

Hartlepool Board
Friday 9 January 2026 at 9.00am

Meeting Notes


Attendees – Board Members:

Neil Atkinson – NHS University Hospitals Tees (*Attended Virtually*)
Bev Bearne – Hartlepool Development Corporation (*Attended Virtually*)
Jonathan Brash MP – Member of Parliament for Hartlepool
Jade Bromby – The Wharton Trust
Christiana Celestine – Hartlepool Diversity Network
Phil Douglas – Curious Arts (*Attended Virtually*)
Scott Gaiety – Headland Parish Council
Darren Hankey – Hartlepool College of Further Education
Cllr Pamela Hargreaves – Leader of the Council
Haani Hasnain – Harmonised World (Chair)
Carl Jorgeson – Hartlepool Sport
Cllr Karen Oliver – Chair of Housing, Growth & Communities Committee
Martin Raby – The Northern School of Art
Juli Simons – Hartlepool Community Trust
Sean Smith – Cleveland Fire Brigade
Kathryn Whittle – Thirteen

Other Attendees:


Becky Childs – Safer Communities
Scott Campbell – Hartlepool Borough Council
Connor Kerr – Hartlepool Borough Council
Gemma Ptak – Hartlepool Borough Council
Lisa West – Hartlepool Borough Council

1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies Apologies were received from Iain Caldwell, Christine Eddowes, Cllr Brenda Harrison, Karen Hawkins, Denise McGuckin, Matt Storey, Helen Wilson, and Malcolm Walker. HH Chaired the meeting, in the absence of MW. It was noted that Jane Reed, representing Hartlepool Sixth Form College, retired at the end of December 2025, so is no longer on the Board.	
2.	Conflicts of Interest There were no conflicts of interest declared by Board Members.	
3.	Minutes and Actions from the Last Board Meeting The minutes from the last board were accepted as an accurate representation of the meeting.	

	<p>HH noted that the Board was approaching a key time of responsibility over the next 12 months, when decisions around projects and investments would be made as part of the Pride in Place Programme.</p> <p>The live actions were discussed - the first action was to contact representatives from the NE1 Business Improvement District to provide an overview to the Board. HH is progressing with this and is hoping for their attendance at a future Board.</p> <p>The second action was, to share the final Hartlepool Community Cohesion Strategy. SC confirmed that this will be presented at the next Board.</p> <p>The third action was around members getting involved with the Pride in Place Weeks of Action. PH confirmed that the next action week is in Rossmere and will start on Monday. If anyone wants to get involved, then they can find out more information by contacting SC</p> <p>The final live action was to organise a meeting with the identified thematic leads to discuss the next steps for the Hartlepool Board Advisory Groups. Iain Caldwell was not able to attend the meeting, but it was confirmed that this was ongoing by Board Members.</p>	
4.	<p>Developing Hartlepool as a Restorative Borough</p> <p>GP said that this item was included as it is strategically relevant to the Board. She then provided background to this piece of work within Hartlepool.</p> <p>Becky Childs outlined that she works for Safer Communities which aims to embed restorative approaches within the region which can be used to address key matters such as crime and anti-social behaviour. She stated the ambition is for Hartlepool to become a Restorative Borough and then delivered a presentation to the Board.</p> <p>BC highlight the impact that restorative approaches can make including tackling misinformation and disinformation. She demonstrated the alignment to both the Cohesion Strategy and the Pride in Place Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>A video which has been recently developed was then shown to attendees and included a case study demonstrating the impact of restorative justice within Cleveland.</p> <p>BC stated that the restorative process allows understanding and closure for the victims. It is also evidenced-based with data showing that it reduces re-offending and other positive case studies were shared including recent examples within</p>	 Restorative Approach Slides.pdf

	<p>Hartlepool. In response to a question, it was also clarified that the restorative approach can be used at any point during the judicial process, with all types of crime and with all levels of seriousness of crime.</p> <p>She provided an update on the progress that has been made over the last year within Hartlepool. This includes restorative intervention delivery, work with young people to challenge misinformation and raising awareness of the restorative approach with stakeholders. In addition, BC has delivered awareness training to a range of organisations and teams across Hartlepool.</p> <p>SS commented that Cleveland Fire Brigade carry out fire education work with people who have started fires and would be keen to work with BC.</p> <p>KW asked about any links with Thirteen and BC provided details of her contacts but is happy to pick up a further conversation. PD commented on the positive outcomes of restorative justice, and the importance that arts can have in this so would be keen to meet with BC.</p> <p>ACTION: The presentation will be shared with Board Members. If anyone would like training or further information on restorative justice, they can contact BC.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Communications Toolkit</p> <p>CK provided an update on the work which has started around communications. This follows previous discussions and will support with the next stage of the journey following submission of the Pride in Place Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>An interim communications toolkit has been developed and CK stated that this is mostly guidance to help support with matters such as short/long programme descriptions and media protocols. The aim is for this to be a 'live' document which will adapt over time to support the Board.</p> <p>CK confirmed that a Communications Subgroup has now been established to progress this piece of work. There are monthly meetings scheduled for the next few months and the first will take place on Monday 12 January 2026. The subgroup will then feedback and make recommendations to the Hartlepool Board.</p> <p>ACTION: The interim communications toolkit will be shared next week with Board Members. If there are any comments or proposed changes, then if these can be sent to LW by Friday 23 January 2026.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Revised Pride in Place Prospectus – Key Changes and Insights</p> <p>SC delivered a presentation around the recent revisions to the Pride in Place Programme. Last month, the Ministry for Housing, Growth & Communities (MHCLG) published a range of updated guidance documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride in Place Programme Prospectus • Governance and Boundary Guidance • Funding Profiles and Timelines • Monitoring Guidance <p>ACTION: SC will share the link to the .GOV webpage with the updated guidance from MHCLG.</p> <p>Some of the main changes that have been made are an updated Pride in Place Intervention List which includes a new investment theme called ‘Community Power.’ Boards need to, over time, ensure that at least 51% of members are living or working within the agreed boundary but SC confirmed that this already over 90% for Hartlepool. In addition, Boards need to transition towards a community-led model of delivery by at least Year 3 (2028/29) but SC also highlighted that this already being embedded in Hartlepool.</p> <p>He then highlighted the six interventions within the new ‘Community Power’ investment theme which includes engagement/participation, community wealth building, social action, community design/delivery of services and capacity building. There are elements which have been taken from other previous themes such as Cohesion.</p> <p>SC stated that following the expansion by Government with over 150 more places receiving funding through Pride in Place, we are recognised as ‘phase one’ area in Hartlepool. The changes to the guidance will not impact on our submission but do provide an opportunity for the Board if we would like to incorporate the ‘Community Power’ theme and interventions into our first four-year Investment Plan.</p> <p>KO commented that these new interventions align to a range of other policies and SC agreed that ‘Community Power’ can become the mechanisms in which we deliver across the other themes. CC commented that ‘Community Power’ felt positive, GP added that this strongly links to the Cohesion Strategy.</p> <p>There was a discussion on adopting Community Power into the 4-year Investment Plan. HH then facilitated a vote which was unanimously approved by all members of the Board.</p>	<div data-bbox="1236 197 1305 250" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1198 250 1345 306" data-label="Text"> <p>Revised PiPP Guidance.pptx</p> </div>
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7.	<p>Framework and Roadmap for Developing Investment Proposals</p> <p>A presentation was delivered on the proposed framework for the next stage of the Pride in Place Programme.</p> <p>GP outlined that the aim is for an open and transparent process as part of the development of investment proposals. A graphic was shown highlighting the five proposed stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Innovation Days 2) Industry Engagement 3) Themed Investment Decision-Making Subgroups 4) Prioritising Investment Ideas into Projects 5) Proposals <p>There were potential dates shared for the Innovation Days which would be creative workshops to generate ideas covering a particular theme such as Regeneration & High Street. These days would be open to any stakeholders and the wider community who are interested in the theme.</p> <p>KO asked about one of the Innovation Days covering both Housing and Education & Opportunity. GP provided detail on the links between both themes such as the poverty agenda but added that changes can be made but we wanted to provide a starting point for the Board.</p> <p>CJ commented that some of the themes merged into others, and potential projects may cover more than one theme. He also raised a point around conflicts of interest needing to be considered. GP commented that there is an established Conflicts of Interest Policy, but this will need to be updated over time by the Board.</p> <p>SG added that a good approach could be to deliver a couple of smaller projects to 'test the water.' PH commented that we also need to remember that we already have the Impact Fund which will be delivering projects this financial year on the priorities identified by the community. PH added that there is also a comms opportunity to capture the impact similar to the video shown earlier in the meeting by BC.</p> <p>JS said that the Innovation days sounded positive, and it would be good to invite members of the public, although it was noted that numbers would need to be limited to ensure the workshops were manageable. GP agreed and does not want a formal feel to the days. She added that GP and SC want Board Members to front the Innovation Days. KW commented that it seemed a sensible approach, though it would be helpful to have a set of objectives beforehand. GP confirmed that we will convene a Task & Finish Group to finalise the process and develop the Innovation Days.</p>	 <p>Investment Roadmap.pptx</p>
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	<p>ACTION: If anyone would like to join the Task & Finish Group then they just need to contact LW.</p> <p>KW added that it could be a good idea to have yearly events as part of the ongoing investment development process. GP agreed that it should be an ongoing process.</p> <p>CC commented that there needed to be a point when the idea stage needs to be left, and for action to be done. GP commented that investments have already been narrowed due to the community engagement and the evidence that has been collected as part of the development of the Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>CC added that experts being part on the Innovation Days would be positive. GP stated that an expert could also come from someone with lived experience. SS agreed with the idea of Innovation Days.</p> <p>HH then facilitated a vote on the framework and roadmap for developing investment proposals which will be taken forward by the Task & Finish Group. This was unanimously approved by all members of the Hartlepool Board.</p>	
8.	<p>Programme Update</p> <p>SC shared an update on the investments being delivered as part of the Impact Fund. This includes a Community Asset Capital Grants Scheme which will offer grants of up to £20,000 and will launch in the next few weeks for Hartlepool.</p> <p>SC moved on to provide a brief update on key matters:</p> <p>Dashboard: SC advised that this was shared with Board Members and will be used to track the progress of projects being delivered through the Pride in Place Programme.</p> <p>Risk Register: SC advised that the risk register is also a standard item and was required as part of the submission to Government. This will further develop as we move forward and the key risks will be raised to the Board.</p> <p>Commissioned Work: SC stated that Iain Caldwell will be presenting a report on the current progress and long-term strategic plan for HOP at the next Hartlepool Board.</p> <p>Submission Feedback: SC provided positive news that MHCLG had been in touch just before Christmas to advise that our submission has met</p>	

	<p>all the requirements and passed the initial appraisal stage. We should hopefully receive the full approval for our Regeneration and Investment Plan by the end of February.</p> <p>HH thanked SC and GP for their hard work on this.</p>	
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>PH advised that she is dedicated to the Board, but that Tees Valley Combined Authority also hold meetings on Friday mornings which she needs to attend as Leader. She may therefore have to send her apologies to some future meetings of the Hartlepool Board.</p> <p>SS asked for a contact around the Rossmere Pride of Action week which was provided by PH.</p> <p>A member of the public raised a query on the attachments within the minutes not showing correctly on the HBC website. This will be reviewed and fixed by SC/CK.</p>	
10.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5 February 2026 from 2.30 to 4pm. It is now confirmed to be held at the Cleveland Fire Brigade HQ.</p>	