

# **NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA**



**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**at 10.00am**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013
  - 4.2 Matters arising.
- 5. POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS ISSUES**
  - 4.1 Presentation by the Chair of Finance and Policy Committee
  - 4.2 Public Questions to Policy Committee Chairs

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**

**7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

None

**8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**

8.1 Presentation - Cleveland Fire Service Update

**9. WARD MEMBER BUDGETS**

9.1 Ward Member Budgets – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

**11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

A Joint North and Coastal & South and Central Neighbourhood Forum meeting will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 5pm in the Council Chamber

The next North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum meeting will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 at 2pm in Committee Room B

# **NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES**

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

The meeting commenced at 2pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Chair:	Councillor Sylvia Tempest	- De Bruce
Vice Chair:	Councillor Paul Beck	- Hart
	Councillor Jim Ainslie	- Headland and Harbour
	Councillor Rob Cook	- De Bruce
	Councillor Mary Fleet	- Jesmond
	Councillor Sheila Griffin	- De Bruce
	Councillor Robbie Payne	- Headland and Harbour

Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Marjorie James, Carl Richardson and Chris Simmons

Public: John Cambridge, A Douglass, P Hayes, John Maxwell, S Nicholson, Tom Stewart, Cath and Liz Torley, Alan Vale and Dennis Wilson

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Dave Frame, Neighbourhood Manager (South)  
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager  
Adele Wilson, Community Regeneration and Development Coordinator  
Julie Hetherington, Neighbourhood Support Officer  
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Services Officer  
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)  
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)  
Fiona Stanforth, Community Regeneration Officer  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representative: N Suggitt

Cleveland Fire Representative: Steve Patton

## **11. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Cath Hill, Peter Jackson and Jean Robinson.

## 12. Declarations of Interest

None

## 13. Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013

The minutes were approved

## 13. Matters Arising

**Seacoalers** – The Chair had asked that this issue be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee and requested an update. The Vice-Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee advised that this issue would be referred to the Committee in due course. Officers continued to work with the landowners to prevent seacoalers gaining access to the beach via the Brus Tunnel. He would inform the resident who had originally raised the issue when the item was due to be considered by the Committee. The Police Representative indicated that although they were unable to prosecute for seacoaling they could prosecute for driving vehicles over a certain weight onto the beach. A Resident queried what the rules were in terms of driving vehicles onto the beach as he had been informed that public indemnity insurance was required. The Police representative advised that this depended on individual insurance policies. Given these discrepancies the police had decided to tackle the matter using other legal means available to them.

**Young people driving horse and carriages** – The Chair requested an update. The Police Representative advised that a number of offences covered this including riding in an anti-social manner, riding a horse under 14 and riding with no head gear. Several horses had been recovered under Operation Sugar Cube.

**Flytipping** – The Neighbourhood Services Officer reported that the shrubs at West View had been removed and no asbestos had been found at Old Cemetery Road. Problems caused by tree roots coming through the pavements opposite the factory units would be resolved soon as part of an ongoing programme.

**Evening meeting** – The Chair advised that following discussions between herself and the Chair of the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum a joint meeting of both forums had been scheduled for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 5pm. Owing to constitutional requirements the meeting would take place in the Council Chamber however the Chair suggested that this could be subject to a review in the new municipal year. No topic had been finalised although the environment was a possibility.

## 14. Presentation by the Chair of Adult Services Committee

The Chair of Adult Services Committee updated residents on the work carried out by the Adult Services Department. Adult Services has a £41 million budget and use it to provide support for older people, carers and adults with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, sensory loss and mental health needs. This support was increasing due to the ageing population however at the same time Government cuts meant the Committee would be considering proposals to slash £1.3 million from budgets the following year. It was hoped that a review of the Contribution Policy would contribute at least £150,000 in savings. Details were also given on the department's performance over the past year with both the carers survey and adult social care users survey identifying Hartlepool as the best performing in the region. Future aims for Adult Services were also explored including the future provision of a centre for Independent Living in Burbank Street.

Attention was drawn to the increasing pressure being placed on care services as a result of the country's ageing population. During the course of discussions, a Councillor expressed concern about the negative perception of older people and highlighted the positive contributions they had made, and continue to make, to society.

The Chair thanked the Chair of Adult Services for attending the meeting.

## 15. Public Questions to Policy Committee Chairs

No items

## 16. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

**St Hilds School** - A resident commented on the amount of rubbish being allowed to gather at the adjacent fence and asked that it be cleared every other day. The Neighbourhood Services Officer advised that the area was cleansed once a week and there were no resources available to increase this frequency however a one-off visit would be made to de-litter the site.. The Chair of Children's Services Committee commented that this was a problem around every school in the town while the Neighbourhood Manager referred those present to an ongoing programme education programme within schools which included visits by the Council's Enforcement Team.

**King Oswy School site** – A resident requested an update on a proposal to build bungalows on this site. The Chair of Regeneration Services Committee to investigate

**Seacoaling** – The Chair of Regeneration Services Committee queried when steps would be taken to prevent seacoaling in the basin on the marina. The Neighbourhood Services Officers reported that funding to buy bollards had been

approved and an order would be placed by the end of the week. Ward Councillors would be kept informed.

**17. Neighbourhood Planning Update** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

The Community Regeneration Officer advised members on the current progress on neighbourhood planning. This was a Government initiative allowing communities to formulate neighbourhood plans for their areas. When adopted these plans would become part of the formal planning process. The formal process prior to approval requires consultation, independent examination by a planning inspector and a referendum vote. Four areas in Hartlepool were at various stages in the process: Hartlepool Rural, Headland, Wynyard and Park.

A specific update on the Headland Neighbourhood Plan was presented. The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had been established in 2012 and the boundary designated in March 2013. The group have received support from Planning Aid and the Prince's Foundation and have commenced consultation with residents and businesses. A report was produced by the Prince's Foundation, this included issues and actions under a number of key theme areas for the Working Group to focus towards, this report is a starting point for the development of the Headland Neighbourhood Plan, examples of issues included 20mph zone and parking provision. Residents were urged to get involved by attending meetings of the Working Group and encouraged to contact Headland Parish Council for more details.

The Chair queried whether full consultation would be undertaken before any changes were made to parking provision and speed limits. The Community Regeneration Officer confirmed that consultation regards making the Headland a 20mph zone was ongoing with letters due to be despatched to residents and a drop in session scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Croft Rooms, Borough Hall, this would also be an opportunity to find out more information about the Headland Neighbourhood Plan. A Ward Councillor for Headland and Harbour thanked officers for their work and urged residents to get involved in the speed limit consultation and the neighbourhood plan which he felt might help improve employment prospects in the area.

The Chair thanked the Community Regeneration Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

**Decision**

That the report be noted

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

Members were informed of the current position relating to Ward Member Budget in the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum area. In April 2012 members had

been allocated £5,500 each by Cabinet to be used in 2012/2013 for the benefit of the community in their wards. A further £5,000 had been approved by Council in February 2013. All submissions were subject to delegated approval by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods. In February 2013, it was also outlined that any underspend remaining from the 2012/2013 allocation could 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 next financial year (2014/2015). Appendices were attached giving a breakdown of the current spend to date and the current running total for each ward member with remaining budgets.

A member requested clarification on the figures quoted for the Joint Hart and De Bruce Fun Day. The Vice-Chair thanked all those who had contributed to this event in aid of Hartlepool Hospice. In terms of the discrepancy in figures attributed to Councillor Linda Shields the Community Regeneration and Development Coordinator advised that a 'ballpark' figure had been used as details for the Throston Community Centre Scheme were still being finalised. A resident suggested that any unattributed funds might be donated to charity, however the Community Regeneration and Development Coordinator confirmed that the use of any underspend was a decision for Full Council and that in February 2013, Council confirmed that any unspent funds in 2013/2014 could be carried forward by individual Ward Members in to next financial year (2014/2015) for their use.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted

## **19. Any Other Business**

The Chair drew attention to a booklet giving advice on winter services and cold weather health risks.

With reference to the inspection of the Local Plan which had taken place the previous week a resident queried where the funding to build a gypsy site would be found if funding available from Central Government was not accessed before the 2015 deadline. She highlighted that the planning inspector had requested this information as well as details on the availability of places at Clavering and Hart Primary Schools. Members felt these questions were inappropriate for this forum and better suited to a full Council meeting. The Chair offered to speak to the resident regarding these issues and agree a way forward.

The meeting concluded at 3:10pm

CHAIR

# **NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**11 December 2013**



**Report of:** Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Subject:** WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

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## **1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

1.1 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 Neighbourhoods 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)<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 financial year.

## **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 associated 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. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 There are no background papers.

**16. 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](mailto: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](mailto:david.frame@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX A

## Ward Member Budget Spend 2013/14

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Date Approved	Funding Approved
<b>De Bruce</b>			
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	£304
	Joint Hart and De Bruce Fun Day	14/08/13	£766
	St John Vianney RC Church Lunch Club	03/09/13	£240
	Easington Road Roundabout Planting (Phase 2)	09/10/13	£900
<b>Hart</b>			
Councillor Paul Beck	Clavering Outdoor Learning Zone – Bird Feeding Station	04/10/13	£100
	Hartlepool & District Hospice Donation	22/10/13	£90
Councillors Paul Beck and Jean Robinson	Clavering Noticeboard	15/07/13	£875
	Joint Hart and De Bruce Fun Day	14/08/13	£510
	Clavering Dog Foul Bin & Campaign	09/10/13	£600
	Easington Road Roundabout Planting (Phase 2)	09/10/13	£600
<b>Headland and Harbour</b>			
All Councillors	Bridge Community Association Health Event Contribution	21/08/13	£300
	Asylum Seekers & Refugee Group Donation	19/09/13	£300
	Security Bollards – Middleton Beach	27/09/13	£550
	Hartlepool Gymnastics Club	23/10/13	£1,500
<b>Jesmond</b>			
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 Mary Fleet	Hartlepool Gymnastics Club Donation	14/10/13	£500
	Hartlepool Lions Hillcarter AFC Contribution	22/10/13	£150
	Dyke House Warriors Donation	22/10/13	£50
Councillor Linda Shields	Throston Community Centre Scheme Fencing	02/05/13	£3,700 - £4,700*
<b>Seaton</b>			
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
<b>De Bruce</b>				
Councillor Rob Cook	-	£5,000	£1,720	<b>£3,280</b>
Councillor Sheila Griffin	-	£5,000	£1,720	<b>£3,280</b>
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	-	£5,000	£1,720	<b>£3,280</b>
<b>Hart</b>				
Councillor Paul Beck	-	£5,000	£1,483	<b>£3,517</b>
Councillor Keith Fisher	£5,500	£5,000	-	<b>£10,500</b>
Councillor Jean Robinson	£2,737	£5,000	£1,293	<b>£6,444</b>
<b>Headland and Harbour</b>				
Councillor Jim Ainslie	-	£5,000	£883	<b>£4,117</b>
Councillor Peter Jackson	-	£5,000	£883	<b>£4,117</b>
Councillor Robbie Payne	-	£5,000	£883	<b>£4,117</b>
<b>Jesmond</b>				
Councillor Keith Dawkins	£1,970	£5,000	£3,170	<b>£3,800</b>
Councillor Mary Fleet	£4,100	£5,000	£700	<b>£8,400</b>
Councillor Linda Shields	£5,000	£5,000	£3,700 - £4,700	<b>£6,300 - £5,300</b>
<b>Seaton</b>				
Councillor Kelly Atkinson	£3,285	£5,000	£1,120	<b>£7,165</b>
Councillor Cath Hill	£4,950	£5,000	£1,120	<b>£8,830</b>
Councillor Paul Thompson	£4,950	£5,000	£1,120	<b>£8,830</b>