

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 2nd October 2013

at 2.00pm

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors Ainslie, Atkinson, Beck, Cook, Dawkins, Fisher, Fleet, Griffin, Hill, Jackson, Payne, Robinson, Shields, Tempest and Thompson

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2013
 - 4.2 Matters arising.
- 5. POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS ISSUES**
 - 5.1 Presentation by the Chair of Adult Services Committee
 - 5.2 Public Questions to Policy Committee Chairs
 - a. Councillor C Akers-Belcher as Chair of Finance and Policy Committee
 - b. Councillor Jackson as Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee
 - c. Councillor Payne as Chair of Regeneration Services Committee
 - d. Councillor Richardson as Chair of Adult Services Committee
 - e. Councillor Simmons as Chair of Children's Services Committee

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**
7. **ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
No items
8. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - 8.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
 - 8.2 Ward Member Budgets – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
9. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**
No items
10. **WARD ISSUES**
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
12. **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 11th December at 10.00am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES 10 July 2013

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair: Councillor Sylvia Tempest - De Bruce

Councillors:

Councillor Jim Ainslie	-	Headland and Harbour
Councillor Paul Beck	-	Hart
Councillor Rob Cook	-	De Bruce
Councillor Keith Fisher	-	Hart
Councillor Mary Fleet	-	Jesmond
Councillor Sheila Griffin	-	De Bruce
Councillor Cath Hill	-	Seaton
Councillor Peter Jackson	-	Headland and Harbour
Councillor Jean Robinson	-	Hart
Councillor Paul Thompson	-	Seaton

Also in attendance:

Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Kevin Cranney, Carl Richardson and Chris Simmons
M Suggitt, Cleveland Police
S Patton, Cleveland Fire Service

Public: R Atkinson, Malcolm Husband, T Lambert, John Lynch, John Maxwell, S Nicholson, Ian Stewart, Liz Torley, Cath Torley, Alan Vale, Ray Waller and Dennis Wilson

Officers: Dave Frame, Neighbourhood Manager
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager
Helen Beaman, Environmental Services Team Leader
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer, North
Julie Hetherington, Neighbourhood Support Officer
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer, South
Fiona Stanforth, Regeneration Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dawkins, Payne and Shields.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2013

Confirmed

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

In relation to Minute 51 clarification was sought on usage figures for the Teen Health Van. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that the average number of visits were approximately 20 visits per session and the sessions were held three times a week 6.45 pm to 9.15 pm.

5. Budget 2014/15 to 2016/17 – Covering Report/Presentation/Public Questions to Policy Committee Chairs *(Chair of Finance and Policy Committee)*

The report updated residents on the key issues affecting the Council's financial position over the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 and the implications this had for setting the 2013/2014 budget. Members were provided with the background to the budget process and a budget report that had recently been considered by the Finance and Policy Committee, attached as an appendix to the report. To raise awareness of the Council's budget position and involve residents in the development of the Council's budget proposals the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee had been invited to the meeting to provide a detailed presentation, drawing out the key issues from the report.

The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee went on to deliver a detailed and comprehensive presentation in relation to the key financial challenges facing the Council over the next 3 years and focussed on the following:-

- New Governance Arrangements – Budget Setting Process
- Chancellor's June 2013 Spending Review
- More spending cuts in 2015/16
- One-off Resources and Strategy for Use
- Business Rates Risks
- Local Council Tax Support Scheme

- General Fund Revenue Budget – Summary of Government Grant cuts

Following conclusion of the presentation, the Policy Committee Chairs responded to issues raised by the Forum. Clarification was provided in relation to Council's future financial position and the implications upon setting the 2013/14 budget including the Council Tax Support Scheme and the potential increase in Council Tax.

In response to a request for clarification, the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee outlined the prioritisation process and proposed timescales for highway maintenance works following the results of an independent survey.

With regard to future spending cuts, a resident queried the type of services that were likely to be affected. The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee indicated that whilst attempts would be made to safeguard services where possible, the cuts would impact upon all service areas. It was highlighted that the purpose of today's presentation was to encourage input from residents and all concerns/issues were open for discussion and would be welcomed for further discussion and debate at future meetings of the Policy Committees.

Recommendation

- (i) That the Council's financial position over the period 2014/15 and 2016/17 and the implications for setting the 2013/2014 budget be noted.
- (ii) The comments, as set out above, be noted.

6. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

A resident reiterated concerns raised at the last meeting regarding the inappropriate access of sea coalers to the beach via the promenade highlighting that this problem had since moved to the fish sands. In response, a Member acknowledged the problems in this area and indicated that arrangements were in place to install bollards to address this. Works had been delayed in this location as a result of ongoing inspections by English Heritage. However, it was anticipated that this work would be completed by 17 July whereupon the bollards could be replaced as necessary. The Chair suggested that this issue be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Policy Committee to consider what action could be taken in the longer term to address the concerns of residents. It was also suggested that the police be invited to the meeting to assist with law enforcement issues.

A resident raised some concern that the barriers on Marine Drive onto the beach had been removed resulting in health and safety concerns. A number of issues/areas of concern were raised by residents which included

fly tipping, overhanging trees at the proposed new park area, overgrown grassed area at the former King Oswy pub site, potholes, the number of young people under the age of 12 driving horse and carriages as well as the state of disrepair of the footpaths opposite the factory units as a result of tree roots. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to investigate the issues raised. In relation to the concerns regarding the legality of young people driving horse and carriages on public highways, the neighbourhood police agreed to investigate this matter. With regard to pot hole problems in the town, the Forum was advised that funding had been granted from the government to repair some of the pot hole damage.

A discussion ensued regarding the various methods of publicising meetings following a comment from a resident in attendance that he was not aware of today's meeting. Members emphasised the need to more widely publicise future meetings and suggested that all future Council meetings be publicised in Hartbeat. The Public Relations Manager agreed to take this suggestion forward.

Recommendation

That the comments of the Forum/residents be noted and actioned as appropriate.

7. Environmental Enforcement Initiative – Verbal Update *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

The Environmental Services Team Leader gave an update on the new environmental enforcement initiative which had been set up by HBC and the North and Coastal Neighbourhood police team. Partnership working had been introduced to tackle environmental crime, a recommendation which came from the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum in December 2012. Although there had been over 700 fixed penalty notices for environmental offences issued across the town in 2012/13 there were a number of issues with regard to the capacity of the small enforcement team in relation to times and geographical coverage that they were able to cover. There were currently 2 HBC environmental enforcement officers covering the North and Coastal area and therefore additional PCSOs and the police had been trained and authorised to issue fixed penalty notices for environmental crime. A pilot scheme had been undertaken in the North and Coastal areas and a breakdown of the number and type of fines issued since April 2013 was available by ward.

In the discussion that followed Members commented on the problem of cruelty to horses, security of allotments, the need to improve the appearance of allotment sites and the ongoing problem of dog fouling particularly outside of working hours. A query was raised as to what progress had been made in relation to increasing out of hours patrols to tackle dog fouling problems. The Environmental Services Team Leader stated that HBC enforcement officers already operated with a large degree of flexibility within their contractual obligations, but that the benefit of

partnering with the police meant that extended hours could now be covered. The legal problems with issuing fixed penalty notices outside daylight hours were also outlined.

The Environmental Services Team Leader provided details of the of the actions which had been taken in the past few months in partnership with the police, RSPCA and other partner organisations to tackle the issue of tethered horses in the Borough.

It was highlighted that following a review of rental charges on allotments, new rates had meant that increased capital investment could be made, and in partnership with tenant groups, an improvement plan had been developed which would focus on improving allotment sites over the next three years.

Recommendation

That the comments of the Forum be noted and actioned as appropriate.

8. Ward Member Budgets *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

The report outlined the current position in relation to Ward Member budgets in the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum area encompassing De Bruce, Hart, Headland and Harbour, Jesmond and Seaton wards.

It was reported that all Ward Members had been allocated £5,500 to use for the wider and discernable community benefits of their ward with a further allocation of £5,000 per Ward Member agreed by Council in February 2013. Breakdowns were given of the current spend to date in relation to each of the Ward Members' budgets along with a schedule setting out the current running total for each Ward Member and their remaining budgets.

It was noted that some Elected Members had not fully spent their Ward Budgets and funding had therefore been carried over for their use in the new financial year. This approach had been agreed by Council.

Recommendation

Members noted the final outturn report in relation to Ward Member Budgets in the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum area.

9. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

10. Any Other Business – Dates and Times of Future Meetings

The Chair reported that various approaches had been made regarding start times of Forum meetings as well as the suitability of utilising the civic centre for holding such meetings. The Chair sought the Forum's views on current meeting arrangements and the possibility of holding evening meetings and meetings at various venues throughout the North and Coastal area. The advantages/disadvantages of evening meetings were discussed including the option to hold at least one meeting per annum in the evening and the possibility of a joint evening meeting. The reasons for meetings being scheduled at a more central location was also discussed. Following further debate, it was agreed that the suggestion of a joint evening meeting and holding meetings at venues other than the Civic Centre be further explored.

Recommendation

That the suggestion of a joint evening meeting and holding meetings at venues other than the Civic Centre be further explored.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

CHAIR

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

2nd October 2013



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key decision. For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of the report is to update the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum of progress made to date on Neighbourhood Planning in Hartlepool.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning is central to the Coalition Government's Localism Act 2011. It is intended to give local people greater ownership of plans and policies that affect their local area, and to provide communities with the opportunity to develop a community-led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area.
- 3.2 Once adopted a Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the formal planning process and must be in general conformity with national planning policy and the Local Authority's Development Plan (currently the Hartlepool Local Plan 2006, which will be superseded by the Hartlepool Local Plan post adoption, now expected in early 2014).
- 3.3 Nationally there are 685 Neighbourhood Planning Areas, over half of which have been formally designated. To date, two Neighbourhood Plans have completed the process and have been formally adopted after a simple majority vote at referendum to become part of local planning legislation.
- 3.4 The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) ran five waves of un-ringfenced grant applications for potential Neighbourhood Plan areas to apply for Front Runner status in order to test the principles of Neighbourhood Planning with the support of LPAs; which the Hartlepool rural area was successful in securing in 2011. This was alongside four key

support organisations (The Prince's Foundation, CPRE / NALC, Locality and Planning Aid) delivering direct support and training to those developing Neighbourhood Plans. This source of funding / resource ceased in 2011 and 2013 respectively and a further, revised support fund of £9.5 million was announced in early 2013 (The Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning Programme delivered by Locality in partnership with Planning Aid England), comprising the following elements:

- *Direct Support:* advice and support delivered by Planning Aid England, with an average value equivalent to £9,500. The package is tailored to meet the needs of supported neighbourhoods and is assessed via an online application process.
- *Grant Payments:* up to £7,000 per Neighbourhood Plan area, to contribute to costs incurred by the group preparing a Neighbourhood Plan or Order. This is also assessed via an online application process.

3.5 There are currently four Neighbourhood Plans being developed in Hartlepool, including:

- Hartlepool Rural Plan (South and Central)
- Headland Neighbourhood Plan (North and Coastal)
- Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan (South and Central)
- Park Neighbourhood Plan (South and Central)

Updates on the progress made to date on each of the Neighbourhood Plans are detailed in Sections 4 to 7 of this report.

4. HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN

4.1 In May 2011, Hartlepool was successful in securing £20,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to develop and produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the rural area of Hartlepool.

4.2 The Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group publicly consulted on their Neighbourhood Plan boundary in October / November 2012 in line with the statutory requirements as outlined within the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) adopted in April 2012. No written representations or objections were submitted to the LPA as part of this consultation process and the boundary was formally designated in November 2012.

4.3 Supported by the Neighbourhood Management and Planning Policy Teams, the Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group undertook their first phase of consultation in summer 2012 after securing resources from Design Council CABE. This included a series of community events and village walkabouts, in addition to an extensive household survey of those living and working within the Plan boundary. The Working Group has recently secured a Direct Support package through the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme which is administered by Locality in partnership with Planning Aid England. This will entitle them to 26 days support from a

Planning Aid advisor, particularly focusing on engagement and consultation, collating evidence bases and policy writing. The Group anticipates that this will allow them to develop their Neighbourhood Planning policies ready for consultation in late 2013.

- 4.4 The Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group is now a constituted group and has expanded their remit to take on other areas of work; for example campaigning and assisting with funding bid evidence for rural broadband in partnership with Tees Valley Rural Community Council (TVRCC).

5. THE HEADLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 5.1 In November 2011, the Headland Parish Council approached Hartlepool Borough Council demonstrating an interest in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Collaboratively an application was submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to become a Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner. Whilst not successful in securing Front Runner status, the Parish Council secured alternative support packages from The Prince's Foundation and Planning Aid as part of the Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning programme for the initial stages of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.2 The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group publicly consulted on their Neighbourhood Plan boundary in January / February 2013 in line with the statutory requirements as outlined within the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) adopted in April 2012. No written representations or objections were submitted to the LPA as part of this consultation process and the boundary was formally designated in February 2013.
- 5.3 The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group delivered a three day collaborative planning workshop in partnership with The Prince's Foundation in March 2013. A report was produced which outlines some of the key features of the area, issues that the Headland is facing and potential actions to address these issues; the Working Group are now exploring the themes of the report in more detail to ascertain their key policy areas. Copies of the report are available from the Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group or can be viewed at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.
- 5.4 Ongoing consultation in recent months has been developed in line with the baseline information outlined in the Princes Foundation report and has included obtaining feedback from residents on what they like and dislike about the area, improvements that they would like to see made and people's vision for the Headland in 20 years time. Consultation has included a questionnaire to every household, sessions with young people accessing Headland Future, attendance at key events on the Headland and visiting Voluntary and Community Sector groups, and businesses across the area.

- 5.5 The Group have recently secured £7,000 through the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme which is administered by Locality to assist them with delivering events and raise awareness about Neighbourhood Planning but also to commission some consultancy support to develop their Neighbourhood Planning policies.

6. WYNYARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 6.1 In May 2013, Grindon Parish Council began partnership working with Wynyard Residents Association (WRA) to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Wynyard area. The aspiration of both parties is to provide a joined-up approach to the planning of their area, in particular developing community facilities and appropriate housing whilst protecting the valuable characteristics and design of the neighbourhood.
- 6.2 Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was set up as a sub-committee of the WRA to oversee the development of the Neighbourhood Plan for Wynyard. The proposed Wynyard Neighbourhood Area has been submitted to both Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council as the Wynyard Neighbourhood Area incorporates parts of both Grindon (within Stockton Borough) and Elwick Parishes, (within Hartlepool Borough); the resulting Neighbourhood Area is therefore is a cross-Parish and cross-Local Authority entity. The deadline for the consultation on the boundary designation is Friday 25th October 2013; details can be viewed at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.
- 6.3 Grindon Parish Council has secured £3000 from the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme to support the initial stages of the plan developments. This is in addition to securing the time of a planning consultant work to assist in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary prior to submission.

7. PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 7.1 The Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum was established in August 2013 and represents the communities living within the proposed Park Neighbourhood Plan area. As the proposed boundary is a non-parished area, the Plan is being developed by a Forum which has been established in adherence with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General) adopted in April 2012. Therefore in addition to consultation on the designation of the boundary, the Neighbourhood Forum also has to be designated as the responsible body to develop the Plan, which is subject to a formal consultation process.

- 7.2 The Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum has submitted their designation for the proposed boundary and forum; this is currently out to consultation with a deadline of Friday 25th October 2013. Details can be viewed at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no risk implications for the attention of the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum.

9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no financial considerations for the Forum's attention, aside from the funding and support assistance available as outlined in Section 2.4.

10. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (General and Referendum) came in to force on 6 April 2012 and 3 August 2012 respectively, and are now law. As outlined in Section 2.2, the Local Authority will have a duty to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan should a simple majority vote be gained at referendum; this will require an amendment to part of Hartlepool Borough Council's Budget and Policy Framework (as the Plan will supersede the Local Plan) and once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan will have legal status.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 Equality and diversity have been considered in the development of the consultation frameworks as appropriate and an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed prior to the statutory public consultation period on the first draft of Neighbourhood Plans.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations for the attention of the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum.

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

- 13.1 There are no Section 17 implications in this instance.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 It is requested that the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum note the contents of the report.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

Denise Ogden
Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Civic Centre
Level 3
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: 01429 523301
Denise.Ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

David Frame
Neighbourhood Manager (North and Coastal)
Community Partnership Office
30 Miers Avenue
Hartlepool
TS24 9HH

Tel. 01429 523034
david.frame@hartlepool.gov.uk

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

2 October 2013



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key decision; for information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Forum of the current position in relation to Ward Member Budgets in the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum area, encompassing De Bruce, Hart, Headland and Harbour, Jesmond and Seaton wards.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 On 30 April 2012, Ward Member Budgets and the associated application and approval framework were approved by Cabinet. Ward Members were allocated £5,500 each to be used for the wider and discernable community benefits of their ward, with a further allocation of £5,000 per Ward Member agreed by Council in February 2013.

3.2 It is assumed that the budgets are not available for individuals, or intended to be expended on services provided by the Local Authority or other public agencies, unless the purpose is to enhance or supplement what is being delivered. Ward Members are expected to consult each other to ensure that there is no duplication in expenditure and projects supported must be lawful, and cannot undermine the Council or partners' priorities or service delivery.

3.3 Procedural arrangements have been implemented to ensure accountability and transparency, with all Ward Member Budget submissions being subject to an approval process under delegated authority of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods (in conjunction with Legal and Finance Departments). Progress on Ward Member Budgets is reported on a quarterly basis to the Neighbourhood Forums and is published online. In addition to this, an annual report will be taken to Neighbourhood Services Committee for information.

4. APPROVED SCHEMES

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is a breakdown of current spend to date in relation to each of the Ward Members Budgets in 2013/14. **Please note that a number of projects are currently being developed and will be reported at a future Neighbourhood Forum meeting.** Attached at **Appendix B** is the current running total for each Ward Member and their remaining budgets.

5. UNAPPROVED SCHEMES

- 5.1 There are no unapproved schemes to report at this stage.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Through the implementation of the application and approval framework, a robust and transparent process has been put in place to ensure that the expenditure of Ward Member Budgets is for the purpose for which it is intended. In addition to this, consultation with other Ward Members, the community, and key partners is required through the application process to guarantee that monies are not used adversely and that projects and / or schemes are responding to local need.
- 6.2 In addition to quarterly reporting to the Neighbourhood Forums, an annual report is taken to Neighbourhoods Committee for consideration. All expenditure related information associated with Ward Member Budgets is also available online.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Within the original Cabinet decision on 30 April 2012 to approve Ward Member Budgets, it was agreed that a delegation of powers to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)¹ be awarded; this was facilitated through 'executive arrangements' outlined within the Local Government Act 2000 which enables decision making powers to be delegated by the executive, individual Portfolio Holders, or through an Officer.
- 7.2 Ward Member Budgets must be used for purposes which originally fell within the 'well-being powers' enshrined in the Local Government Act 2000. The well being powers as far as they relate to England have now been repealed under Schedule 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which provides for the broader 'general power of competence'. This gives local authorities an explicit freedom to act in the best interests of the community, unless the local authority is prevented from taking that action by the common law, specific legislation or statutory guidance. As such, the new power of competence

¹ From December 2012, this power has fallen to the Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods.

can be applied to working in the best interests of Hartlepool Borough Council's Ward Member Budgets and also Ward Profiles which were endorsed by Cabinet in October 2012.

8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 On 14 February 2013, Council approved a recommendation from Cabinet (4 February 2013) allocating a total of £165,000 for 2013/2014 for Ward Member Budgets, equating to £5,000 per Elected Member. As part of this decision, it was also outlined that any underspend remaining from the 2012/2013 allocation will be carried forward by each individual Ward Councillor for their use in the new financial year. This also applies to any unspent funds in 2013/2014, which can be carried forward by individual Ward Members in to the following financial year (2014/2015).

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations for the Forum's attention in this case.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

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

- 12.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 The North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum is asked to note the contents of the report outlining Ward Member Budget spend to date.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 On 30 April 2012, Ward Member Budgets and the association application framework were approved by Cabinet. As part of this decision, it was agreed that expenditure be reported to the relevant Neighbourhood Forum on a quarterly basis.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

Denise Ogden
Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Civic Centre
Level 3
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: 01429 523301
denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

David Frame
Neighbourhood Manager (North and Coastal)
Community Partnership Office
30 Miers Avenue
Hartlepool
TS24 9HH

Tel. 01429 523034
david.frame@hartlepool.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Ward Member Budget Spend 2013/14

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Date Approved	Funding Approved
De Bruce			
All Councillors	West View Advice & Resource Centre Kitchen Equipment	19/07/13	£750
	West View Project Summer Playscheme	19/07/13	£900
	St Hild's School Summer Activities Programme	19/07/13	£1,000
	Friends of North Cemetery Footpath Contribution	27/07/13	£300
	West View Baptist Church Community Projects	27/07/13	£510
	Joint Hart and De Bruce Fun Day	14/08/13	£999
	St John Vianney RC Church Lunch Club	03/09/13	£240
Hart			
Councillors Paul Beck and Jean Robinson	Clavering Noticeboard	15/07/13	£1,500
	Joint Hart and De Bruce Fun Day	14/08/13	£666
Headland and Harbour			
All Councillors	Bridge Community Association Health Event Contribution	21/08/13	£300
Jesmond			
Councillor Keith Dawkins	Throston Primary School: Helping at Home Project	23/04/13	£1,000
	Wiltshire Way Horticultural Scheme (2)	07/05/13	£400
	Hartlepool Bereavement Service Donation	20/05/13	£970
	Chester Road Allotment Association Equipment Donation	28/05/13	£200
	Tactile Crossings (Throston Grange Lane)	17/09/13	£600
Councillor Linda Shields	Throston Community Centre Scheme	02/05/13	£3,700 - £4,700*
Seaton			
All Councillors	Jutland Road Community Hub Fun Day Contribution	25/05/13	£900
	Friends of Seaton Park Celebration Event	14/08/13	£1,500
	Friends of Seaton Station Improvements	22/08/13	£960

*Costs for the Planning Application fee (£195) have only been incurred at this stage.

APPENDIX B

Ward Member Budget Overview 2013/14

Ward Councillor	Carryover from 12/13	Funding Available 13/14	Funding Approved 13/14	Total Funding Remaining
De Bruce				
Councillor Rob Cook	-	£5,000	£1566	£3,434
Councillor Sheila Griffin	-	£5,000	£1566	£3,434
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	-	£5,000	£1566	£3,434
Hart				
Councillor Paul Beck	-	£5,000	£1,083	£3,917
Councillor Keith Fisher	£5,500	£5,000	-	£10,500
Councillor Jean Robinson	£2,737	£5,000	£1,083	£6,654
Headland and Harbour				
Councillor Jim Ainslie	-	£5,000	£100	£4,900
Councillor Peter Jackson	-	£5,000	£100	£4,900
Councillor Robbie Payne	-	£5,000	£100	£4,900
Jesmond				
Councillor Keith Dawkins	£1,970	£5,000	£3,170	£3,800
Councillor Mary Fleet	£4,100	£5,000	-	£9,100
Councillor Linda Shields	£5,000	£5,000	£3,700 - £4,700	£5,300 - £6,300
Seaton				
Councillor Kelly Atkinson	£3,285	£5,000	£1,120	£7,165
Councillor Cath Hill	£4,950	£5,000	£1,120	£8,830
Councillor Paul Thompson	£4,950	£5,000	£1,120	£8,830