

Hartlepool Board
Friday 5 December 2025 at 9.00am

Meeting Notes

Attendees – Board Members:

Bev Bearne – Hartlepool Development Corporation
Jade Bromby – The Wharton Trust
Iain Caldwell – Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership
Phil Douglas – Curious Arts (*Attended Virtually*)
Christine Eddowes – Resident and Interfaith Representative
Scott Gaiety – Headland Parish Council
Calvin George – Hartlepool Sport
Darren Hankey – Hartlepool College of Further Education
Haani Hasnain – Harmonised World
Stuart Irvine – NHS University Hospitals Tees
Martin Raby – The Northern School of Art
Mark Robinson – Hartlepool Development Corporation (*Attended Virtually*)
Juli Simons - Hartlepool Community Trust
Matt Storey – Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner
Helen Wilson – Cleveland Police

Other Attendees:

Scott Campbell – Hartlepool Borough Council
Gemma Ptak - Hartlepool Borough Council
Lisa West – Hartlepool Borough Council
Ian Hepplewhite – StreetGames

	Documents
1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	<p>Apologies were received from Neil Atkinson, Jonathan Brash MP, Christiane Celestine, Cllr Pamela Hargreaves, Karen Hawkins, Oliver Huermann, Carl Jorgeson, Denise McGuckin, Cllr Karen Oliver, David Preston, Sue Sharpe, Mark Tilling, Malcolm Walker, and Kathryn Whittle.</p> <p>HH Chaired the meeting, in the absence of Malcolm Walker.</p>
2. Conflicts of Interest	<p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>
3. Minutes and Actions from the Last Board Meeting	<p> HB Meeting Notes - 07.11.25.docx</p> <p> Hartlepool Board Action Log.xlsx</p>

4.	Items for Pride in Place: 4.1 Update on the Pride in Place Impact Funding <p>SC provided an update and confirmed that Hartlepool will receive £1.5m of capital funding with £750k for 2025/26 and then a further £750k in 2026/27. This will deliver immediate support with the three strategic objectives being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Spaces – Creating, extending, improving or refurbishing existing local assets • Public spaces – Enhancing the physical environment such as improved green spaces or outdoor play • High Street & Town Centre Revitalisation – Making these areas more attractive and welcoming places <p>SC stated that a lot of work has already been done which has supported the project development for the Impact Funding such as the community engagement led by HOP. He then presented the proposals for the first £750k of funding which is for the period to the end of March 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Equipment and Parks – £265,000: This will create a teen area at Rossmere Park, replace play equipment in three places and help leverage funding to improve other play areas across Hartlepool. • Community Asset Grant Scheme – £175,000: This will establish a capital grant scheme so that local organisations can enhance, refurbish and modernise community assets which will launch in early 2026. • CCTV Improvements - £130k: This will support safety and security including replacing broken equipment and purchasing additional mobile CCTV to improve coverage across Hartlepool. • Neighbourhood Investment – £180,000: This will provide funding to invest in local projects such as offroad bike prevention or murals. It will be responsive to local needs with priorities already starting to be identified through the Pride in Place Weeks of Action. <p>SC stated that the areas of greatest need have been prioritised with these proposals for the Impact Funding and he shared the map which layers the Indices of Deprivation and Mission Critical Neighbourhoods.</p> <p>HH queried if this funding needs to be spent by the end of the financial year. SC said that the investment needs to be committed, but the money could be spent after the end of</p>	 Impact Funding.pptx
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	<p>the financial year. HH then asked about marketing and timeline for the community asset grant scheme.</p> <p>SC confirmed that there would be publicity, but we wanted to first share these proposals with the Board. JS suggested focussing on hot spots for CCTV, with fixed, as well as mobile CCTV. GP commented that the HBC Assistant Director, who is allocated to this area is working with Police colleagues around the investment for CCTV.</p> <p>Comments were made around the importance of the quality of the CCTV, and feasibility alongside the importance carrying out improvements to CCTV before work is done on playgrounds etc. SI commented about ensuring value for money especially with the purchase of the play equipment and the efficiencies were clarified by GP.</p> <p>SG commented that some areas may be forgotten about because they aren't the most deprived within the borough. GP stated that it was clear from the Government that the money needs to be spent where it is most needed, and there will be difficult decisions ahead. SG commented that people can still benefit from improvements in all wards, as things aren't always defined by 'ward lines' such as the investment in play areas in Hartlepool.</p> <p>SC moved on to highlight the forthcoming Pride in Place Weeks of Action: Foggy Furze will take place W/C 8 December, Hart W/C 15 December, and then Rossmere W/C 12 January 2026. GP confirmed that this programme of work has been funded through the Council.</p> <p>ACTION: If any organisations or businesses want to get involved to support the Pride in Place Weeks of Action then, in the first instance, please get in touch with SC.</p> <p>JS commented that the weeks of action had been organised well, and it would be great if this became a recurring cycle such as over the Summer. GP thanked JS for her work on helping to organise these together with partners such as Cleveland Police, Thirteen and Cleveland Fire Brigade.</p> <p>4.2 Hartlepool Board Advisory Groups: Identified Leads and Next Steps</p> <p>IC delivered a presentation which provided an update on the Hartlepool Board Advisory Groups. This follows the discussions within previous board meetings and the information included in the Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>He emphasised the limited opportunities in the past and the importance of seizing this opportunity to listen to people's voices through genuine two-way communication and active</p>	
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	<p>involvement. Continued meaningful engagement and open communication are both essential, with the goal of empowering people. There is also a need for digital mechanisms to effectively monitor the work that is being done, and for transparency, especially regarding funding decisions made by the Board.</p> <p>IC shared a graphic showing the five Hartlepool Board Advisory Groups, and the identified proposed leads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People – Carl Jorgeson • Business – Haani Hasnain • Diversity and Inclusion – Juli Simons • VCSE – Iain Caldwell • Public Sector – Denise McGuckin <p>IC stated the role of the Advisory Groups is to effectively communicate with wider stakeholders through a two-way process so that everyone is aware of and can be involved in the Hartlepool Board. Each Advisory Group is at a different stage and CJ has already written a paper around young people, and events have already taken recently place with VCSE Organisations.</p> <p>HH asked what the next steps would be and IC suggested arranging a meeting with the identified leads. HH queried if there would be an opportunity to make changes as we go through the process, and this was confirmed by IC.</p> <p>HH then facilitated a vote on the proposed leads and the next steps for the Advisory Groups. This was unanimously approved by all members of the Hartlepool Board.</p> <p>4.3 Plan for Neighbourhoods Update</p> <p>Dashboard:</p> <p>SC advised that the dashboard is a standard item. This provides an update on all projects and is available within the dedicated Google Drive.</p> <p>Risk Register:</p> <p>SC advised that the risk register is also a standard item and was required as part of the submission to Government. This will change as we move forward and the key risks will be raised to the Board.</p> <p>Progress and Next Steps:</p> <p>SC confirmed that the Regeneration Place was successfully submitted last week for our Pride in Place Programme.</p>	
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	<p>MHCLG will be appraising the submission over the next few months, and we expect a response in February 2026.</p> <p>Members can access a copy of the Regeneration Plan in the Google Drive. HH raised concerns about cybersecurity, and SC clarified that the Drive only contains non-confidential information and documents that are publicly available. He noted that a privacy notice is included within the Drive and confirmed that further clarification can be provided if required by the Board.</p> <p>SC announced that an updated Pride in Place Prospectus and other key strategic documents have recently been published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). These changes do not impact on the next steps for our submission to Government which was successfully made at the end of November.</p> <p>ACTION: SC will share a link to the updated Pride in Place Prospectus and a further update on the changes will be presented at the next Board. We will also share a copy of the Government's wider Pride in Place Strategy.</p> <p>4.4 CT Consults Final Report on Place Brand Readiness</p> <p>SC presented the covering report which provides an update on the work of CT Consults over the last six months which has included one to one conversations, two place brand masterclasses, and consultations with Board Members.</p> <p>The Place Brand Readiness Report from CT Consults has also been shared with Board Members. This provides detailed information and concludes that the borough is now well-positioned to progress with place brand development and identifies actionable next steps if this is to be progressed in Hartlepool.</p> <p>It was recommended that further discussions on the Hartlepool Place Brand Readiness Report are progressed through the dedicated Communications Sub Group, with further updates then provided to the Board. For context there are monthly meetings for the Communications Sub Group, which is facilitated by Connor Kerr who is the HBC Head of Communications.</p> <p>HH queried if the place brand development will link with the wider investments within Hartlepool. GP stated that the aim is for everything to align, and the place narrative will need to be adopted across all partners and stakeholders not just the Council. This will provide an agreed way to talk about the Board and should help to raise the profile of the Programme.</p>	
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	<p>GP added that any Board members are welcome to join the Communications Sub Group and if interested can receive invites by contacting either SC or LW.</p> <p>BB commented that Hartlepool Development Corporation fully supports the place brand narrative and the alignment with other key regeneration investments such as the Production Village. They also understand the need for the Development Corporation to be more visible. As an example, billboards about Pride in Place could be displayed in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Centre Manager is a big advocate for Hartlepool</p> <p>CE commented that, while the report looked very good, more pictures of everyday streets and communities could be used, to be more representative. GP commented that this will be implemented moving forwards because all of these plans will be updated on a regular basis by the Board.</p> <p>4.5 Update on Commissioned Work:</p> <p>Local Infrastructure Organisation – HOP:</p> <p>This agenda item was already covered earlier by IC.</p> <p>Board Development – Belong:</p> <p>GP confirmed that the initial board development programme has now concluded with Belong. However, further development sessions will be planned with the Board.</p>	
<p>5. Other Items for the Hartlepool Board:</p> <p>5.1 Overview and Proposals for Common Ground Resilience Funding</p>	<p>SC outlined that £25,000 of revenue funding has been awarded to the Council by MHCLG through the Common Ground Resilience Fund.</p> <p>The purpose is to deliver activities that help build cohesion both by developing new relationships within and across communities and by increasing resilience within the Borough. The strategic objectives of the funding are to build social capital within communities by investing in spaces/activities that bring people together. The other objective is to reduce divisions and build resilience in places which have been identified as facing cohesion challenges such as Hartlepool.</p> <p>SC confirmed that a significant amount of work has already been done around this and that the funding is only for the period from 1 November 2025 to 31 March 2026. There are monitoring requirements with updates required on the</p>	 <p>Common Ground Funding.pptx</p>

	<p>activities through this funding such as including how many events have been carried out, and how many different people have been engaged. The expectation from MHCLG is that the money will be passported by the Council to a VCSE Partner.</p> <p>IC then presented outlined that HOP are requesting the £25,000 to lead a partnership of VCSE Organisations including Hartlepool Community Trust and Thrive. This would establish a neighbourhood-led regeneration framework using the principles of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) where residents, community organisations, and local services are empowered to co-design priorities and deliver shared solutions. This will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen community capacity by building skills, networks, and confidence • Deliver visible improvements that people can see and feel in their neighbourhoods • Build long-term resilience by creating sustainable community structures <p>This approach draws inspiration from the New Deal for Communities and aligns with the Pride in Place Weeks of Action. IC also confirmed that HOP would ensure that 100% of the funding goes to HCT and Thrive, so would therefore stay in the local community. IC stated that it will take time to build trust, and this would provide a starting point in advance of April 2026. He went on to say that since the closure of the HVDA, opportunities have been lost and there has been a gap in the creation of new Community Leaders.</p> <p>SC confirmed that the proposal is to award the £25,000 to HOP as the borough's recognised VCSE Infrastructure Organisation. HOP will then oversee community delivery in line with the strategic objectives and ensure that 100% of the funding is then provided to VCSE Organisations.</p> <p>MS commented that, concerning hate crime, there is a Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime Partnership which he Chairs, and he would be keen to link in with HOP around this, as it could be beneficial for both parties.</p> <p>DH queried if each ward would benefit from the Programme. GP said that it would likely be more giving a 'reach' across all wards. DH commented on the need to see all assurances and GP replied that the money in question was award to the Council, from the Common Ground Resilience Fund.</p> <p>HH commented on accountability; having a dashboard in place for transparency was important. GP commented on the need for the board to be more strategic, and in this vein, the</p>	
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	<p>Community Cohesion Strategy will be presented early next year to the Board.</p> <p>SG asked what any alternative would be and GP stated that it is clear that the funding needs to be award to the VCSE. There is a lot to do, and the aim is to empower the sector together with HOP.</p> <p>HH asked about the difference in purpose between the work of HCT, and to Thrive. IC outlined that Thrive do local and regional work on participatory involvement, focussing on empowerment and training, while HCT are experts in learned experiences and engaging people within Hartlepool. GP said that the hope is for sustainable community engagement over 10 years through Pride in Place and added that training around ABCD could be given to Board Members.</p> <p>HH then facilitated a vote on the proposal which was approved unanimously by all members of the Board.</p>	
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Hartlepool Board Meeting Dates - 2026</p> <p>SC proposed that, to ensure maximum attendance, future meetings alternate between Friday mornings and Thursday afternoons. This was agreed by members, and the proposed dates were circulated for meetings in 2026.</p>	 <p>Hartlepool Board Meeting Schedule - 2(</p>
7.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 9 January 2026 from 9am to 10.30am, at the Belle Vue Centre.</p>	