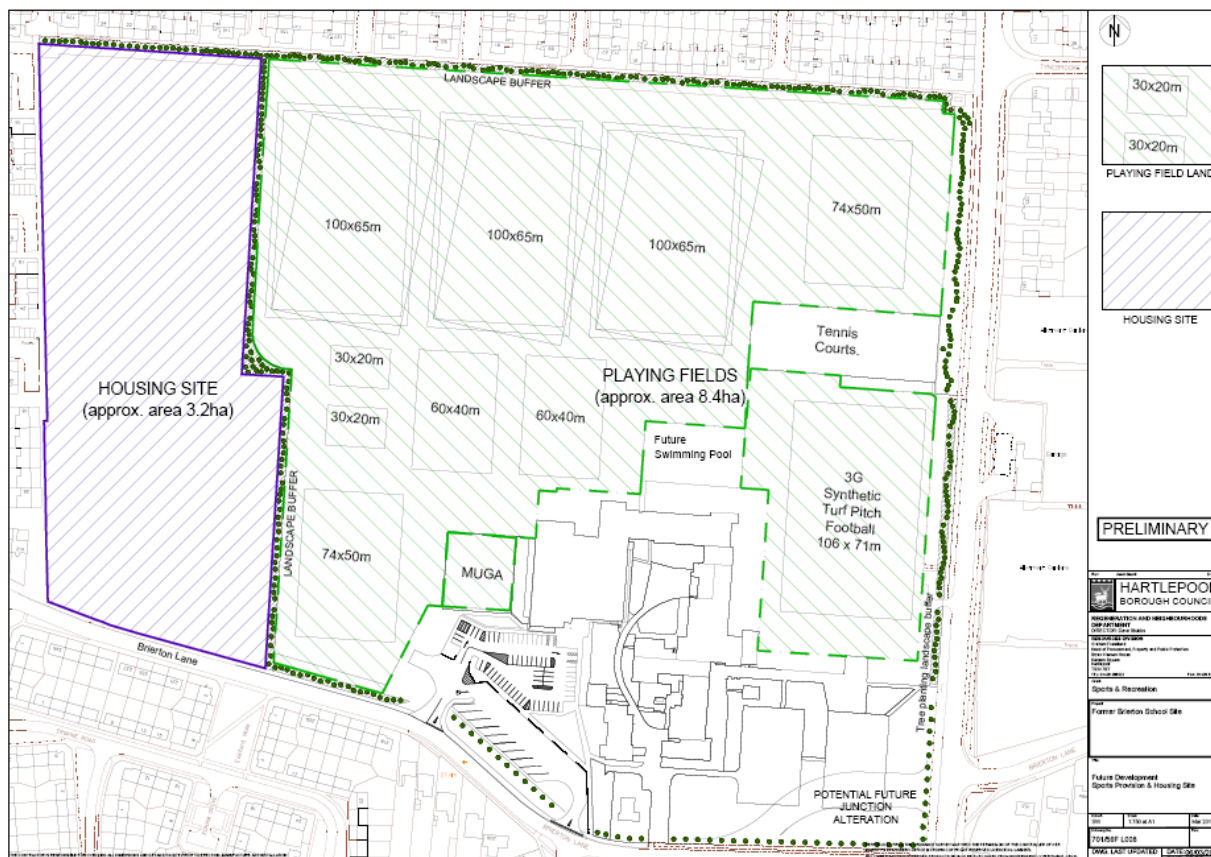
Brierton Sports Centre



The site is identified within the Playing Pitch Strategy (2012) as one of the key sites in Hartlepool due to its size and location. As with all sports pitches future investment and care will be critical to ensure that it continues to provide a valuable asset. Alongside the pitch provision is a sports centre catering for a wide range of sporting activities. Together they play a vital role in the health of the community. The pitches, although no public access is permitted, are used by Greatham Community Football Club which has football teams ranging from U7's through to U18's including some girls teams. The scale of the club obviously means that a large number of local children benefit greatly from the pitches at Brierton.

The draft plan below illustrates improvements to the quality of the provision at Brierton whilst also looking to provide a full size 3G football pitch which would have wider public use available. Funding is currently being sought to enable the Council to progress these works and would be aided by money from the sale of the land on which the upper school used to be located in the west of the site as shown below.

Diagram 5: Brierton Sports Site



Area 5: South Hartlepool

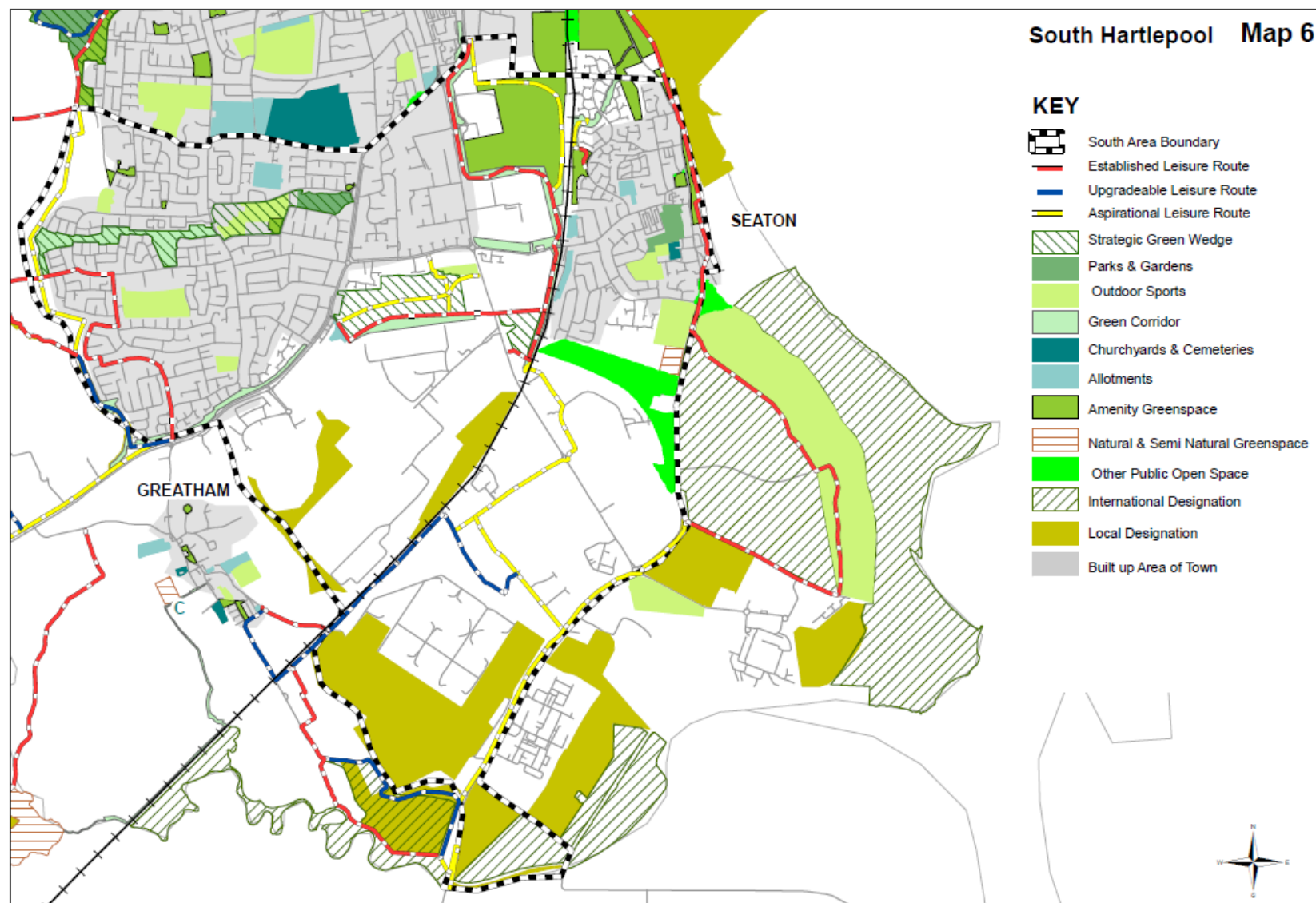
This area of the town is served by a variety of major elements of GI of differing quality, some of which benefit from established green corridors which help to link them with other areas of the town and linking into the countryside. This is illustrated in Map 6 on the following page. It is very clear however from the Green Infrastructure Strategy in the SPD that significant investment is needed over the coming years not only to develop areas such as the green wedge at Golden Flatts, but to help rejuvenate existing areas of GI such as Rossmere and Seaton Parks.

This investment will also need to focus on the provision of leisure routes within the southern industrial area to facilitate sustainable travel to work in the area and also to significantly improve the linkages south into Stockton towards Saltholme International Nature Reserve. Some of these routes will require sensitive planning to avoid any detrimental impact on the environmental designations in the south of the town. However, if planned correctly these routes could offer users the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of attractive GI which is home to many different species of wildlife.



Figure 4: Golden Flatts

Map 6: South Hartlepool



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Rossmere Park Masterplan



The park plays a vital role in the provision of a variety of green spaces within the Owton Manor Green Wedge. Its location adjacent to the A689 means the park is accessible not only to those on foot but also to visitors to the town. There is a clear opportunity to transform this park into an attraction which can benefit far more people than it currently does. The park has a number of strengths, most notably the lake, but other features are in need of investment.

The Friends of Rossmere Park Group have consulted the local residents and park users and had (with the assistance of the Council) a master plan produced. The next stage is to go out to further consultation on this and to create the final masterplan which will enable the Friends Group and the Council to pursue funding opportunities for its implementation. The draft masterplan on the previous page helps to give an impression of the scale of the park and the wide ranging GI it includes. Once finalised individual elements of the scheme will be costed to ensure that should funding opportunities emerge, interested parties are in a position to bid for funding and will be able to demonstrate the overall benefits which will be derived from the works.

Recently, as a first phase of the masterplan, a new play site in the vicinity of the proposed new café and community building has been constructed. This has helped to provide a valuable facility for local children and has helped to enhance the quality of the Owton Manor Green Wedge.

Golden Flatts



This project is one of the most significant pieces of green infrastructure in the south of the town. The site, which is approximately 20 hectares, was previously allocated as employment land. This use however has changed in the emerging Local Plan and the site has been allocated as a green wedge. The new allocation excludes the business/industrial unit at the eastern end of the site. The scale of this site obviously presents an exciting opportunity to dramatically improve the contribution GI makes within this area of the town and also offers the opportunity to provide sustainable links through to the southern business zone and on towards Seaton Carew.

Diagram 7 on the page 34 illustrates a masterplan that has been drawn up for the green wedge. This masterplan combines significant amounts of woodland planting, wildflower planting, ponds, walkways, play space, grazing areas and car parking for visitors. This scheme was consulted on with the local community and overall was positively received.

The costs included give an indication of the levels and types of funding which would be needed to deliver this scheme. It should be noted that there is potential in the future that the Council may need to look at the potential for pitch provision on this site alongside changing facilities. If such a change is required the Action Plan will be amended to reflect this. The estimated costs related to the Golden Flatts Masterplan (as shown on table 4) are as follows and based on Forestry Commission standard costs with the exception of the surfaced track and play builder scheme:

Table 4: Golden Flatts Cost Estimates

Element	Size	Estimated costs	Specification
Total area of woodland planting	6.68ha	£9,600	based on £400 for trees and £240 for labour per 1000 trees (stocking density must be 2250 trees per ha)
Total length of fencing for planted areas	3717m	£21,930	based on standard 18 gauge netting, posts at 5m centres two line wires. Rabbit proof for min 10 years (£5.90 per m)
length of fencing for grazing areas	950m	£17,100	based on amenity post and rail fence (£18 per m)
Total length of surfaced track	933m	£23,325	based on £25 per m (taken from Sustrans Technical Information Note 8. Cycle Path Surface Options)
Play Builder Scheme		£120,000	As per the Clavering Play Builder
Total length of mown paths	2826m	£650/pass	path strimming (3m wide) (£0.23 per m)

Diagram 7: Golden Flatts Green Wedge Masterplan



Example images:



Wildflower meadow and woodland



Ponds and woodland



Play area



Footpaths



Ponds and woodland



Wildflower meadow and woodland



Footpaths



Wide track



Car park



Main entrance

Seaton Park Improvements



Although well maintained by the Council, the park has poor horticultural infrastructure and a number of outdated recreational facilities in the form of football pitches, a bowling green and tennis courts. In recent years the only main capital investment into the park has been the creation of the main car park, which was created in the mid 1990's and investment into the play provision through the Playbuilder programme of 2009-11 concentrated on the play provision, with the complimentary wetland area.

As a result of the need for investment and improvement of the facility a group of stakeholders including the Council, residents and agencies came together to form a Masterplan to guide future development in the areas. This work was coordinated through Groundwork North East who produced a final masterplan as shown on Diagram 8 on page 38 in late 2011. The Masterplan will now be taken forward by the newly formed Friends of Seaton Park group who were established during the development of the masterplan.

The final designs for the Masterplan illustrates an ambitious redevelopment of the park which will compliment improvements to the sea front whilst also maintaining the traditional features of a neighborhood park.

The most far-reaching component of the proposals plan was the proposal to replace the existing out-dated 1960s bowling pavilion and changing cabins by a single multi-purpose structure, housing all the current functions of the bowling pavilion, football changing and parks storage. This would also incorporate much-requested cafe and public toilets. The principle features include:

1. New multi-functional 'Park Pavilion';
2. New access road for service / deliveries and accessible parking;
3. Improved and extended footpath network providing circular routes;
4. Fitness trail and wildlife margin on under-used football field margins;
5. Active area - table tennis / pump track / mini skatepark / crazy golf;
6. Canopy / open pavilion providing covered space for outdoor activities (tai chi, fitness classes, dance, performance art and 'boot camps');
7. Planting structure: boundary hedge and tree planting, internal trees, Boundary treatment along Allendale Street and Farndale Road to include mounding and hedge as buffer to park activities;
8. Main park entrance and boundary along Station Lane and The Cliff opened up and integrated with the town centre;
9. Events space and overspill car parking (organised events, markets, fetes, ice-skating, music events);
10. Open park with street lighting along the main routes.

The costs of the masterplan are indicated overleaf with a substantial overall cost in the region of £1.4million. Specific elements are however broken down and this will

obviously allow funding to be sought for individual elements depending upon the criteria of the funding being sought. This scheme will likely take a number of years to realise the overall vision.

Table 5: Seaton Park Costs

Element	Quantity	Units	Rate	Cost
Park Pavilion				
Remove existing building. Design and build new combined facility.	1	Prov	£650,000.00	£650,000.00
				£650,000.00
Hard surfaces				
Break out and remove hardstanding to realign paths and car park	991	m2	£5.00	£4,955.00
Break out and remove hard surfacing at entrance	377	m2	£5.00	£1,885.00
Extend car Park	292	m2	£50.00	£14,600.00
New access road, incl drainage	524	m2	£65.00	£34,060.00
New footpaths - main park	1889	m2	£35.00	£66,115.00
New footpaths - sports field	1076	m2	£25.00	£26,900.00
Paths resurfaced	1192	m2	£7.00	£8,344.00
Woodland path	194	m2	£20.00	£3,880.00
Overspill and sports field car parks - reinforced grass	1261	m2	£30.00	£37,830.00
Recycling compound	48	m2	£50.00	£2,400.00
Patio	128	m2	£55.00	£7,040.00
Refurbish tennis / basketball pitches	2628	m2	£7.00	£18,396.00
				£226,405.00
Soft Landscaping				
Bund creation - spread and shape mounds	890	m2	£3.00	£2,670.00
Swales and surface drainage into wetland area	item			£2,000.00
Perimeter hedge planting	1068	lin m	£7.00	£7,476.00
Semi-mature tree planting	210	nr	£180.00	£37,800.00
Wild flower meadow creation	7819	m2	£1.50	£11,728.50
Wetland area				£0.00
Shrub planting to front entrance area and Library entrance	200	m2	£35.00	£7,000.00
Bulb planting	5000	m2	£0.50	£2,500.00
Sensory Garden	635	m2	£35.00	£22,225.00
				£93,399.50
Boundary Wall and				

Railing				
Remove panels of brickwork. Face up exposed sides of piers	160	lin m	£15.00	£2,400.00
Metal railing infill panels and new section of boundary fence and gate. Arch re-erected	157	lin m	£120.00	£18,840.00
				£21,240.00
Miscellaneous				
Sculpture in woodland garden and elsewhere				£50,000.00
Signage				£10,000.00
Street lighting	12	nr	£1,500.00	£18,000.00
Benches, picnic tables and site furniture	20	nr	£500.00	£10,000.00
				£88,000.00
Active Play Elements				
Pump Track				£30,000.00
Crazy Golf				£60,000.00
Table tennis tables	3		£800.00	£2,400.00
Outdoor gym equipment	7		£700.00	£4,900.00
				£97,300.00
Sub- total				£1,176,344.50
Preliminaries on above works	4%			£47,053.78
Contingencies (on total costs + preliminaries)	5%			£61,169.91
Professional fees (on total costs + preliminaries + contingencies)	8%			£102,765.46
Total				£1,387,333.65

Diagram 8: Seaton Park Masterplan



Linkages and Movement

The creation and enhancement of green, sustainable linkages and corridors between the main areas of GI identified above and other smaller, yet equally important, elements of GI will be a key priority of the Council and will be of vital importance to the implementation of the Action Plan.

The leisure routes illustrated on Maps 1-6 help to illustrate how movement is currently possible throughout the Borough, but also indicates where improvements and enhancements to the network of footpaths and cycle paths will be sought. The use of tree planting and planting of plants and shrubbery to create attractive, multi-functional corridors will ensure that residents and visitors will be able to move freely and safely along green corridors in the area.

It will also be important to ensure that as part of new developments that occur in the town, thought is given to how open space, tree planting and walkways are integrated into the plans from the outset so that they link into the existing GI network.

Various sources of funding will be accessible to ensure sustainable linkages are created in the future, they include:

- Local Transport Plan
- Sustrans Funding
- Coastal Walkway initiatives such as the Durham Heritage Coast
- Developer Contributions from planning applications

Through these improvements, along with the improvements in the sections above, will ensure that Hartlepool's GI network continues to develop and grow in the future delivering with it the multi-functional benefits widely associated with successful GI.

The benefits these leisure routes offer is illustrated by the Walks Programme and Orienteering Programme that the Council operates. Walk about in Hartlepool launched in March 2011 and has attracted 379 participants to the scheme, the walks vary in length from 30 minutes up to 2 hours but all utilise the public rights of way in and around Hartlepool. The Scheme not only advertises normal walking but also has a very successful Nordic Walking Programme incorporated into the scheme. There are

currently 11 walks (7 normal walks and 4 Nordic walks) that occur weekly targeting the community as well as closed walks for various organisations and their services users. These walks increase in the summer months and cover walks around the local Nature Reserves. Common walks that are utilised within this scheme are;

- Dalton Piercy Circular
- Hart to Haswell
- Summerhill
- Seaton Dunes
- Headland – along Promenade
- Greatham
- Crimdon Coastal Routes
- Crimdon Dene

Through funding received from the Community Activities Network (CAN) the Council have been able to develop Orienteering in Hartlepool;

- English Martyrs school and Manor College have had their schools sites mapped
- St Hilds have had their site updated
- Schools have added orienteering onto their curriculum; however the sport and Physical Activity Team have supported in some of the initial delivery and have engaged 84 students.
- Training has been delivered through Cleveland Orienteering Club to school staff and Sport and Physical Activity staff to support the development of orienteering, 66 people currently have been trained through this project.
- Family taster sessions and a Begin 2 Orienteering programme have been run and engaged 79 participants to the sport.

The development of orienteering in Hartlepool has been strongly supported by Cleveland Orienteering Club (CLOK) and they are re-mapping the old orienteering course at Burn Valley which will enable the team to develop orienteering in town utilising a key green wedge.

The Council are also launching the Xplorer/ Run Challenge project in partnership with British Orienteering and CLOK in Hartlepool from April for a 6 month period, this project is aimed at getting more people engaged in orienteering utilising sites and mapped courses in slightly different way to that of conventional orienteering.

CABINET REPORT

2 April 2013



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: TREES AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

- 1.1 The Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document, if adopted, will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet authorisation to present the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document (**Appendix 1**) to full Council for adoption.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Hartlepool Local Plan will be the key Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies for the Borough for the next 15 years. Contained within the emerging Local Plan, policies ND4, EC2, EC3, HE1 and NE2 make specific reference to trees, landscaping and green infrastructure.
- 3.2 The Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document is intended to provide an outline of the procedures and design criteria necessary to achieve the successful integration of existing and new trees, shrubs, hedges and hedgerows into new developments. It is not intended as an undue burden on development.
- 3.3 The document does not contain any policies, but its technical guidance will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Compliance with its contents will ensure that sufficient information is submitted to enable the Council to determine in advance the full long-term effects of any new development as it relates to trees.

3.4 The Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 – 2016 supports the production of a Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document through a number of its objectives and actions. These are:

- Objective 1. Retain and protect the borough's existing trees
Action 4. *Ensure that, through effective engagement in the planning process, existing trees are retained on development sites where appropriate and that they are adequately protected.*
- Objective 3. Increase the number of trees in the borough
Action 2. *Through effective engagement in the planning process require tree planting wherever it is appropriate in relation to new developments.*

3.5 Cabinet granted authorisation to undertake public consultation on the draft Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document and associated Sustainability Appraisal on 29th October 2012. A period of formal public consultation commenced on 23rd November 2012. A statement detailing the process and results of the public consultation can be found at **Appendix 2.**

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 It is proposed that Cabinet authorise presentation of the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document to Council for adoption.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Hartlepool Compact Consultation and Policy code applies.

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

6.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. The council is committed to securing safe and secure environments within the borough, the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document acknowledges this by highlighting that there is a need to ensure that natural surveillance is retained and that there is no adverse effect on CCTV systems, sight lines, traffic lights and street lights.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Cabinet is requested to authorise presentation of the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document to Council for adoption.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document, if adopted, will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and compliance with its contents will ensure that sufficient information is submitted to enable the Council to determine in advance the full long-term effects of any new development as it relates to trees.

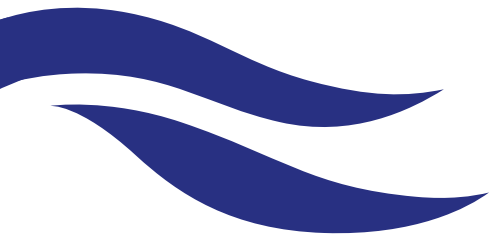
11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 The emerging Hartlepool Local Plan.
11.2 Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 – 2016.

12. CONTACT OFFICER

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Hartlepool Local Development Framework

Trees and Development Guidelines

Supplementary Planning Document



2013



Summary

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are expected to be applied. It identifies trees and seeks to prevent their loss; acknowledging their biodiversity, landscape and cultural contribution.

Furthermore, the NPPF identifies supplementary planning documents as a useful mechanism to guide development with regard to a specific issue such as trees and development. The NPPF reinforces that the planning system is plan-led and that planning permissions must be determined in accordance with the development plan.

The Hartlepool Local Plan will be the key Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies for the Borough for the next 15 years. Contained within the Local Plan, policies ND4, EC2, EC3, HE1, NE1 and NE2 make specific reference to trees, landscaping and green infrastructure.

This supplementary planning document is intended to provide an outline of the procedures and design criteria necessary to achieve the successful integration of existing and new trees, shrubs, hedges and hedgerows into new developments. It is not intended as an undue burden on development. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, and compliance with its contents will ensure that sufficient information is submitted to enable the Council to determine in advance the full long-term effects of any new development as it relates to trees. Failure to comply with the guidelines may result in delays in determining planning applications, or in some cases permission being withheld.

The key reference document in connection with this guide is British Standard 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'.

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1. Introduction

This document has been produced by Hartlepool Borough Council with the purpose of providing a comprehensive guide to those involved in development on the standards that the Council will expect from new development proposals as they relate to trees. Adherence to the guidance contained in this document should ensure that trees are afforded due consideration in the planning process so that they can be successfully integrated into new developments.

Trees are of vital importance to the landscape and are widely appreciated for enhancing the rural and urban environment. They make a positive contribution to the scenic character and diversity of the landscape, and provide vital habitat for dependant wildlife populations. Trees also have an important role in helping society adapt to climate change particularly in the urban environment. They provide shelter, cooling shade and can help slow rainwater runoff.

Whilst trees may affect the development potential of some sites, in many cases they can be successfully integrated into new development schemes. Socially and environmentally responsible built environment professionals understand that the retention of trees within new developments provides an immediate sense of maturity, to the benefit of a site and its surroundings, raising the overall quality of schemes and enhancing property values.

Trees on development sites are however vulnerable to damage, both above and below ground. Failure to fully assess the potential impact of proposed development upon trees within and adjacent to development sites, and to plan for and implement effective physical protection during development works, can lead to the loss of tree cover and the many associated benefits.

Along with the retention of existing trees, many of the opportunities for new tree planting arise through the development of land and therefore it is important, if overall tree cover is to be enhanced, that new trees form a significant element of the landscaping of new developments.

Current Government guidance specifically encourages pre-application discussion with the Local Planning Authority. Timely and full cooperation between the Council and the developer will serve to resolve any potential conflicts. It should however be noted that Council officers cannot provide a survey or design service for applicants. Their role is to interpret and assess applicants' proposals in relation to tree and landscape matters and to make recommendations accordingly.

Hartlepool Borough Council recommends that developers engage the services of a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant at the outset of a project in order to ensure that the needs of existing trees are accounted for and realistic opportunities for additional planting are identified.

British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' sets out the principles and procedures to be applied to achieve a harmonious and sustainable relationship between trees and structures. Hartlepool Borough Council would advise developers, their design teams and construction contractors to familiarize themselves with this British Standard.

1.1 Current Status of Trees in Hartlepool

Hartlepool has one of the lowest percentage tree covers of any English Local Authority. The percentage of tree cover for the Borough is approximately 2.6% compared to the national average of 8.6%. (Trees in Towns II)

This sparse tree cover, particularly within the urban area, is due to a number of factors including land clearance for shipbuilding and agriculture, difficult climatic conditions, and the rapid expansion of the town since the early 1800's. There are, however, areas where trees have transformed the image of an area. Notable in this respect are the tree-lined verges along the A689, which provide an attractive introduction to the town.

In seeking to address the identified shortage of tree cover in the Borough, the Council undertakes an ongoing programme of new and replacement tree planting in appropriate locations as part of its overall tree management regime. The retention of existing trees and the provision of new trees within new developments however, also have a significant role to play in increasing tree cover and enhancing the green infrastructure of the Borough.

Much of Hartlepool's existing mature urban tree cover is located within private gardens, and these are particularly prevalent in the rural villages and the Park area of the town. The Council, through the planning process, has some influence over private trees through a combination of measures including Conservation Areas, Tree Preservation Orders, section 106 agreements and planning conditions. There are currently in excess of 180 individual or group Tree Preservation Orders in force in Hartlepool.

An outline of tree protection legislation is provided in a leaflet published by the Department for Communities and Local Government entitled 'Protected Trees, A Guide to Tree Preservation Procedures'. Copies of the leaflet are available from the Landscape Planning and Conservation section of the Council, free of charge.



2 Trees and Planning Applications

Under the UK planning system local authorities have a statutory duty to consider the protection and planting of trees when granting planning permission for proposed development.

The potential effect of development upon trees, whether statutorily protected (e.g. by a tree preservation order or by their inclusion in a conservation area) or not, is a material consideration that is taken into account in dealing with all planning applications whether a major proposal for a new housing estate, or minor householder developments such as extensions.

It is essential therefore, that all relevant information pertaining to the assessment of trees and landscaping on a site is submitted with a planning application.

Where a development is likely to affect existing trees on, or adjacent to, a site the applicant will be expected to give due regard to the full range of construction related activities with potential to cause damage to trees. All the relevant detail necessary for the Council to make an accurate assessment of the short and long term arboricultural implications of the proposals should be provided.

Engaging the services of a suitably qualified and experienced arboricultural consultant at the outset of a development project should serve to ensure that issues relating to trees are identified and given due consideration in the design process.

2.1 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

An Arboricultural Impact Assessment is the document that should accompany any development proposal which is likely to affect trees on or adjacent to a site and should include:

- An evaluation of the extent of the impact of the proposed development upon existing trees
- A tree survey
- A tree retention/removal plan
- A tree protection plan
- Where necessary, details of any pre-development tree pruning operations
- Where necessary, heads of terms for issues to be addressed by arboricultural method statements.
- Where applicable, landscaping details (see section 6 of this guide)

3 Surveying the Site

The basic starting point in producing a successful site layout design is the gathering of information, particularly data obtained from carrying out a thorough and comprehensive site survey. Where developments are likely to affect existing trees, the Council will normally require the submission of a detailed tree survey, drawn up in conjunction with the topographical survey.

3.1 Topographical Surveys

Topographical surveys should accurately show all existing features in and around the site, detailing the accurate locations of all structures, trees, hedges and other vegetation, watercourses, ponds, ditches, services, roads, driveways, walls and any areas of nature conservation interest. A detailed levels survey should also normally be incorporated showing existing contours or spot heights throughout the site.

3.2 Tree Surveys

Tree surveys should be undertaken by an arboriculturalist to record information about the trees on and /or adjacent to the site which may be affected by the development.

A schedule to the survey should list all the trees or groups of trees. The following information should be provided:

- a) Individual reference number (also to be recorded on the tree survey plan)
- b) Species listed by common name, with a key provided to scientific names
- c) Height in metres
- d) Stem diameter in millimetres (rounded to the nearest 10mm) measured at 1.5m above ground level, or immediately above the root flare on multi-stemmed trees
- e) Branch spread in metres taken at the four cardinal points. (also to be plotted on the tree survey plan)
- f) Height in metres of crown clearance above adjacent ground level
- g) Life stage (Young, Semi-mature, Mature, Over-mature)
- h) General observations (Structural and/or physiological condition. Preliminary management recommendations)
- i) Estimated remaining contribution in years (<10, 10 – 20, 20 – 40, 40+)
- j) Category U or A to C category grading (see section 4.5 and tables 1 and 2 of BS 5837:2012) (also to be recorded on the tree survey plan)

4 Development Layout

Developers should anticipate the need to accommodate trees within a development through a combination of the retention of existing trees, tree planting directly, and the provision of sufficient private space for future occupiers to carry out their own planting.

The Council encourages all applicants to produce draft layouts or development site master plans for discussion prior to the submission of details at the application stage. Such plans should be prepared with suitably qualified arboricultural and landscape design input.

An assessment of the constraints imposed by trees, in accordance with section 5 of BS 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations', will serve to inform site layout design by illustrating the above and below ground constraints that trees pose by virtue of their size and position.

In general, site layouts will be expected to:

- Provide for the retention of as much of the existing tree cover as is practicable. The allocation of space for trees must be assessed in terms of the overall landscape of the area. Continuity and long-term sustainability of tree cover are important criteria to be considered.
- Provide for the retention of as much of the existing hedgerow cover as is practicable and ensure the long-term retention of all 'Important Hedgerows' (Hedgerow Regulations 1997).
- Allow sufficient space for new planting. Where possible and appropriate allowance should be made for the planting of large species trees as these provide greatest benefits.
- Ensure that where proposals include the felling of existing trees, landscaping schemes make provision for sufficient replacement planting to offset adequately any resulting loss of amenity.
- Include sufficient information to allow for a full, detailed assessment of the short and long-term arboricultural and landscape implications of the development proposals to be made.



4.1 Existing Trees: Avoiding Direct Damage

All detailed design work on site layout should take into consideration the results of the topographical survey and the tree survey.

Careful consideration should be given to ensuring that trees and hedges which have been identified for retention are not directly or indirectly damaged by the proposed works.

A tree protection plan, prepared in accordance with section 5.5 of BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' will identify the precise location for the erection of protective barriers to form construction exclusion zones. It should also show the extent and type of any necessary ground protection where construction activity cannot be fully or permanently excluded.

Construction exclusion zones should be considered sacrosanct and will be expected to remain undisturbed for the duration of the development. Site layouts should therefore be designed to avoid any construction works within the identified exclusion zones and should make adequate provision for sufficient working space.

4.2 Existing Trees: Avoiding Future Conflict

Site layouts which merely avoid construction exclusion zones may not necessarily be adequate. Other factors must be taken into account in ensuring that trees which are to remain can reasonably be retained to maturity, thereby providing maximum amenity benefits with minimum maintenance requirements. In considering the juxtaposition of trees and buildings, site layout designs will be expected to ensure that trees which are to remain are given adequate space, including sufficient allowance for future growth, without the need for excessive or unreasonable pruning.

The predicted mature height, branch spread and crown form of individual trees should be assessed in conjunction with site factors such as aspect, topography, soil conditions and exposure. (The ultimate mature size of any individual tree will be dependant upon site specifics and a qualified assessment should be sought).

Site layouts must ensure that trees will not cause unreasonable obstruction of direct sunlight or daylight to properties. Factors requiring detailed deliberation include: individual species characteristics; potential for future growth; garden size and layout; the aspect of the tree from the building; building to tree clearances; building orientation; and the positioning and size of windows, especially in habitable rooms. For further advice see the Building Research Establishment 'Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight; A Guide to Good Practice'.

4.3 Tree Planting: General Principles

Tree planting should be recognised from the outset as an integral part of any development scheme and should be purposefully designed to complement the proposed features of the development, and those existing features intended for retention. On sites that have no trees whatsoever, or where it has been necessary to remove existing trees, it is especially important to plan for the planting of trees as part of the development.

Socially and environmentally responsible built environment professionals will recognise the functional role that tree planting can play in enhancing the physical characteristics of a development through providing shelter, screening, enclosure, softening the harsh outline of buildings, defining space or directing routes and views.

Particular attention should be given to the use of tree planting in enhancing public areas within developments and views into sites from surrounding public viewpoints.

All new tree planting should conform to, and be planted in accordance with, BS 3936 'Nursery stock', or BS 5236 'Cultivation and Planting of Trees in the Advanced Nursery Stock Category' or any subsequent update in the British Standard relating to tree planting.

4.4 Tree Planting: Avoiding Future Conflict

Tree planting should aim to make the optimum long-term use of allocated space without causing unreasonable future inconvenience to occupiers. In order to ensure that new trees do not interfere with buildings to such an extent that unsightly heavy pruning or removal becomes necessary the following factors will require attention:

- There should be careful choice of species and siting to ensure maximum long-term amenity benefits and minimum future conflict.
- Careful siting of new trees with reference to section 5.6 and Table A1 of BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations', will ensure that future root damage to structures, drains, services, walls, paths and drives is prevented, or at least kept within acceptable limits.
- The National House Building Council (NHBC) Standards Chapter 4.2 'Building Near Trees' offers recommendations on foundation depths in relation to the distance of trees from foundations. However, it is essential to temper the NHBC recommendations with sound professional judgment based upon the individual characteristics of each site.

4.5 Site Access

The provision of permanent and temporary site access is an important part of the site layout design, and full details will normally be required in support of any planning application.

Sites may require temporary access for long or wide loads and provision may be required for unusually high vehicles or plant. The need to provide adequate operational space within the site for heavy plant must also be considered. Any resulting short and long-term implications for trees and hedges which are to remain must be carefully assessed, and full details submitted as a part of any planning application.

In general, permanent and temporary site access designs will be expected to minimise tree and hedgerow removals, and ensure the long-term retention of all important trees and hedges.



4.6 Services and Utilities

Drainage and service layouts must be designed in such a way as to allow for installation and future maintenance without adversely affecting trees and their root systems. The provision of shared utility ducts should serve to minimise potential conflicts and should be considered a priority. Notwithstanding the benefits to trees, the use of shared ducts greatly eases future utilities servicing and minimizes the upheaval of roads.

Full details of service layouts should be submitted with any planning application. Service layout planning and installation in proximity to trees should be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the National Joint Utilities Group Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Services in Proximity to Trees (NJUG Vol. 4).

5 Implementation of Planning Permission

5.1 Pre-Development Tree Works

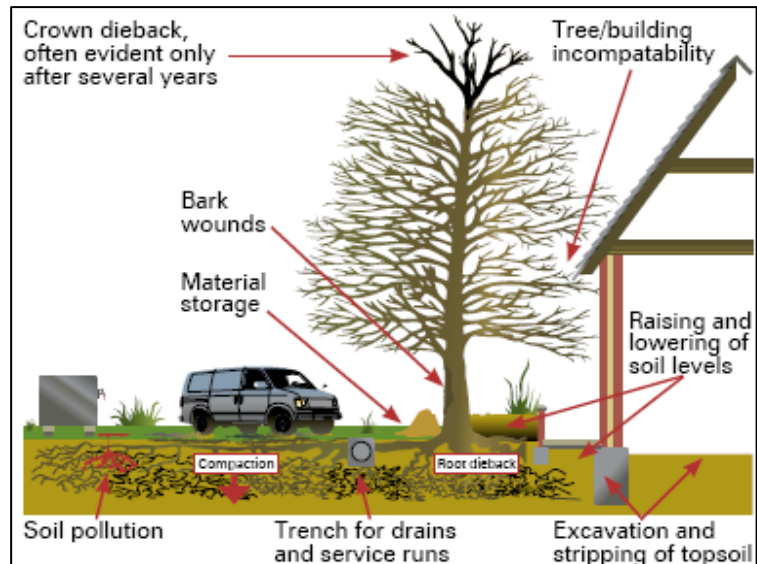
All approved pre-development tree works and development facilitation pruning should be carried out in accordance with current arboricultural best practice and with the requirements of British Standard 3998:2010 'Recommendations for tree work'.

5.2 Tree Protection Measures

A tree may take a century to reach maturity, but can be irreparably damaged in a few minutes. Such damage is frequently caused unwittingly because of a failure to appreciate the vulnerability of trees, particularly the root system.

Damage is often done to existing trees during the first few days of a contractor's occupation of a site. The early erection of tree protection barriers to form the construction exclusion zone before works commence on site is essential as the only way to prevent damage being caused to retained trees by operations in their vicinity.

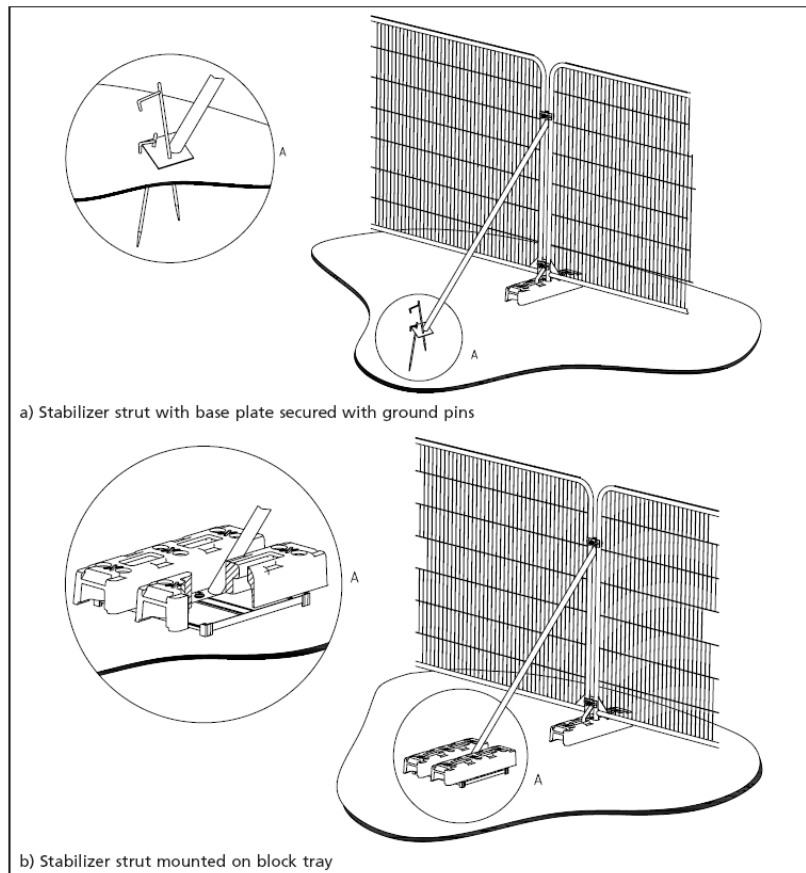
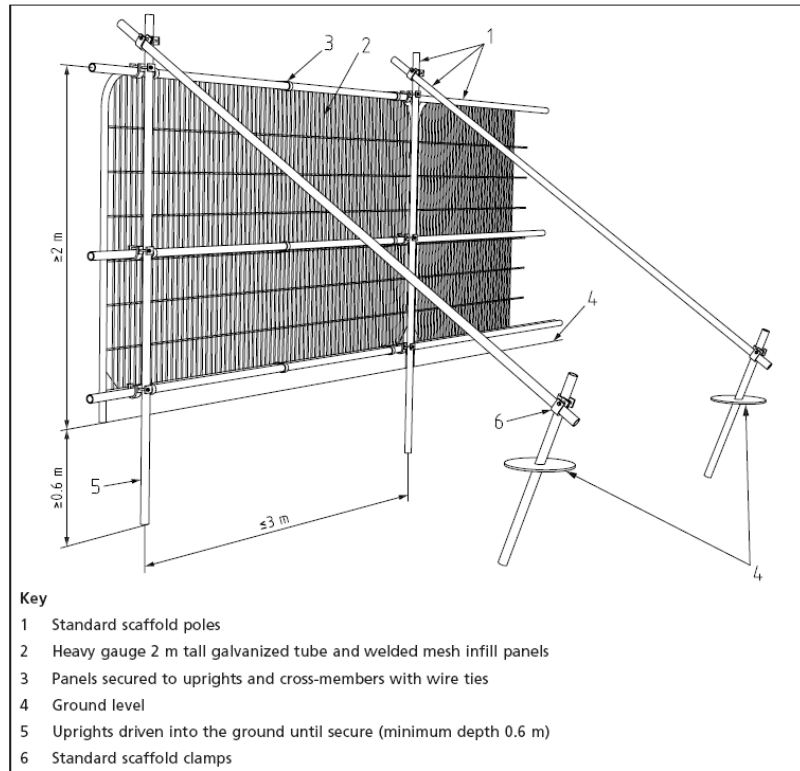
Planning conditions and/or legal agreements will normally be used to ensure that:



- protective barriers are erected prior to the commencement of any development works on site, (including demolition and preparatory site clearance).
- all subsequent development operations are carried out in accordance with the approved plan.
- no development operation or construction activity which could potentially cause damage to trees or hedges is permitted within any area designated in the approved plan as being protected, without the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.
- protective barriers are retained intact for the full duration of the development, and are not re-positioned or removed without the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Tree protection barriers should be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the protected tree(s). All site operatives should be made aware of all tree protection measures, and a copy of the tree protection plan and any arboricultural method statements should be available for inspection on site.

Figure 2 Default specification for protective barrier



Recommended protective barrier specifications are shown above. Section 6.2 of BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' provides clear guidance on the implementation of tree protective barriers and ground protection.

5.3 Hard Surfacing in Close Proximity to Trees

Wherever practicable, hard surfaces such as driveways and parking areas should be located outside the construction exclusion zones.

Where it is necessary to lay hard surfaces close to trees, a 'tree-friendly' method should be employed. Any excavation close to trees is likely to cause damage to the roots. Careful design is necessary to ensure that any proposed surfacing close to trees will sit on top of existing ground level, but still fit in with other surrounding surfaces and structures.

Any specification for a 'tree-friendly' driveway or parking area should include a method statement detailing how it will be constructed. The statement should include:

- details of all existing and proposed levels
- details of the cellular confinement system and edging restraints to be used
- details of the sub-base construction and how this will be built up without trafficking over unprotected ground.

The successful long-term retention of trees, even when adopting a 'tree-friendly' method of construction, depends upon the condition of the trees (which should be assessed by a qualified arboriculturalist) and on adherence to three simple rules:

- roots must not be severed
- soil must not be compacted
- oxygen must be able to diffuse into the soil beneath the engineered surface



6 Landscape Schemes

If trees are to continue to provide the many benefits they bring to the urban landscape in the long term, it is particularly important when designing new developments that allowance is made for the planting of new trees. The selection and positioning of trees should be carefully considered in order to make optimal use of the available space and on the basis of a sound appreciation of the context.

Roadside trees and trees in public spaces can make a considerable contribution to the character of new developments and are of increasing importance as green infrastructure elements in built-up areas. When designing schemes for roadside planting, careful attention should be paid to highway considerations such as sight line requirements, CCTV, street lighting, and above and below ground service routes. Where possible and appropriate, there should be a presumption in favour of large canopy trees as these have the greatest landscape value.

Planning conditions, and/or legal agreements, will normally be used to ensure that tree planting schemes are planned, implemented and maintained in order to minimise any potential negative effects and provide maximum long term environmental benefits.

Section 5.6 of BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' provides further guidance on new planting design.

The Council's Landscape Planning & Conservation section assesses the appropriateness of landscape proposals submitted with planning applications or to discharge landscape conditions.

The minimum levels of information required for new landscaping proposals are as follows:

- An accurate, detailed planting plan and schedule
- A comprehensive list of species and a stock specification
- Detail of planting densities and spacing
- Clear indication of existing trees specified for retention and those for removal
- A full planting specification
- A detailed maintenance schedule covering the establishment period

The long-term aims of a scheme can only be achieved if the landscaping succeeds. The Council will pay particular attention to the practical measures that are proposed as part of any scheme to ensure the successful establishment of new planting.

Tree planting schemes will be expected to include the following provisions:

- Preparation of the planting environment (including decompaction and drainage) should be at least to the standards set out in BS4428 (1989) Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (excluding Hard Surfaces)
- All plant material provided will be expected to comply with and be planted in accordance with the requirements of:
 - BS3936 Specification for Nursery Stock
 - BS5236 Cultivation and Planting of Trees in the Advanced Nursery Stock Category
 - BS4043 (1989) Recommendation for Transplanting Rootballed Trees and,

- BS4428 (1989) Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (excluding Hard Surfaces), as appropriate.
- Final planting positions for new trees will be expected to take account of the requirements of Table A.1 of BS5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations'.
- A detailed maintenance schedule in accordance with the requirements of BS4428 (1989) Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (excluding Hard Surfaces).

Note: Much of the guidance and advice contained in the above British Standards is soon to be superseded following publication of BS5845 'Young trees – from the nursery to independence in the landscape'. Upon publication of the new standard, tree planting schemes should be carried out in accordance with its provisions.

6.1 Safety and Security

Careful selection of tree and shrub species is critical in order not to impede natural surveillance and to avoid the creation of potential hiding places. As a general rule of thumb where good visibility is needed, shrubs should be selected to have a mature height of no more than 1m and trees should be clear stem to at least 2m thereby allowing at least a 1m clear field of vision. Future maintenance requirements must be adequately considered at the design stage, and where necessary management programmes should be put in place to ensure that proper maintenance is carried out. Consideration should also be given to the use of spiny or thorny shrubs to enhance perimeter security where necessary.

6.2 Plant Selection

The origin of plants should be of particular concern to developers within Hartlepool. The area has a coastal environment including onshore salt laden sea fets, drying winds and frost pockets. Developers are therefore advised to obtain stock from within the region and from local seed stock where possible. Developers should also ensure that plants have been appropriately hardened off and prepared for transportation to site.

The planting of native species trees and shrubs is recommended where appropriate as these will be more adapted to the location and have greater wildlife value.

Whenever possible it is advisable to plant both trees and shrubs during the dormant winter season, which is generally late October to March, although this can vary from year to year. It is possible to plant containerized plants throughout the year provided that adequate provision for water can be made. Planting should never take place when soil is waterlogged, suffering from drought, or during frosty weather.

The Council is committed to biodiversity and sustainability; therefore developers are advised not to use peat as a soil ameliorant, but to consider instead the use of recycled composted products or well-rotted manures. Mulching will be required on all amenity planting schemes involving shrubs and ground cover plants. Mulch is also recommended in a 1m diameter around the base of newly planted trees.

Useful Contacts

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This document is a statement on the main issues raised in representations about the draft Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and how these issues have been addressed in the document.

The consultation process adopted meets the criteria set out in the Statement of Community Involvement and The Hartlepool Compact.

Process of Community Involvement

Consultation on the initial draft of the SPD was carried out amongst Officers of the Council whose responsibilities involve the planning system. Consultation was also undertaken with the Greater Yorkshire Tree Officers Group. Comments received served to inform production of the final draft document.

Thereafter, and following authorisation from Cabinet, the draft Trees and Development Guidelines SPD was subject to a period of formal public consultation commencing on 23rd November 2012.

All statutory consultees, a comprehensive list of stakeholders, and anyone with an interest in trees and development in the borough were encouraged to comment on the draft SPD.

The SPD was made available for inspection at the following locations:

- Bryan Hanson House
- Civic Centre
- www.hartlepool.gov.uk/treesanddevelopment
- Ward members room

The consultation was publicised using the following methods:

- An email to all elected members of the Council
- A press release in the Hartlepool Mail
- A statutory notice in the Hartlepool Mail
- A news item on the Council's website
- A news item issued through the Council's social media
- A dedicated page on the Council's website
- An e-consultation questionnaire on the Council's website
- Letters to Parish Councils
- Letters to statutory consultees
- Letters to stakeholders
- 2 follow up press releases in the Hartlepool Mail
- A follow up news item on the Council's website

Responses could be submitted through an e-consultation questionnaire on the Council's website, by email or by letter.

The closing date for responses to public consultation was 31st January 2013.

Responses were collated, analysed and used to inform the final SPD.

Representations Received

The following organisations/persons submitted representations within the formal public consultation period:

- Environment Agency
- Highways Agency
- Natural England
- Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum
- 1 resident response by email
- 18 anonymous responses submitted through the e-consultation questionnaire

Main Issues Raised

The results of the public consultation demonstrated broad support for the Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Document.

Of the responses submitted through the e-consultation questionnaire, 64.9% 'strongly agreed', and 31.1% 'agreed', that developers should be required to retain trees on development sites. Additionally, 87.8% 'strongly agreed' that trees and landscaping make a positive contribution to the appearance of an area.

With regard to the specific content of the document a majority of respondents, an average of 67%, indicated that they were satisfied with its contents.

Suggestions for amendment of the draft document related mainly to the role of trees in climate change adaptation, and the long term maintenance of landscaping schemes.

All respondents to the e-consultation questionnaire indicated that they were members of the public.

The wider responses to the consultation were also generally supportive of the document.

A detailed schedule of all representations, the Council's responses and the proposed changes to the SPD are set out in the table below, and a summary of the results of the e-consultation questionnaire is available on request.

Sustainability Appraisal

In adopting the Trees and Development SPD the Council must consider how sustainability issues have been integrated into the document and how the Sustainability Appraisal has been taken into account.

The potential for trees and landscaping to have a minor negative effect upon safety and security was identified as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the draft document.

Safety and security is a key consideration of Officers when assessing landscaping schemes; however the issue was not specifically addressed in the draft supplementary planning document. Therefore appropriate text was added to section 6 of the SPD to provide general guidance in relation to landscaping and safety and security.

4.2 Appendix 2

Ref. No.	Organisation/Individual	Subject	Section	Representation	Response	Proposed Changes
T&DSPD01	Environment Agency	SPD	All	<p>We welcome the production of an SPD which advocates the protection and enhancement of trees. Trees are of vital importance to the landscape and are widely appreciated for enhancing the rural and urban environment. They make a positive contribution to the scenic character and diversity of the landscape, and provide vital habitat for dependant wildlife populations.</p> <p>Trees can also contribute to the provision of green infrastructure. A well planned and managed green infrastructure network can perform multiple benefit functions and provide multiple benefits and services for communities such as managing surface water and flood risk and improving water quality.</p>	Noted	None
T&DSPD02	Highways Agency	SPD	All	<p>The Highways Agency has reviewed the draft Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document, and the Sustainability Appraisal Report allied to this consultation, however, we do not offer any substantive comments on either of these consultation documents.</p>	Noted	None

4.2 Appendix 2

T&DSPD03	Natural England	SPD	All	<p>We support the addition of this SPD to the Borough's suite of planning policy documents. It will enable greater protection of valued trees and incorporation of new trees within new developments.</p> <p>The SPD rightly identifies the variety of benefits which trees bring to urban environments. In addition to increasing the attractiveness of the borough and providing habitats for wildlife, trees are essential in combating urban heat island effects.</p> <p>Paragraph 118 states that planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in the location clearly outweighs the loss.</p> <p>The SPD should refer to the policy background, including the NPPF, within chapter 1.1 (Current Status of Trees within Hartlepool). This will clearly identify where the SPD sits within the Borough's planning policies.</p>	<p>It is agreed that the SPD should refer to the policy background including the NPPF; however it is considered more appropriate that the reference be included in the document summary rather than within section 1.1 Current Status of Trees within Hartlepool.</p>	<p>Insert at Summary, 'The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are expected to be applied. It identifies trees and seeks to prevent their loss; acknowledging their biodiversity, landscape and cultural contribution.</p> <p>Furthermore, the NPPF identifies supplementary planning documents as a useful mechanism to guide development with regard to a specific issue such as trees and development. The NPPF reinforces that the planning system is plan-led and that planning permissions must be determined in accordance with the development plan.'</p>
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4.2 Appendix 2

T&DSPD04	Resident	SPD	All	<p>I am in favour of the Draft Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document plans to plant more trees. But please could we have more variety - rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, beech, ash, oak, etc, wherever possible.</p> <p>The council seems to love its sycamores! While they are relatively quick to grow, they aren't native trees and it would be nice to see more of the old varieties here again. Also if another virus develops, as has happened recently with the ash trees, then we may lose everything if they are of the same species.</p> <p>More trees, more variety, more native species is the way forward as far as I am concerned.</p> <p>Many thanks.</p>	<p>It is considered that achieving the 'right tree in the right place' is a better approach than producing a prescriptive list of trees for new planting.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, when assessing the suitability of landscaping schemes, Officers take into account many factors including species selection. Where appropriate, the selection of native species trees for new planting is favoured; however this is not reflected in the draft document.</p> <p>It is recommended therefore that advice regarding the provision of native species trees, where appropriate, be added to section 6 of the SPD.</p>	<p>Insert at section 6 Landscape Schemes 'The planting of native species trees and shrubs is recommended where appropriate as these will be more adapted to the location and have greater wildlife value'</p>
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4.2 Appendix 2

T&DSPD05	Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum	SPD	All	<p>Members of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum were supportive of the Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document.</p> <p>The Forum made the following comments:-</p> <p>(a) Members endorsed the emphasis on tree preservation and the further planting of trees within the Borough as part of future sustainable development;</p> <p>(b) Members were supportive of increasing tree coverage in Hartlepool and welcomed the inclusion of this in the Local Plan; and</p> <p>(c) Members agreed that it was important to ensure that any future tree planting did not have a negative impact on natural surveillance.</p>	Noted	None
T&DSPD06	Anonymous	Introduction	1	I think it should be stressed that Hartlepool has one of the LOWEST % tree population in the country...I think it is 11% (I don't know how it is gauged)	Refer to first paragraph of section 1.1 Current Status of Trees in Hartlepool	None
T&DSPD07	Anonymous	Introduction	1	Speak in language normal people can understand if you really want a meaningful response to your consultation. And explain everything in the introduction - don't refer people to a webpage.	Noted	None

4.2 Appendix 2

T&DSPD08	Anonymous	Introduction	1	Would add something about positive effect of trees in adaption to climate change	It is agreed that the role of trees in climate change adaptation should be highlighted within the document.	Insert at paragraph 2 of the Introduction. 'Trees also have an important role in helping society adapt to climate change particularly in the urban environment. They provide shelter, cooling shade and can help slow rainwater runoff.'
T&DSPD09	Anonymous	Introduction	1	Add something about importance of trees and climate change	See response at T&DSPD08	See proposed change at T&DSPD08
T&DSPD10	Anonymous	Introduction	1	New trees should be introduced in areas of few/no tree cover	Refer to section 1.1 Current Status of Trees in Hartlepool	None
T&DSPD11	Anonymous	Introduction	1	I would like to point out that trees that overgrow onto other peoples property should be pointed out to those concerned and be made to get them trimmed down, how do we go about getting some action on this	The Council has produced an information note entitled 'Problems with Neighbouring Trees' which addresses this issue. It is not considered an appropriate issue for inclusion in the Trees and Development Guidelines SPD.	None
T&DSPD12	Anonymous	Introduction	1	no but importance of trees can not be over emphasised	Noted	None
T&DSPD13	Anonymous	Introduction	1	Stop Wynyard developments destroying woodland	Noted	None

4.2 Appendix 2

T&DSPD14	Anonymous	Trees and Planning Applications	2	Hawthorn hedges and large numbers of ash trees have just been uprooted and lost from the Bishop Cuthbert development. The builders have not planted replacements anywhere on the site (e.g. new residences)	It has been necessary to allow the removal of a small number of trees and some sections of hedge in order to facilitate the Bishop Cuthbert development; however, many hundreds of new trees have been planted throughout the development. These were secured through the effective use of planning conditions.	None
T&DSPD15	Anonymous	Trees and Planning Applications	2	More publicity encouraging people to recognise how trees improve the environment and soften urban areas	Noted	None
T&DSPD16	Anonymous	Surveying the Site	3	Botanical names should also be included. A Common name may not be the same to all those reading a report	The list of tree survey information within the draft SPD is taken from section 4.4.2.5 of BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction – Recommendations' which asks for tree species to be listed by common name, with a key provided to scientific names. The SPD should be amended to reflect the survey requirements of the British Standard.	Insert at section 3.2 b) ' , with a key provided to scientific names.'

4.2 Appendix 2

T&DSPD17	Anonymous	Development Layout	4	<p>I would like to see guidance about how to prevent vandalism to planted trees. The planting on Hart Lane near the Deer Park development worked exceptionally well in allowing the trees to mature without vandalism. They were small trees and surrounded by shrubs and a plastic and wire fence which were trimmed about 15 years after planting. It looks very good.</p> <p>Also regular maintenance needs to be included, e.g. the trees on Hart Lane near the Nursery Inn need to be checked as the ties are cutting into the tree bark (planted by the Council).</p>	Refer to section 6 Landscape Schemes	None
T&DSPD18	Anonymous	Implementation of Planning Permission	5	<p>Again I would suggest that protection needs to continue after the development is finished to get trees to semi-maturity. See the trees on Middleton Road where they have been pushed over so they had to be felled and do not look so good as they are not even on both sides of the road.</p> <p>Perhaps the developers could be responsible for as long as the houses are guaranteed for.</p>	See response at T&DSPD17	None
T&DSPD19	Anonymous	Landscape Schemes	6	Please see my suggestion in question 17 about longer term maintenance.	See response at T&DSPD17	None
T&DSPD20	Anonymous	Landscape Schemes	6	In general think this section could be expanded to emphasis value to the quality of the living environment for residents of the borough	Refer to section 1 Introduction, section 4.3 Tree Planting: General Principles, and section 6 Landscape Schemes	None

4.2 Appendix 2

T&DSPD21	Anonymous	Sustainability Appraisal		The sustainability appraisal underestimates the benefit particularly with regard economy and liveability & place. The more attractive the environment the greater the potential to attract investment and improve the attractiveness of the borough to tourists.	The Sustainability Appraisal aims to assess the potential economic, social and environmental effects of supplementary planning document (SPD). It tests the SPD against a set of appraisal criteria and is carried out by a team of officers not all of which necessarily have any particular tree related expertise. This approach is intended to result in a more balanced appraisal.	None
T&DSPD22	Anonymous	Sustainability Appraisal		All vandalised trees should be replaced immediately	Noted	None
T&DSPD23	Anonymous	Sustainability Appraisal		<p>Right, just been to what I realised was the last page and found no opportunity to comment, so here goes. This survey is ludicrous. How many pages of gobbledegook would you have to wade through to be able to answer all these questions?</p> <p>Yes, I think trees are very important to the built environment and developers must be prevented from chopping them down, with extremely harsh financial penalties if they go ahead and do it anyway.</p>	Noted	None

CABINET REPORT

2 April 2013



Report of: Assistant Director – Adult Social Care

Subject: LOW LEVEL SUPPORT SERVICES

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Key Decision tests (i) and (ii) apply.

Forward Plan Reference No. CAS 007/13

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To determine the nature of the procurement approach for the provision of low level support services to vulnerable adults that prevent admission to hospital or long term care homes and promote social inclusion

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Turning Point, a national social care organisation, developed the connected care model following research undertaken in 2004. It brings the voice of the community to the design and delivery of all health, housing, education and social care service delivery. Care navigators listen to the residents of the community to identify their problems and concerns and guide, support and help link services to meet their needs.
- 3.2 On 28 March 2011, the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health considered and approved a report seeking an exemption from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules for two borough-wide two year contracts. One for a care navigation service which was proposed to continue to be funded by the Council and PCT's revenue funding streams and other low level social care and health-related services.
- 3.3 The low-level social care and health services were funded by Primary Care Trust (PCT) monies identified by the Government for reablement, i.e. services to support individuals back to independence following admission to hospital and discharge from hospital or the prevention of admissions to hospital or care homes.

- 3.4 On 30 August 2011 the Cabinet reaffirmed the decision of Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio to award the full contract covering connected care navigation services, handyperson service and SAILS reablement service to Who Cares (NE) for a period of up to two years to 2013 with an option to extend for a further twelve months subject to performance and funding being available.
- 3.5 The funding for both contracts is as follows:
- (i) Borough-wide Care Navigator service contract has a value of £100,000 p.a. (£50,000 from Primary Care Trust and £50,000 from The Council's mainstream budget);
 - (ii) SAILS low level support contract with a value of £240,000 p.a. funded by £120,000 from PCT funding for social care and £120,000 PCT reablement funding.
- 3.6 On 21 January 2013, Cabinet approved and agreed the Reablement Strategy 2012-15 which sets out the Council's approach to provide the appropriate support to people to ensure that they can live as independently as possible, for as long as possible. One of the main strategic recommendations of the strategy is working with partners across health and the voluntary and community sector to deliver preventative, low level services and the SAIL service is a key component in meeting reablement outcomes.
- 3.7 As detailed in the report received by Cabinet on 4 February 2013, contract reviews held in 2012 indicated that the care navigator and SAIL service were delivering the outcomes demanded by the contracts and that the provider had an effective system of quality assurance. The minutes recorded:
- (i) *That progress in relation to the services delivered by Who Cares (NE) and the concerns of Members, be noted.*
 - (ii) *Given the concerns of Members, as outlined above, a tendering process in relation to this contract be undertaken, with the current contract extended until such time as the tendering process can reasonably be completed.*

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 It is acknowledged that the current reablement funding arrangements are only guaranteed until 31 March 2014 and it is unlikely to become evident until early 2014 whether the Clinical Commissioning Group, who have taken over the PCT's commissioning responsibilities from 1 April 2013, intend to continue to fund reablement services post March 2014.

- 4.2 In light of Cabinet's decision that a tendering process be undertaken, Officers have considered a variety of procurement options, the risks and timescales involved. In line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, Cabinet's role is to determine the nature of the contract, the price/quality ratio in respect of a price/performance contract and to waive any element of the Contract Procedure Rules should this be required.

4.3 Option 1

Extend the existing contract with Who Care (NE) until 31 March 2014. This would have the benefit of continuity of the existing service and avoid the potential transfer of staff to another provider under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations 2006.

Any concerns over the governance of the current provider would be addressed by rigorous contract monitoring and financial oversight by the Council to minimise any potential financial and reputational risk to the Council.

This is not in line with the decision of Cabinet on 4 February 2013 but is an option provided by Officers in the light of the potential risks of choosing to enter into a procurement process for a 6 month contract.

Option 2

Undertake a competitive procurement exercise using a Price/Performance tender. Officers would recommend a price/performance ratio of 30:70 if this approach was chosen. This would mean that, in evaluating the tenders, 30% of the points would relate to the submitted costs with the remaining 70% being allocated, through the marking mechanism, for quality and the benefits to Hartlepool residents. Taking this approach would ensure that the principles of best value were being considered in the contract award.

While this approach has the benefit of being a transparent process there would be potential TUPE liabilities for an incoming provider if the current provider was not successful in winning the tender, or chose not to bid for the contract. The short-term nature of the contract means there is a possible risk of limited market interest given the likelihood of any new provider having to bear the redundancy costs of transferred employees after as little as 6 months.

The shortest time to undertake the tendering process, following approval of the approach by Cabinet, is approximately 6 months in accordance with procurement guidelines. This would mean a contract start date of the beginning of October 2013.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Having considered the contents of the report and based on the limited time remaining of the current contract, the risk of funding ending in March 2014, TUPE implications and potential limited market interest in a 6 month contract, Officer advice would be to extend the current contractual arrangements until clarity over future funding and strategic direction for low level services can be established.
- 5.2 However, it is recognised that Cabinet, at it's meeting on the 4 February 2013, made the decision set out in 3.7 above to undertake a tendering exercise. Officers, in presenting this report are providing Cabinet with information to enable consideration of the potential options and this is reflected in the recommendations.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Cabinet reflect upon their decision of the 4 February 2013 based on the information included within this report and in doing so decide on which procurement option to proceed with.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To enable Cabinet to make an informed decision regarding the procurement approach for the provision of low level support services to vulnerable adults in the context of future funding uncertainty.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

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Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Subject: HARTLEPOOL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

1. TYPE OF DECISION

1.1 For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform Cabinet of the Hartlepool Household Survey that will be undertaken in May/June 2013.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Household Survey (or MORI Survey as it has previously been known) has taken place every two years since 2004. In the past the borough-wide, face-to-face survey built upon the national NDC survey contract with Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) monies being used to extend the survey so that neighbourhood renewal area level data could be produced. The last survey, costing £78,000 (including cost of NDC), took place in 2010 and followed the same format as previous years to allow for comparison between surveys.
- 3.2 In spring 2012 the Local Government Association (LGA) consulted on proposals for benchmarking public perceptions of Local Government and in September 2012 issued guidance for Local Authorities. This guidance sets out the questions that should be included and the methodology that should be followed in order for the results to be compared against other local authorities. All results will be uploaded to the LGA's website LG Inform where results will be available for comparison and benchmarking.
- 3.3 The methodology set by the LGA does not allow for the use of residents panels to complete the survey as they recognise that there is strong evidence to suggest a considerable response bias among panel members, which makes it inadvisable to compare data collected via this method with general population data. As in previous surveys, including the national Place Survey which will not be repeated, there is the opportunity to add additional questions of local importance at the end of the survey.

- 3.4 The cost of delivering the survey is estimated at £22k based on a 30% response rate. The majority of this work will be undertaken in house with envelope preparation and data inputting being done externally due to the limited capacity of Support Services to assist during this time as they will be focusing on dealing with residents accessing the Contact Centre with queries on the changes to council tax. The survey is being funded in the majority by partners utilising contributions which have been made towards the Strategic Partners Group with the remainder being funded by Hartlepool Borough Council through a managed underspend specifically identified for this consultation.

4. PURPOSE OF THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

- 4.1 In the past the Local Authority and partner organisations have used the results of the Household Survey to:
- provide evidence of need/satisfaction for grant funding applications;
 - inform service delivery;
 - identify priority areas within the Borough as it provides intelligence at a level below the Hartlepool Borough;
 - benchmark against other similar authorities;
 - understand resident satisfaction with core services;
 - understand variation in satisfaction between areas within the Borough;
 - inform the development and delivery of key strategies and plans (Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Housing Strategy, Economic Regeneration Strategy, Community Safety Plan and the Community Strategy);
 - Inform Ward Plans.
- 4.2 The Household Survey (latest draft included as Appendix 1) asks a range of questions including satisfaction with the local area, whether individuals feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area and how individuals feel about the Council and the services it provides. It also includes a range of questions relating to community safety, the quality of services provided by partners, health and wellbeing and priorities for improvement.
- 4.3 The Household Survey includes the core questions set by the LGA and this allows for the results from Hartlepool to be analysed against the results of other areas for benchmarking purposes. In addition, the survey is also broadly comparable with the survey that 7 of the 12 North East local authorities completed in summer 2012.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The Hartlepool Household Survey will be undertaken during May/June 2013 and the results will be made available down to a Ward level. The latest draft of the survey, included as appendix 1, includes the questions prescribed by the LGA followed by a number of additional ones which have previously been used locally (from Q12 - part 7 onwards). Once the health section of the survey has been agreed by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) the survey will be finalised for print.

- 5.2 The Survey will be posted out to a random sample of households from across the Borough. Households will be able to complete and return the survey in a pre-paid envelope or respond using our online consultation tool. As the majority of the costs of the survey are postage related we will be actively encouraging people to respond online in order to reduce costs. Each survey will include a unique identifier which will ensure that multiple responses are not received from individual households. In order to minimise costs reminders will only be sent out to those households who have not responded within a set timescale before the date the survey closes.
- 5.3 Once the survey has closed the returns will be analysed and the results will be shared with Elected Members and officers from across the Council and partner organisations. It is expected that headline results will be available by mid August 2013 and more detailed analysis by ward, gender, age group and ethnicity will be available by mid September 2013.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Cabinet are asked to note the Hartlepool Household Survey that will be undertaken in May/June 2013.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Hartlepool Household Survey includes questions relevant to all Portfolio Holders and the results will be of interest to all wards.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 (i) LGA Guidance: [‘Are you being served – Benchmarking resident satisfaction data: question set and guidance’](#)

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE HARTLEPOOL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

YOUR VIEWS ON YOUR LOCAL AREA AND LOCAL SERVICES

Helpful hints for completing this questionnaire:

- The questionnaire should be completed by any resident of this address who is aged 18 or over.
- Please read each question carefully and tick a box to indicate your answer. In most cases you will only have to tick a box, but read the questions carefully as sometimes you will need to tick more than one box.
- Answer the next question unless asked otherwise.
- Throughout this survey we ask you to think about 'your local area'. When answering, please consider your local area to be the area within 15 – 20 minutes walking distance from your home.
- Some questions include an "Other" option. If you would like to include an answer other than one of those listed within the question, please tick the "Other" box and write in your answer in the space provided.
- Once you have finished, please take a minute to check you have answered all the questions that you should have answered.
- The questionnaire consists of 16 pages and should take no longer than 15 minutes to fill in. Thank you in advance for your time.
- Once you have completed the questionnaire, please return it in the pre-addressed envelope supplied. **You do not need a stamp.**
- Alternatively, if you would like to fill out this survey online, please go to www.surveymonkey.com/xxxxx. The first question will ask you for a unique 5 digit code, which is printed on the bottom of the front page of this survey. The second question will ask you to enter your postcode.

SECTION 1: ABOUT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY

Throughout the questionnaire we ask you to think about 'your local area'. When answering, please consider your local area to be the area within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home.

Q1 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Your local area receives services from Hartlepool Borough Council. Hartlepool Borough Council is responsible for a range of services such as refuse collection, street cleaning, planning, education, social care services and road maintenance.

Q2 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way Hartlepool Borough Council runs things?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

In considering the next question, please think about the range of services Hartlepool Borough Council provides to the community as a whole, as well as the services your household uses. It does not matter if you do not know all of the services Hartlepool Borough Council provides to the community. We would like your general opinion.

Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Hartlepool Borough Council provides value for money?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Q4 On balance, which of the following statements comes closest to how you feel about Hartlepool Borough Council?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

I speak positively of the council without being asked ☐ ₁

I speak positively of the council if I am asked about it ☐ ₂

I am negative about the council if I am asked about it ☐ ₃

I am negative about the council without being asked ☐ ₄

I have no views one way or another ☐ ₅

Don't know ☐ ₆

Q5 To what extent do you think Hartlepool Borough Council acts on the concerns of local residents?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

A great deal

☐ ₁

A fair amount

☐ ₂

Not very much

☐ ₃

Not at all

☐ ₄

Don't know

☐ ₅

Q6 Overall, how well informed do you think Hartlepool Borough Council keeps residents about the services and benefits it provides?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Very well informed

☐ ₁

Fairly well informed

☐ ₂

Not very well informed

☐ ₃

Not well informed at all

☐ ₄

Don't know

☐ ₅

Q7 How strongly do you feel you belong to your local area?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Very strongly

☐ ₁

Fairly strongly

☐ ₂

Not very strongly

☐ ₃

Not at all strongly

☐ ₄

Don't know

☐ ₅

Q8 How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area after dark? PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY IN THE LEFT HAND COLUMN BELOW

Q9 How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area during the day? PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN BELOW

	Q8 After dark	Q9 During the day
Very safe	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁
Fairly safe	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Neither safe nor unsafe	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Fairly unsafe	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
Very unsafe	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Q10 To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Definitely agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree	Don't know	Too few people in local area	All the same ethnic background
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆	<input type="checkbox"/> ₇	<input type="checkbox"/> ₈

Q11 To what extent do you agree or disagree that people in this local area pull together to improve the local area?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Definitely agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree	Nothing needs improving	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆	<input type="checkbox"/> ₇

Q12 Thinking about this local area, how much of a problem do you think each of the following are...

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY FOR EACH STATEMENT

	A very big problem	A fairly big problem	Not a very big problem	Not a problem at all	No opinion
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Rubbish or litter lying around	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
People using or dealing drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Groups hanging around the streets	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Abandoned or burnt out cars	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Run down or boarded up properties	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
The speed and volume of road traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Racial harassment	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
People being attacked or harassed	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Household burglary	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Car crime (e.g. damage, theft and joyriding)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Property being set on fire	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

SECTION 2: ABOUT YOUR LOCAL AREA**Q13 Do you feel you can influence decisions that affect your local area?**

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Yes

No

Don't know

☐₁☐₂☐₃

Q14 And to what extent do you feel part of the local community?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

A great deal

☐ ₁

A fair amount

☐ ₂

Not very much

☐ ₃

Not at all

☐ ₄

Don't know

☐ ₅**Q15 And how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality of the service provided by the police?**

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Very
satisfied☐ ₁Fairly
satisfied☐ ₂Neither
satisfied or
dissatisfied☐ ₃Fairly
dissatisfied☐ ₄Very
dissatisfied☐ ₅

Don't know

☐ ₆**SECTION 10: HEALTH AND WELLBEING***Thinking about the last 12 months....***Q16 How is your health in general? Would you say it is...**

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Place survey version

Very good

☐ ₁

Good

☐ ₂

Fair

☐ ₃

Bad

☐ ₄

Very bad

☐ ₅**Q17 Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?**

By long-standing, we mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time, or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Yes

☐ ₁

Go to Q18

No

☐ ₂

Go to Q19

Q18 If yes, does this illness, disability or infirmity limit your activities in any way?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Yes

☐ ₁

No

☐ ₂

Q19 Does any member of your household have any of the following health problems?
PLEASE TICK ✓ ALL THAT APPLY IN THE **LEFT** HAND COLUMN BELOW

Q20 Does any member of your household access services / receive support for any of the following health problems?
PLEASE TICK ✓ ALL THAT APPLY IN THE **RIGHT** HAND COLUMN BELOW

	Q19 - Have any of the following health problems	Q20 - Receiving support for the following health problems
Weight issues / obesity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Alcohol / drug problems	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Anxiety / problems with nerves / depression / stress	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Dementia/ Alzheimer's	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Breathing difficulties / respiratory illness	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Autism / attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Loneliness/ Isolation	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Other mental health problems	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
None of these	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Would prefer not want to answer this question	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11

Q21 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with services which provide support for...
PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY FOR EACH SERVICE

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not applicable / not used services
Older People (e.g. residential care, home care, day services)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
People with Mental Health Needs (e.g. supported accommodation, support to access employment)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
People with Disabilities (e.g. residential care, day services)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Carers (e.g. advice, information and support services)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

Q22 Thinking about the list of health services below, from your personal experience, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY ON EACH LINE

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know / not applicable
GP / Doctor	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Local hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Walk in centre	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Midwife	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Health visitor	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
???Nurses	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
???Pharmacists	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Other specialist health professionals - physio	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Q23 Are you currently a...

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Smoker	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	Go to Q24
Non-smoker	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	Go to Q26
Ex-smoker	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	Go to Q26

Q24 If you currently smoke, which of the following best describes you?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

I do not wish to stop	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁
I would like to stop one day but I am not ready yet	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
I have tried to give up in the past but still smoke now	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
I am currently trying to quit smoking	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄

Q25 If you wanted to quit smoking, which of the following places and services would you go to for help?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

GP/Doctor	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Local NHS Stop Smoking Services	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Stop Smoking services through pharmacies	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Online services	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Nowhere – I would quit by myself	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Don't know where I would go	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

In April 2013 the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be formally established. The role of the CCG is to commission health services for Hartlepool and Stockton.

Q26 Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the CCG and its role?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Yes aware of the CCG, and knew of its role	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Yes aware of the CCG, but did not know about its role	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
No – not aware of the CCG or its role	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

Q27 How would you like to be kept informed about the CCG and changes to services?
PLEASE TICK ✓ ALL THAT APPLY IN THE LEFT HAND COLUMN BELOW

Q28 How would you like to have your say about the CCG and changes to services?
PLEASE TICK ✓ ALL THAT APPLY IN THE LEFT HAND COLUMN BELOW

	Q27 Kept informed	Q28 Have your say
Through the CCG Website / online consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Through public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Through receiving / responding to text messages	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Through leaflets / consultations sent to your home	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Through phone line / telephone surveys	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Through newspapers with information / consultation instructions	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Not interested	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

SECTION 10: ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE

Q29 In which of these ways does your household occupy your current accommodation?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Owned outright	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁
Buying on a mortgage or loan	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Pay part rent and part mortgage (shared ownership)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Rent from Housing Association / Trust	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
Rent from a private landlord	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
Live here rent free (including in a friends or relatives property)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Other (Please tick ✓ and write in below)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₇

Q30 How many children aged 17 or under are living here?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY IN THE LEFT HAND COLUMN BELOW

Q31 How many adults aged 18 or over are living here?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN BELOW

	Q30 Children, 17 or under	Q31 Adults, 18 or over
One	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁
Two	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Three	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Four	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
More than four (✓ AND WRITE IN BELOW)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅

Q32 When did you personally move to this address?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY IN THE LEFT HAND COLUMN BELOW

Q33 When did you move to this area? (By area we mean...

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN BELOW

	Q32 This address	Q33 This area
Less than 6 months	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁
Between 6 months and one year	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂
Between two and four years	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃
Five years or more	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄
(✓ AND WRITE IN BELOW)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>

Q34 Hartlepool Borough Council is also a key provider of public services locally, so we would like your views on some of the services it provides. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following services provided or supported by Hartlepool Borough Council?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY FOR EACH SERVICE

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Keeping public land clear of litter and refuse	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Refuse collection	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Doorstep recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Local tips / household waste recycling centres	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Local transport information	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Local bus services	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Sport / leisure facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Museums / galleries	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Theatres / concert halls	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
Parks and open spaces	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Q35 Thinking about your local area, which of the things below, if any, do you think are problems in your local area?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ALL THAT APPLY

Crime and Safety

- General level of crime ☐ 1
- Fear of crime ☐ 2
- Local police services ☐ 3
- Car crime ☐ 4
- Burglary ☐ 5
- Physical attacks / muggings ☐ 6
- Drug dealing / use ☐ 7

Local facilities

- Sports / leisure facilities ☐ 8
- Community centres / facilities ☐ 9
- Local shops / supermarkets / shopping facilities ☐ 10
- Cultural facilities (libraries / museums) ☐ 11
- GPs / Health Centres / Hospitals / Health services ☐ 12

Employment & the local economy

- Local economy ☐ 13
- Wage levels ☐ 14
- Cost of living ☐ 15
- Employment / Job opportunities / prospects ☐ 16

Environment

- General appearance of the area ☐ 17
- Access to nature ☐ 18
- The level of pollution ☐ 19
- Litter / rubbish / clean streets ☐ 20
- Graffiti / Vandalism ☐ 21
- Abandoned cars ☐ 22
- Dog / dog mess ☐ 23
- Run down / boarded up properties ☐ 24
- Parks and open spaces ☐ 25

Community

- Community activities ☐ 13
- Feelings of community / knowing people ☐ 14
- Race relations ☐ 15

Children / Young people

- Childcare provision ☐ 38
- Play areas, activities and facilities for younger children ☐ 39
- Facilities / activities for teenagers ☐ 40

Housing

- Choice of housing ☐ 20
- Affordability of decent housing ☐ 21
- Upkeep / quality of housing ☐ 22
- Housing service provided by your landlord ☐ 23

Education / Training

- Primary schools ☐ 41
- Secondary schools ☐ 42
- Adult education / training ☐ 43
- Other education provision (e.g. online, college, work based) ☐ 44

Transport / Roads / Pavements

- Speed and volume of traffic ☐ 8
- Level of traffic congestion ☐ 9
- Condition of roads (pot holes, etc) ☐ 10
- Parking provision ☐ 10
- Public transport ☐ 11
- Pavements / footpaths ☐ 12

Nothing ☐ 45

Don't know ☐ 46

Q36 Out of everything you have selected in Q35 above, which FIVE things are important to you PERSONALLY to improve in your local area?

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

Priority 1:

Priority 2:

Priority 3:

Priority 4:

Priority 5:

Q36 Are there any other problems in your local area that are not listed in Q35? If so, please use the space below to tell us about them.

PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

SECTION 10: ABOUT YOURSELF

Please complete these questions which will help us to see if there are differences between the views of different residents. All the information you give will be kept completely confidential.

Q38 Are you male or female? PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Male ☐ ₁

Female ☐ ₂

Q39 What was your age on your last birthday?

PLEASE WRITE IN BOX BELOW

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75+

☐ ₁

☐ ₂

☐ ₃

☐ ₄

☐ ₅

☐ ₆

☐ ₇

Q40 Which of these activities best describes what you are doing at present?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per wk) ☐ ₁

Employee in part-time job (under 30 hours per week) ☐ ₂

Self-employed full or part-time ☐ ₃

On a government supported training programme (e.g. Modern Apprenticeship / Training for Work) ☐ ₄

Full-time education at school, college or university ☐ ₅

Unemployed and available for work ☐ ₆

Permanently sick/disabled ☐ ₇

Wholly retired from work ☐ ₈

Looking after the home ☐ ₉

Doing something else (✓ AND WRITE IN BELOW) ☐ ₁₀

Q41 To which of these groups do you consider you belong to?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

WhiteBritish ☐ ₁Irish ☐ ₂Any other White background
(✓ AND WRITE IN BOX) ☐ ₃**Black or Black British**Caribbean ☐ ₄African ☐ ₅Any other Black background
(✓ AND WRITE IN BOX) ☐ ₆**Mixed**White and Black Caribbean ☐ ₇White and Black African ☐ ₈White and Asian ☐ ₉Any other Mixed background
(✓ AND WRITE IN BOX) ☐ ₁₀**Asian**Indian ☐ ₁₁Pakistani ☐ ₁₂Bangladeshi ☐ ₁₃Any other Asian background
(✓ AND WRITE IN BOX) ☐ ₁₄**Chinese and Other ethnic groups**Chinese ☐ ₁₅Other ethnic group
(✓ AND WRITE IN BOX) ☐ ₁₆

JOINING VIEWPOINT

Q42

The Council has a panel of more than 1000 Hartlepool residents called **Viewpoint**. These residents have agreed to take part in postal surveys three times a year. The aim of these surveys is to find out what residents think about Council services and other services such as the police, the fire service and health trusts. The Council takes these views into account when planning for the future and making decisions, which have an impact on your daily life. Your views are important and can make a difference to how services are provided.

If you would like to join **Viewpoint**, please write your name and address in the boxes below, and also your email address if you have one. If you are not interested in joining **Viewpoint**, please leave these boxes blank. You can choose to leave **Viewpoint** at any time.

Name

Surname

Address

Email Address

JOINING Hartlepool Online Panel

Q43

We are also looking for Hartlepool residents to join our Hartlepool Online Panel – or H.O.P for short. By joining the H.O.P, you will be sent an email every month, letting you know about the consultations you can take part in over the next few weeks. These consultations might be online surveys, public meetings, or other types of consultation activities. What you take part in is entirely up to you. All we want to do is tell you about them!

To join the H.O.P, all you have to do is provide us with your email address. And if at any time you no longer wish to receive emails from us, simply let us know and we will remove you from the panel.

Email Address

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THIS SURVEY

Please return the questionnaire to **XXXXXXX**, the company who will be processing this survey, in the reply-paid envelope. **XXXXX – Company name and address**

The information collected about you will be securely held and will be used to produce statistical reports. No personal data will be disclosed. In order to run this survey, the Council has entered into contracts with a distribution company, **xxxx** and will share information with this organisation. For the purposes of the provision of this service, **xxxx** act as a department of the Council and are bound by their contract to treat your information confidentially. Hartlepool Borough Council is the Data Controller

CABINET REPORT

2 April 2013



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighborhoods

Subject: LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

- 1.1 Report for information. The Local Plan, if adopted, will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework and is contained within the Forward Plan.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Local Plan Examination in Public.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Hartlepool Local Plan will be the key Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies for the Borough for the next 15 years. The Local Plan allocates land for development across the Borough, provides key infrastructure as well as protecting the most valuable environmental sites.
- 3.2 The Local Plan Publication Document 2012 represents the Council's definitive position in relation to the local plan. The local plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in 2012 who appointed a Planning Inspector to review the document at an Examination in Public in terms of compliance with Duty to Co-operate and to assess if the plan passes the tests of 'soundness'.
- 3.3 Minor changes were made at the request of the Planning Inspectorate which has been consulted prior to the Examination in Public; these included the insertion of policies relating to the control of advertisements and telecommunications, presumption in favour of sustainable development; and the allocation of a Gypsy and Traveller site.

4. OUTCOME

- 4.1 The Examination in Public hearings took place in January / February 2013. The Planning Inspector has indicated in a subsequent letter that whilst he is satisfied that the Council has complied with the duty to co-operate; he considers that there are a number of areas where the Local Plan is not sound. In most cases the Inspector is satisfied that he can recommend modifications to address issues of unsoundness. However this is not the case with the issue of provision for Gypsies and Travellers as he does not consider that the site proposed to be allocated for Gypsies and Travellers accommodation at Brenda Road is suitable or deliverable.
- 4.2 On the basis of this a suspension of the hearings has been put forward by the Planning Inspector to allow the Council to do further work in identifying a suitable site or sites for Gypsies and Travellers accommodation. The timetable for this further work is constrained as the suspension is only permitted up to 6 months.
- 4.3 Planning Officers have already started this further work with a 'call for sites' exercise which commenced on the 18th February and closed on the 11th March 2013. In this 'call for sites' exercise, letters were sent to landowners, agents, consultants etc and public notices placed to allow landowners to submit potential sites for consideration for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. Planning offices will assess any sites submitted along with all Council owned sites in terms of suitability and deliverability criteria.

5 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 A report will be presented to Cabinet requesting permission to go out to public consultation in April 2013 on all potential suitable sites once the technical work has been completed. Following this consultation a further report will be taken to the relevant Committee in July 2013 with a view to submitting this further work to the Planning Inspector in late July 2013.
- 5.2 Once the further work has been carried out and submitted to the Planning Inspector it is likely a further hearing session will be required. The Inspector has indicated that a hearing session could take place in September 2013. If the Local Plan then passes the tests of 'soundness' it may be amended to take account of the Inspectors recommendations and then brought to the relevant Committee to be considered for adoption in late 2013.
- 5.3 This presents a very tight and challenging timetable for officers, however this is necessary as the suspension of the hearings be for a maximum of 6 months.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS
- FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There will be some costs associated with managing the next stage of the consultation process and costs relating to the additional hearing session needed to consider the Gypsy and Traveller issue and any subsequent issue that may present itself during this suspension period. This process is a statutory requirement and the costs will be met from existing budgets.

- LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.2 There is a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The advice in the report takes in consideration of the Localism Act 2011, the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and the publication 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites' 2012.

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

- 7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. The council is committed to securing safe and secure environments within the borough. Safety and security is a material consideration in planning and the emerging Local Plan contains within a policy the need for proposals to take be designed in a way which minimizes crime and the fear of crime. This will be taken into account in the consideration of future planning applications.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI was prepared in compliance with the Hartlepool Compact and its associated protocols.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That members note the report.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Local Plan is a statutory document which sets the strategic planning policy framework for the borough for the next 15 years. Evidence identifies that there is a need for the allocation of a site or sites for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation within the borough and therefore to be 'sound' the Local Plan must include such allocation(s).

11. CONTACT OFFICER

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