

COUNCIL AGENDA



Thursday 27 February 2014

at 7.00 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

- (1) To receive apologies from absent Members;
- (2) To receive any declarations of interest from Members;
- (3) To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business;
- (4) To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 11;
- (5) To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 6 February 2014 as a correct record;
- (6) To answer questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting of Council;
- (7) To answer questions of Members of the Council under Rule 12;
 - (a) Questions to the Chairs of Committees and Forums
 - (b) Questions on Police and Crime Panel and Fire Authority issues to the appropriate Members. Minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 13 December 2013 are attached.
- (8) To deal with any business required by statute to be done;
- (9) To receive any announcements from the Chair, or the Head of Paid Service;
- (10) To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any Committee to which such business was referred for consideration;

- (11) To consider reports from the Council's Committees and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
- (12) To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
- (13) To consider reports from the Policy Committees:
 - (a) proposals in relation to the Council's approved budget and policy framework;
 - (1) Formal Council Tax Setting 2014/2015 – Incorporation of Fire Authority, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Parish Council Precepts.
 - (2) Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and Action Plan – Regeneration Services Committee.
 - (b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework;
- (14) To consider motions in the order in which notice has been received; and
- (15) To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary.

Public questions for Council

Meeting Date: 27 February 2014

1.	From: Mr S Latimer
	To: Councillor C Akers-Belcher, Chair of Finance and Policy Committee
	<p>Question</p> <p><i>“Could the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee confirm whether or not he met with the developers or their representatives of the proposed 650 house development at Wynyard prior to their planning application for the development being heard by the Planning Committee. (ref: H/2013/0033).”</i></p>

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

6 February 2014

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Chairman (Councillor S Akers-Belcher) presiding:

COUNCILLORS:

Ainslie	C Akers-Belcher	Atkinson
Barclay	Beck	Brash
Cook	Cranney	Dawkins
Fisher	Fleet	Gibbon
Griffin	Hall	James
Lauderdale	A Lilley	G Lilley
Loynes	Martin-Wells	Dr Morris
Payne	Richardson	Robinson
Shields	Simmons	Sirs
Thompson		

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer
Gill Alexander, Director of Child and Adult Services
Denise Ogden, Director of and Neighbourhoods Regeneration
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director, Resources
Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health
Amanda Whitaker and Angela Armstrong, Democratic Services Team

Prior to the commencement of business, Members stood in silence as a mark of respect following the recent death of Councillor Cath Hill. Tributes were paid to Councillor Hill's qualities as a Councillor, mentor and as a friend.

Members stood in silence also as a mark of respect following the recent death of former Mayoress Violet Burton.

116. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Hargreaves, Jackson and Tempest.

117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting. Declarations were made later in the meeting (minute 130 refers).

118. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

119. PUBLIC QUESTION

Question from Mr Riddle to Chair of Finance and Policy Committee

“How many property assets has HBC disposed of since May and what is the total income to HBC from these deals?”

The Chair Finance and Policy Committee advised that the Council had sold 11 properties since May 2013 and the value was £1,844,228.

Question from Mr Riddle to Chair of Finance and Policy Committee

“Despite the scrapping of the local plan, HBC are still obliged to decide on where to accommodate a gypsy and traveller site in order to comply with European law. Do the council still intend to site it at Hart Village?”

The Chair of Finance and Policy Committee responded that at a meeting held on the 17th October 2013 Hartlepool Borough Council acting as Local Planning Authority had resolved to withdraw its Local Plan under Section 22(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by Schedule 25 Part 17 of the Localism Act, 2011.

In line with the document Planning Policy for Travellers Sites published in March 2012 in the preparation of a Local Plan, Local planning authorities had a responsibility to set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which addressed the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area.

The Council was therefore undertaking a Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment to identify the needs for Gypsy and Travellers within the Borough. Should a need be established a site or sites would be identified during the formulation of the Local Plan. At this stage a site had not been identified, nor had a need been established from this piece of work.

During the debate, issues raised by the question were discussed. Reference was made to the previous Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment which had been endorsed by the Planning Inspector. Details were sought of that Needs Assessment and the Chair agreed that clarification should be provided to Members with regard to that Needs Assessment.

Question from Mr Pocklington to Chair Regeneration Services Committee

“Please report on the success or otherwise of the Council's collective energy purchase scheme and whether or not it will be repeated this year?”

The Chair Regeneration Services Committee responded that Hartlepool had carried out its first Energy Switching Scheme between February and April 2013. Three other Local Authorities in the region and more nationwide had carried out Energy Switching schemes at the same time. Every household in Hartlepool had received information which had provided details of the scheme and how to apply. In an attempt to ensure that every resident was able to access the scheme, the Council's contact centre staff had been available to provide assistance to those people who needed it. Radio and newspaper feeds had been used also to convey the message to local residents.

As a result of this extensive coverage, over 1500 households had registered an interest in the scheme and had received offers from the successful suppliers. This was a higher figure in percentage terms than any of the other local authorities in the region. Nationally, Hartlepool had the 4th highest number of people who registered an application when viewed as a percentage of households. The number of residents who had actually completed a switching application was fewer than hoped at 138. The probable cause of this was the way the offer was constructed by the successful supplier – it was structured to offer savings in the form of a rebate at the end of the contract period. Therefore although the prices received generally provided savings in energy costs the benefits were not immediately available. It was suggested that this could have deterred many people, especially those in fuel poverty, from accepting the offer. This was something that would be considered next time.

With regard to moving forward, the Council was considering carrying out another Energy Switching scheme at some time in the future. Developments in the industry were being looked at and information was awaited on a North Eastern regional switch from the North East Procurement Organisation which was looking at switching schemes on behalf of the Local Government Association. It was highlighted that there could be some benefits from economies of scale in this approach.

Question from Mr Pocklington to Chair Finance and Policy Committee

“Can this Council assure me and the people of Hartlepool that monies given to the Better Care Fund will be ring-fenced and not used for any other purpose whatsoever?”

The Chair of Finance and Policy Committee advised that the Better Care Fund (BCF) was a pooled budget that brought together a range of funding streams to better integrate adult social care services and health, focused particularly on older people. There was a requirement that plans for use of the pooled budget to be agreed by the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group and formal approval by the Health & Wellbeing Board. Plans for use of the pooled budget were also required to identify how improvements would be delivered against national performance indicators focused on preventing avoidable admissions to hospital and residential care, reducing delayed hospital discharges and supporting people to live independently at home following a hospital stay. An element of the pooled budget was performance related and would not be released until there was evidence that progress was being made. The first draft BCF plan for Hartlepool would be considered by the Health & Wellbeing Board on 10 February with the final plan approved in March 2014 in order to meet the 4 April 2014 deadline for submission.

It was highlighted that this Council was committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for older people, fully supported the Better Care Fund principles and would ensure that the funding was used for the intended purpose. There were also governance arrangements associated with pooled budgets and performance arrangements linked to the Better Care Fund which would provide further assurance that the funding was used effectively.

During the debate, issues raised by the question were discussed including the wider determinants on health. Members accepted that considerable work had been undertaken previously and that wider health determinants were recognised in Council plans and strategies. It was acknowledged that the work already undertaken should be further developed and there was confidence that the Health and Wellbeing Board would make optimum use of the BCF funding.

120. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 5 December 2013 and the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 30th January 2014, having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

121. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

None

122. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(a) Questions to Chairs of Committees and Forums

None

(b) Questions to Police and Crime Panel and Fire Authority issues

None

Minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 18 October 2013 and 6 November 2013 had been circulated.

123. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

None

124. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

125. TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS (IF ANY) REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING AND TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF ANY COMMITTEE TO WHICH SUCH BUSINESS WAS REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION.

None

126. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

None

127. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS SPECIFIED IN THE SUMMONS OF THE MEETING

None

128. REPORT FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEES

(a) Proposal in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014/15 to 2016/17- Report of Finance and Policy Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee presented details of the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014/15 to 2016/17. During the presentation, the Chair highlighted the significant challenges facing the Council as a result of the continued reduction in Government funding which would have a disproportionate impact on the Council and the people of

Hartlepool. The Chair advised that the Committee's report to Council provided all the relevant information to enable final decisions on next year's budget to be made at the meeting. During the presentation, the Chair highlighted achievements since May 2013 and the key issues affecting the Council's financial position for 2014/15

The Chief Executive advised Council that the final settlement announcement which covered 2014/15 and 2015/16 had been issued the previous afternoon. In relation to 2014/15 the final grant cut was approximately £7,000 less than the provisional figure which had been announced before Christmas. Therefore, in line with recommendation 20.1 included in the report, which recommended that any minor change in the final grant allocation for 2014/15 should be addressed by increasing, or decreasing the use of one-off resources, the figures included in paragraph 20.21 of the report required revising, so that:

- The Gross budget deficit was reduced by £7,000 from £9.117 million to £9.110 million; and
- The use of one-off funding is reduced by £7,000 from £796,000 to £789,000. The £7,000 of one-off funding not allocated in 2014/15 could be carried forward to support the 2015/16 budget.

In relation to 2015/16 there was no change and the grant cut of £8.213 million (14.6%) as detailed in the report was therefore confirmed.

Following the debate which followed the presentation, the Chair highlighted that a letter had been received from Brandon Lewis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, regarding Recorded Votes at Budget Meetings. The Chair reminded Members that the **recommended approach set out in the letter was the practice which had been adopted by this Council for a number of years.**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5 of the Constitution, a recorded vote was taken on the following recommendations of the Finance and Policy Committee:

2013/14 Outturn Issues, including Review of Reserves (details in section 4 and 5)

Approve the allocation of the available one-off funding of £2.640m (which includes £0.680m from the 2012/13 Uncommitted Outturn, £0.860m Uncommitted Equal Pay Provision and £1.1m from the 2013/14 forecast General Fund Outturn,) to support the following issues, which for completeness includes £0.2m to support the Highways Maintenance Programme which was approved by Council on 25th July 2013:

Items to be approved by Finance and Policy Committee 31.01.14 and referred to Council 06.02.14	
- Business Rates risks	£0.900m
- Support of Local Council Tax Support scheme	£0.860m

- Support of MTFS 2014/15 to 2016/17	£0.680m
Item approved by Council 25.07.13	
- Support for Highways Maintenance Programme	£0.200m
	£2.640m

Approve the forecast General Fund Outturn and one-off commitments detailed in Appendix C, which includes £0.729m to support the 2014/15 to 2016/17 MTFS;

Note that the higher forecast General Fund Outturn detailed in Appendix C cannot be relied upon when setting the 2014/15 budget and if this higher outturn is achieved a strategy for using the uncommitted outturn will be developed as part of the 2015/16 budget proposals for approval by Members.

Approve the allocation of the one-off surplus of £130,000 achieved on the Future Jobs Fund scheme as detailed in paragraph 4.9 to support the current level of demand for Business Grants in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Approve the allocation of the one-off funding arising from Core Revenue grant changes linked to the Education Services Grant of £2.720m to support Regeneration Priorities £0.4m (as detailed in recommendation 20.41) and the core revenue budget £2.320m as follows:

- 2014/15 - £0.32m
- 2015/16 - £1.0m
- 2016/17 - £1.0m

Note that the forecast one-off funding of £2.720m which will be received in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

To note that assuming Members approve the above recommendations, **which underpin the financial strategy recommended in this report and are reflected in the budget deficits detailed in this report**, these resources will be held in a '2014/15 to 2015/16 MTFS Budget Support Fund Reserve'. For completeness the table includes one-off resources approved in the 2013/14 MTFS to show the total value of one-off funding being used over the next three years to support the revenue budget:

Summary of contributions to 2014/15 to 2016/17 MTFS Budget Support Fund

	£'000
Items recommended as part 2014/15 MTFS	
(a) 2012/13 Uncommitted outturn – paragraph 20.4	680
(b) 2013/14 Forecast Outturn – paragraph 20.5	729
(b) Core Revenue Grant changes linked to ESG – paragraph 20.8	2,320

Previously approved as part 2013/14 MTFS	
(a) Delayed Collaboration savings reserve	133
(b) 2013/14 Budget Support Fund	200
	4,062

Summary of planned use of 2014/15 to 2015/16 MTFS Budget Support Fund

Original proposal reported in main MTFS report £'000		Revised Finance and Policy Committee Proposal 31.01.14 £'000
671	Support of 2014/15 Budget	789
1,743	Support of 2015/16 Budget	1,625
1,648	Support of 2016/17 Budget	1,648
4,062	Total budget support 2014/15 to 2016/17	4,062

Funding for Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme and Local Welfare Support (details in section 7.8 and 7.24 respectively)

Note the Government's decision that from 2014/15 the specific grant to support for Local Council Tax Support schemes will be included in the Core Revenue Grant. This change will require individual Council's to determine how the Core Revenue Grant is allocated between support for the LCTS scheme and General Fund Services.

As a result of this change it is recommended that for 2014/15 the amount of grant allocated towards the MTFS is maintained at the same level as 2013/14, which underpins the recommended 2014/15 LCTS scheme to be referred to Council on 30th January 2014.

For 2015/16 it is recommended that the 2015/16 grant cut is shared across the General Fund budget and the LCTS scheme, which will reduce the 2015/16 General Fund budget cuts by approximately **£1.4m**. The forecasts in this report assume Members will confirm this proposal.

Note the Government's decision to withdraw the Local Welfare Support funding from 2015/16.

Approve the allocation of the available Local Welfare Support funding of £0.78m (i.e. forecast 2013/14 uncommitted outturn of £0.145m and 2014/15 grant allocation of £0.635m) to provide the following annual allocations over the period of the MTFS. To note this strategy does not provide a permanent funding solution and the position for 2017/18 will need to be reviewed when the MTFS is rolled forward to include this year.

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	Total £'000
Staffing resources *	80	80	80	240
Grants/support to individuals	180	180	180	540
	260	260	260	780

General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/15 to 2016/17 (details in section 8)**2014/15 Issues**

Note the actual grant cut for 2014/15 of **£5.977m**, which is a reduction of **9.4%**

Approve the budget pressures detailed in Appendix E.

Approve the following package of measures (detailed in the column headed Revised Finance and Policy Committee Proposal 31.01.14) to fund the 2014/15 gross budget deficit of £9.117m:

Original proposal reported in main MTFS report £'000		Revised Finance and Policy Committee Proposal 31.01.14 £'000
9,117	Gross Budget deficit 2014/15	9,110
(1,797)	Changes in Planning assumption (paragraph 8.3)	(1,797)
(500)	Public Health Funding	(500)
(500)	Full Year ICT saving (includes potential rental income)	(500)
6,320	Sub Total	6,313
(1,273)	Additional changes in Planning Assumptions (paragraph 8.10)	(1,273)
(4,376)	Planned savings	(4,251)
671	Sub Total	789
(671)	Use of one-off funding	(789)
0	Net budget deficit 2014/15	0

To note the use of one-off funding of £0.789m defers part of the budget deficit to 2015/16, which provides a longer lead time and is reflected in the 2015/16 forecast deficit.

Confirm that having reconsidered on 19th December 2013 the issues referred from the extraordinary Council on 19th November 2013 that the following recommendations are included in the Budget proposals to be submitted to Council on 6th February 2014:

- i) That option 3 is approved and that any unallocated Ward Member budget funds be carried forward and put in a reserve to continue Ward Member budgets for future years.

To note that based on the forecast Ward Member budget outturn for 2013/14 it is anticipated £100,000 will be uncommitted and then carried forward to 2014/15, although the final outturn will depend on the value of schemes approved before the year end.

- ii) That in response to the recommendation of Council at their Extraordinary meeting on 19th November 2013, a proportion of unspent Ward Member budget 2013/14 funds should not be allocated to support Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA) for the provision of Capacity and Resource Building in the VCS from 2014/15. Individual Ward Councillors had already made commitments to allocate £14,500 to HVDA and should other Councillors wish to do the same that was for them to decide individually as agreed at the Extraordinary meeting of Council.
- iii) That Ward Member funding be reduced in 2014/15 to fund the Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme of £34,000, as recommended by the Regeneration Services Committee on 26th September 2013.

This proposal commits £34,000 from the 2013/14 overall Corporate outturn as detailed in Appendix C and is reflected in recommendation (v) below.

- iv) That Finance and Policy Committee having reconsidered the Community Pool Funding Programme allocation for 2014/15, as previously determined by Finance and Policy Committee on 18 October 2013, in line with the proposal agreed by Council at their extraordinary meeting on 19th November, indicates that no variation to that decision be made.
- v) That the 2014/15 total Ward Member budget be set at £132,000 and funded from the overall corporate outturn as detailed in Appendix C. This will provide a budget of £4,000 for each Member, which is a reduction of 20% on the 2013/14 budget of £165,000.

Approve the proposal to earmark the temporary employers' pension contribution saving in 2014/15 in relation to the Chief Executive's post of £30,000 to increase the number of apprenticeships by 2 and to allocate these places to young people who have chosen to stay in care or care leavers.

Note that in line with the Government funding conditions for the Better Care Fund the detailed strategy for using these resources will be approved by the Health and Well Being Board and details will be reported to a future meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee and to note that the 2014/15 'Better Care Fund' includes £1.794m of existing grant which is used to fund continuing Adult Social care expenditure commitments. At this stage it is unclear what commitments need to be funded from the additional 2014/15 grant of £0.503m. For planning purposes, it is not anticipated that this will benefit the General Fund budget in 2014/15. However, there may be some limited scope to enable existing Adult Care services that contribute to the Better Care Fund priorities to be funded from this grant subject to the detailed grant conditions and details will be reported to a future Finance and Policy Committee.

Council Tax 2014/15 and 2015/16 (details in section 10)

Approve a Council Tax freeze for 2014/15

To note that on 15th January 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government wrote to Councils stating - *“Ministers have agreed that the funding for 2014/15 (including 2015/16) freeze grant should be built into the spending review baseline. This gives as much certainty as possible at this stage that the extra funding for freezing Council Tax will remain available”*.

Approve an indicative Council Tax freeze for 2015/16, and to note that the final decision will be made in February 2015 and the Government will bring forward proposals for a 2014/15 Council Tax freeze scheme in due course.

Approve the production of an explanatory Council Tax leaflet for 2014/15 to provide information on the Councils' financial position and note the cost of approximately £1,800 can be funded from existing budgets.

2015/16 and 2016/17 Issues (details in section 11)

Note the actual Core Revenue grant cuts for 2015/16 of **£8.213m**, which is a reduction of **14.6%** and anticipated further cuts in 2016/17.

Note that after reflecting the strategy detailed in this report the Council will need to make cuts of **£6.252m in 2015/16** and forecast cuts in **2016/17 of £8.655m**.

Early Intervention Grant (EIG) (details in section 13)

Approve the proposed savings detailed in Appendix K which are required to address the Government EIG grant cut of £1.512m - a 25% cut;

Public Health (details in section 14)

Approve the allocation of the forecast 2013/14 Public Health saving of £0.5m as an earmarked reserve to manage in-year Public Health risks in the first year of operating these services. In the event these monies are not needed in 2013/14 it is recommended that they are set aside to manage ongoing financial risk in this area.

To note that the use of Public Health funding of £0.5m in 2014/15 and future years to fund eligible General Fund expenditure is only sustainable whilst the existing grant continues and there is a potential risk that this grant is reduced in future years.

Capital Programme 2014/15 (details in section 15)

The following recommendations will be implemented once approved by the Finance and Policy Committee on 31st January 2014 and Council on 6th February 2014 unless otherwise stated as requiring a further report.

Note the detailed ring fenced Government Capital allocations for 2014/15, as detailed in the following table and delegate authority to the relevant Policy Committee to approve detailed proposals for using these ring fenced funds.

2013/14 Capital Grant £'000		2014/15 Capital Grant £'000
1,351	Local Transport Plan	1,556
269	Adult Social Services	275
1,144	Schools Capital Programme*	950

* estimate pending notification of actual allocation.

Approve the proposals for using the 2014/15 Council Capital Fund of £1.0m (funded from £0.6m of Prudential Borrowing and £0.4m of one-off resources) as detailed in Appendix L to fund:

- Regeneration schemes of £0.45m and delegate authority to the Finance and Policy Committee to approve detailed proposals for using these resources; and
- Property Schemes of £0.55m and delegate authority to the Finance and Policy Committee to approve virement between individual schemes if necessary once final costings are known.

Note that £0.185m of 2013/14 Council Capital Fund allocated for potential works to the Indoor Bowls Club will be carried forward as uncommitted at the year end. Any decision on the use of these resources will be subject to a separate report to the Finance and Policy Committee and subsequent referral to full Council for approval. These resources will be held as uncommitted until the detailed master planning for the Mill House site has been completed.

Note the inclusion of £2.095m with the 2013/14 Prudential Borrowing to temporary fund previously approved capital expenditure on HMR pending the completion of land sales in 2014/15 and the receipt of capital income.

Approve the Street Lamp Replacement scheme at a capital cost of £4.98m which will be funded from Prudential Borrowing and from 2015/16 achieve a minimum General Fund budget saving of £40,000 (net of annual loan repayment costs). To note that the major financial risk relates to the equipment costs which make up 75% (£3.6m) of the overall scheme cost. This risk will be managed through the procurement process and if this cost exceeds £3.6m plus 5% a further report will be submitted before the scheme progresses.

Approve the provision of car parking facilities at Macaulay Road at a capital cost of £0.145m to be funded from forecast capital receipts.

Approve the proposal to develop a detailed business case to extend the Social Housing development project, which it is envisaged will provide an additional 35 to 40 properties. If Members support this proposal the detailed business case will be submitted to a future Finance and Policy Committee and then referred to Council. The business case will outline a strategy to achieve value for money from the available Prudential Borrowing through the appropriate mix of buying and refurbishing run down properties, or the purchase of 'ready to let' properties not requiring renovation. The business case will also be linked into wider

regeneration objectives, including the Housing Market Renewal project where this is appropriate.

Approve the proposal to build an Independent Living Centre at Burbank Street and note that a detailed business case on the recommended option for achieving this development will be reported to a future Finance and Policy Committee and Council for final approval.

Approve the capital budget for the replacement of the following Operational Equipment

- Vehicles Replacement Programme – 2014/15 capital expenditure £1,115,000
- Replacement of Wheelie Bins – 2014/15 capital expenditure of £60,000

Robustness of Budget forecasts (details in section 16)

Note the detailed advice provided by the Chief Finance Officer in section 16 and the following specific recommendations underpinning this advice.

Approve the strategy for managing capital receipts risks, including the Jacksons Landing project, detailed in paragraph 16.3 (iii) and the earmarking of the following resources to manage this risk:

- Right to Buy income of £191,000;
- One-off Government Grant refund in relation to the New Homes Bonus adjustment £211,000;
- Uncommitted 'Major Regeneration Reserve' of £100,000; and
- Unused Prudential borrowing approval (repayment costs covered within the existing revenue budget) for 'Major Regeneration Projects' of £393,000.

Approve that the earmarking of the above resources is reviewed on a regular basis to determine if/when these resources can be un-earmarked and made available for other priorities determined by Members. It is recommended that the trigger points for this review will be progress in achieving the capital receipts target and progress on the Jacksons Landing project.

Those in favour:

Councillors Ainslie, C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Atkinson, Barday, Beck, Brash, Cook, Cranney, Dawkins, Fisher, Fleet, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, James, Lauderdale, A Lilley, G Lilley, Loynes, Martin-Wells, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Robinson, Shields, Simmons, Sirs and Thompson.

Those against:

None

Those abstaining:

None.

The vote was carried unanimously.

(b) Proposal for Departure from the Budget and Policy Framework

None

129. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None

At this point in the meeting, Councillors Brash and Thompson declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the meeting.

130. EXPENDITURE RELEVANT TO MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chief Executive reported that further to requests by members, information had been appended to the report which provided details of any contracts for works or services which were subject to the Council's tender process and awarded to a body/entity listed on the Member's Register of Interests during the last 3 months and details of any payments made to a body/entity listed on the Member's Register of Interests during the last 3 months.

It was noted that the information presented in Appendix D has been vetted to comply with the following requirements and that the report included the categories of member interest listed in the report and excluded a number of categories which were also detailed in the report: The report did not include information on those bodies listed on members interests forms which either did not have a supplier number on Integra or which could not be identified on Integra given the information provided.

RESOLVED –That the report be noted.

131. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Chief Executive advised Members that the Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to 'have regard to' the CIPFA Prudential Code and to set prudential indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Authority's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Act therefore required the Council to set out its Treasury Management Strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy, which sets out the Authority's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the

security and liquidity of those investments. The Secretary of State had issued Guidance on Local Government Investments which came into force on 1st April, 2004. This guidance recommended that all Local Authorities produce an Annual Investment Strategy that is approved by full Council, which was included in the report which had been circulated.

It was noted that Council was required to nominate a body to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies, before making recommendations to Full Council. This responsibility had been allocated to the Audit and Governance Committee. The Audit and Governance Committee had considered the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15 on 12th December 2013. The Audit and Governance Committee had approved the continuation of the recommended Borrowing and Investment Strategy. However, owing to the timing of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting and of capital funding announcements from the Government, it was not possible to present detailed prudential indicators. The Audit Governance Committee noted that these would be reported to full Council and are presented in this report. The late announcement of this information does not impact on the recommended strategy as the capital funding announcements relate to capital grant allocations which fully fund defined Government capital spending priorities.

The Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/2015 was presented which reflected the report presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on the 12th December 2013. The Audit and Governance Committee had scrutinised the recommended Treasury Management strategy and had approved that the strategy be referred to Full Council for consideration and approval.

It is recommended that Members consider the report detailed in Appendix C and approve the following recommendations:

- i) Approve the Prudential Indicators and Limits relating to Capital Expenditure for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 as detailed in sections 4 and 5.
- ii) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement in section 5.
- iii) Approve the Borrowing and Investment Strategies detailed in sections 6 and 7 and the continuation of the netting down of investment and borrowing noting that specific loans may be taken out for schemes approved on the basis of individual business cases.
- iv) Approve the Treasury Management Limits on Activity in section 6.
- v) Approve Treasury Prudential Indicators in section 6 & 7.
- vi) Approve the Investment Strategy Counterparty Criteria contained in section 7.

Motion agreed by show of hands. The Chair confirmed, in the absence of dissent, that this was the unanimous decision of Council.

132. CHANGE OF POLITICAL GROUP LEADER – PUTTING HARTLEPOOL FIRST

Council was advised that an appropriately completed notice had been received on 30 January 2014 in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 from the Putting Hartlepool First Group making a change to the group's leader and deputy leader appointments.

Council was requested to note that the leader of the Putting Hartlepool First Group was now Councillor Dawkins, with Councillor G Lilley as deputy leader.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 p.m.

CHAIR

CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

13 DECEMBER 2013



PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN:- Cllr Robbie Payne – Hartlepool Borough Council
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Carl Richardson, Ray Martin-Wells
MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Shamal Biswas, Janice Brunton, Garry Clark, Naweed Hussain, Peter Sanderson
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Brian Briggs, Norah Cooney, George Dunning, John Hannon, Sue Jeffrey, Mary Ovens
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Gillian Corr, Evaline Cunningham, John Gardner, Jean O'Donnell, Mick Stoker, William Woodhead
AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Legal Adviser/Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Hazel Pearson – Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher – Hartlepool Borough Council

82. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no Declarations of Interest were submitted to the meeting

83. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Ordinary Meeting on 18 October 2013 and Extraordinary Meeting on 6 November 2013 be confirmed.

84. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 22 November 2013 be confirmed.

85. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

The Chairman informed Members of the receipt of the following communications:-

Brandon Lewis MP

- Fitness & Capability Consultation
- Reducing Data Burdens on Local Authorities
- Open Letter to Firefighters re Strike Action 1/11/13 + 4/11/13

Local Government Association (LGA)

- FBU Strike Action
- Fire Communities Priorities and Visits Programme 2013/14
- Pay Policy & Practice – Guidance for Councillors
- Consultation on the bidding process – Service Transformation Funds
- FPS and NFPS Pensions Contribution Increase - Consultation Briefing
- Guidance note on withdrawing early retirement concessions

Tom Blenkinsop MP - Public Service Mutual

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

86. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

86.1 Information Pack

86.1.1 Fire and Rescue Service Monthly Bulletins

86.1.2 Employers Circulars

86.1.3 National Joint Circulars

RESOLVED – that the Information Pack be noted.

87. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

87.1 Information Pack

Councillor Stoker outlined the areas scrutinised by the Audit & Governance Committee at the 15 November 2013 meeting.

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted

88. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006

RESOLVED - “That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006”.

Paragraph 3 - namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information.

Paragraph 4 – namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

89. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 18 October 2013 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 6 November 2013 be confirmed.

90. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 22 November 2013 be confirmed.

91. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

91.1 Draft Strategic IRMP 2014-18

The CFO presented the Draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014-18.

91.2 Trade Dispute

91.2.1 Verbal Progress Report

The CFO updated Members on the latest position regarding the trade dispute.

91.2.2 DCLG Consultation on Fitness & Capability

The CFO updated Members regarding the DCLG Fitness and Capability Consultation.

91.2.3 Partial Performance Policy

This report was withdrawn for consideration at a future meeting.

**COUNCILLOR ROBBIE PAYNE
CHAIRMAN**

COUNCIL

27th February, 2014



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: FORMAL COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2014/2015 –
INCORPORATION OF FIRE AUTHORITY, OFFICE
OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND
PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable Council to set the overall level of Council Tax following the notification by precepting authorities i.e. the Fire Authority, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Parish Councils of their Council Tax levels for 2014/2015.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At your meeting on 6th February, 2014, Members considered and approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which included approving a 2014/15 Council Tax freeze for this Authority's element of the Council Tax.
- 2.2 In accordance with statutory requirements the Council now needs to approve the overall Council Tax, inclusive of precepts set by the Fire Authority, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Parish Councils.
- 2.3 Both the Fire and Police precepts are subject to the Council Tax referendum thresholds and both are eligible to receive the Council Tax freeze grant if they determined to maintain their individual Council Taxes at the levels set in the current year.
- 2.4 The Fire Authority set its precept on 14th February 2014 and a 1.9% increase in its Council Tax for 2014/15 was approved.
- 2.5 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Council Tax for 2014/15 recommended by the Police and Crime Commissioner was set on the 5th February, 2014 and is an increase of 1.997%.

- 2.6 The Council Tax bills for Hartlepool residents will clearly show that Hartlepool Council froze its own tax and will show the relevant percentage increases for the Fire Authority and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

3. DETERMINATION OF OVERALL COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- 3.1 The determination of the overall Council Tax level is a statutory function, which brings together the individual Council Tax levels determined by this Council, Cleveland Fire Authority, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and where applicable Parish Councils.
- 3.2 The Table below shows the statutory Council Tax calculations incorporating the 2014/15 Council Tax levels approved by the Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cleveland Fire Authority.

	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Hartlepool Borough Council Basic Amount without parishes or special items	945.80	1,103.43	1,261.07	1,418.70	1,733.97	2,049.23	2,364.50	2,837.40
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	134.83	157.30	179.77	202.24	247.18	292.12	337.07	404.48
Fire Authority	46.03	53.71	61.38	69.05	84.39	99.74	115.08	138.10
Areas without a Parish Council	1,126.66	1,314.44	1,502.22	1,689.99	2,065.54	2,441.09	2,816.65	3,379.98

- 3.3 The statutory calculations incorporating the 2014/15 Council Tax levels approved by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Fire Authority and the Parish Council Precepts are shown in Appendix A , Table 3.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Council is requested to approve the statutory calculations detailed in Appendix A, which include the precepts set by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Fire Authority and Parish Councils.

5. CONTACT OFFICER

Chris Little
 Chief Finance Officer
 Tel: 01429 523003
 Email: chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

**SUPPORTING STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS - COUNCIL TAX FREEZE
(UPDATED TO REFLECT FINAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
SETTLEMENT)**

- 1 Full Council needs to approve the following supporting statutory amounts which must be calculated by the Council for 2014/2015 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and relevant regulations:

- i) To note that on 31st January 2014 the Finance and Policy Committee approved the 2014/15 Council Tax Base for:
- The whole Council area as 21,900.8 Band D equivalents in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended; and
 - For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as follows:

Parish Council Tax bases (Band D Equivalents)

Dalton Piercy	100.7	Greatham	566.3
Elwick	446.0	Hart	287.3
Headland	683.9	Newton Bewley	30.3

- 2 That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes (excluding Parish precepts) is £31,070,665.
- 3 That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and relevant regulations:-
- (a) £87,676,700 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and relevant regulations.
- (b) £56,584,358 Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimate will be payable to it in respect of Revenue Support Grant £30,951,521, Business Rates Baseline Funding of £25,374,088 and the estimate to be paid from the Collection Fund of £258,749 as at 31st March 2014, in accordance with Section 97 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government Charges for England (Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits) Regulations 1995 amended.

- (c) £31,092,342 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3 (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (d) £1,419.69 Being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £21,677 Parish Precepts Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- £14,023 Concurrent Services - as detailed in Table 1 to this Appendix.
- (f) £1,418.70 Being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts), which has the effect of freezing the Council's element of Council Tax at the current level.
- 4** The Basic Council Tax for 2014/15 calculated in accordance with Section 34 (3) for dwellings in those areas that have a Parish precept as set out in Table 2 to this Appendix.
- 5** Approve in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the aggregate amounts shown in Table 3 to this Appendix the amounts of Council Tax for 2014/15 for each part of the Council's area and each of the categories of dwellings.
- 6** Approve that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 of £1,418.70, detailed in 3 (f) above is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and that no local referendum will be carried out in relation to Chapter 4ZA of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 7** Approve the amount of Council Tax including the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner precepts, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the relevant inclusion of amounts of Council Tax for each category of dwelling in accordance with Sections 43 to 47 of the Act as set out in Table 3 to this Appendix.

TABLE 1 - Council Tax For Parish Councils 2014/2015

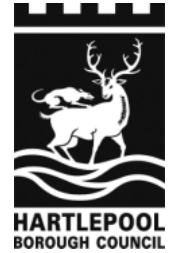
	Precept (1)	Parish Tax Base (2)	Parish Council Tax (3) [=(1)/(2)]	Basic Council Tax (4)	Billing Authority's Council Tax (5) [=(3)+(4)]	Precept met from Council Tax Support Scheme	Concurrent Services	Total Payment to Parish
Parishes	£ p		£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Dalton Piercy	5,355	100.7	53.18	1,418.70	1,471.88	458	2,839	8,652
Elwick	5,026	446.0	11.27	1,418.70	1,429.97	327	6,553	11,906
Greatham	2,667	566.3	4.71	1,418.70	1,423.41	534	1,385	4,586
Hart	3,157	287.3	10.99	1,418.70	1,429.69	239	3,246	6,642
Headland	5,293	683.9	7.74	1,418.70	1,426.44	2,707	0	8,000
Newton Bewley	179	30.3	5.91	1,418.70	1,424.61	16	0	195
	21,677					4,281	14,023	39,981

TABLE 2 - Council Taxes For Each Property Band 2014/2015**(Excluding Parish Precepts and excluding Office of Police and Crime Commissioner & Fire Authority)**

Parishes	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Dalton Piercy	981.25	1,144.79	1,308.34	1,471.88	1,798.97	2,126.04	2,453.13	2,943.76
Elwick	953.31	1,112.19	1,271.09	1,429.97	1,747.74	2,065.51	2,383.28	2,859.94
Greatham	948.94	1,107.09	1,265.26	1,423.41	1,739.73	2,056.03	2,372.35	2,846.82
Hart	953.13	1,111.98	1,270.84	1,429.69	1,747.40	2,065.10	2,382.81	2,859.38
Headland	950.96	1,109.45	1,267.95	1,426.44	1,743.43	2,060.41	2,377.40	2,852.88
Newton Bewley	949.74	1,108.02	1,266.32	1,424.61	1,741.19	2,057.76	2,374.35	2,849.22
Areas without a Parish Council	945.80	1,103.43	1,261.07	1,418.70	1,733.97	2,049.23	2,364.50	2,837.40

TABLE 3 - Council Taxes For Each Property Band 2014/2015**(Including Parish Precepts, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner & Fire Authority)**

Parishes	Council Tax Bands							
	A £ p	B £ p	C £ p	D £ p	E £ p	F £ p	G £ p	H £ p
Dalton Piercy	1,162.11	1,355.80	1,549.49	1,743.17	2,130.54	2,517.90	2,905.28	3,486.34
Elwick	1,134.17	1,323.20	1,512.24	1,701.26	2,079.31	2,457.37	2,835.43	3,402.52
Greatham	1,129.80	1,318.10	1,506.41	1,694.70	2,071.30	2,447.89	2,824.50	3,389.40
Hart	1,133.99	1,322.99	1,511.99	1,700.98	2,078.97	2,456.96	2,834.96	3,401.96
Headland	1,131.82	1,320.46	1,509.10	1,697.73	2,075.00	2,452.27	2,829.55	3,395.46
Newton Bewley	1,130.60	1,319.03	1,507.47	1,695.90	2,072.76	2,449.62	2,826.50	3,391.80
Areas without a Parish Council	1,126.66	1,314.44	1,502.22	1,689.99	2,065.54	2,441.09	2,816.65	3,379.98



Report of: Regeneration Services Committee

Subject: HARTLEPOOL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT
AND ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask Council to adopt the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Action Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and Action Plan, if adopted, will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework.
- 2.2 There are a number of relevant policies within the 2006 Hartlepool Local Plan which this SPD links to including GN1 (Enhancement of the Green Network), GN3 (Protection of Key Green Spaces), GN5 (Tree Planting), WL2 (Protection of Nationally Important Nature Conservation Sites), WL5 (Protection of Local Nature Reserves) and GEP9 (Developer Contributions). Under Planning Law an SPD must link to adopted policies within the Local Plan.
- 2.3 The SPD and Action Plan have been subject to two consultations over the past nine months. This finalised document takes account of representations made during those consultations from organisations including statutory consultees such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage as well as from other local organisations such as the Tees Valley Nature Partnership and from local residents and groups.
- 2.4 To assist in the production of the document the Council received £5,000 from Natural England.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The purpose of this SPD is to seek to protect and enhance the green infrastructure within the Borough. 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. The Action Plan will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains up to date.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 During an 8 week consultation period earlier in 2013 a total of 17 representations were made to the Green Infrastructure SPD and Action Plan. The main points of the representations were included in a revised document where they were considered appropriate. The revised SPD and Action Plan were then subject of a re-consultation with those organisations and individuals who initially commented. A further 9 representations were received during the 2nd consultation and comments have now been incorporated into the final versions of the SPD and Action Plan.
- 3.4 A Consultation Statement has been prepared to outline the changes sought and officers comments on how or if they are included.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Green Infrastructure SPD is part funded by Natural England who have already paid £5000 grant towards its production on the basis that the documents will be adopted prior to the end of March 2014.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If the SPD is not adopted prior to the end of March 2014 (there are no Council meetings scheduled for March) there is a risk that Natural England will require us to pay back the £5000 grant which has already been paid to the Council.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 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 and indeed a requirement through the NPPF to produce proactive strategies to combat flooding; the provision of high quality green infrastructure, which includes SuDS ponds, has the ability to mitigate against potential issues in terms of flooding.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The first consultation period on the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and the Action Plan 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. Given that the second consultation period was a focused consultation involving those parties who previously made representations; it was not considered that the statutory 8 week period was needed and that a four week period was acceptable in this instance.

8. SECTION 17

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Safety and security is a key consideration when assessing landscaping schemes; however the issue is not specifically addressed in this SPD as this is a more strategic level document. Reference to this is made in the Trees and Development SPD and in Policy GEP3 (Crime Prevention by Planning and Design) in the 2006 Local Plan.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Council Adopt the Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and Action Plan.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 These documents will form part of the Local Development Framework and will be a critical tool in securing developer contributions and helping the Council to deliver high quality green spaces with the Borough.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 The following documents can be viewed in the Members Library, are available for Members of the public from Democratic Services or can be viewed online:
- Consultation Statement outlining the changes sought and officers comments on how or if they are included
http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/10869/hartlepool_green_infrastructur_e_spd-consultation_statement-feb_2014
 - Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document
http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/10867/hartlepool_green_infrastructur_e_spd-version_for_council-feb_2014
 - Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Action Plan
http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/10868/hartlepool_green_infrastructur_e_spd-action_plan-version_for_council-feb_2014

12. CONTACT OFFICER

- 12.1 Denise Ogden
Director Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS25 8AY
- 12.2 Author:
Matthew King
Senior Planning Officer
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS25 8AY

Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document and Action Plan

Consultation Statement – January 2014

Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Action Plan has been prepared by Hartlepool Borough Council with financial support from Natural England. The draft SPD and Action Plan was published for public consultation on the 4th April 2013 which ran for an 8 week period until 30th May 2013. A 2nd focused consultation was undertaken between 9th December 2013 and 10th January 2014 on the amended SPD and Action Plan with those organisations which had commented during the 1st consultation.
- 1.2 Section 2 of this document outlines the consultation processes and provides details of those people and organisations who were consulted and how the consultation process was advertised.
- 1.3 Section 3 of the document gives a summary of the consultation responses and provides the Council's response to each element i.e. whether the suggestion has been accepted and the document amended or whether the suggestion was not considered appropriate and the reason why.
- 1.4 Section 4 gives a brief overview of the next steps in the process of adopting the SPD and Action Plan.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 The 1st public consultation began on the 4th April 2013 and was advertised and the documents made available in a range of ways, listed below:
 - The documents were made available as part of the Cabinet meeting process which approved the documents for public consultation.
 - A Public Notice was published in the Hartlepool Mail on Friday 5th April 2013.
 - Copies of the documents were placed in two Council buildings; the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool and also in Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool.
 - Copies of the documents were placed in the following libraries; The Central Library, The Headland Library, Throston Library, Owton Manor Library, Seaton Library, The Mobile Library.

- The Documents were uploaded onto the Planning Policy element of the Council's Website.
 - A survey monkey questionnaire was created (this was run by Corporate Strategy).
 - Copies were distributed at some relevant meetings including an INCA meeting held at the Power Station and at a North Linnear Park meeting.
- 2.2 There was also a large number of consultees (408 external) sent letters and asked to comment. These included English Heritage, Natural England, The Highways Agency, The Environment Agency, Sport England Northern Region, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Tees Valley Nature Partnership, Parish Council's, Neighbouring Authorities, house builders and many others. A Full list of consultees is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 As well as external organisations and individuals there were a range of individuals within the Local Authority contacted for their views including Sport and Recreational officers, Parks and Countryside officers, Highways, Landscape Architects, Ecology, Arboricultural officers, Environmental Services officers and housing officers.
- 2.4 Towards the end of the process English Heritage requested a short extension to the period to enable them to comment. This request was granted and they submitted a response on the 17th June 2013.

3. Consultation Responses to 1st consultation and HBC Response

- 3.1 During the consultation 17 responses were received. 15 of these were by letter/email and two responses were received as part of the survey monkey questionnaire.
- 3.2 The 17 responses were received from the following people/organisations:
- Councillor Paul Thompson
 - James Copeland, NFU
 - Chris Scaife, Countryside Access Officer, HBC
 - Allan Wise, Huntsman Tioxide
 - Fens Residents Association
 - Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum
 - Natural England
 - Minna West, Elwick Parish Council
 - Nigel Bell, Yuill Homes
 - Michael Hout, Highways Agency
 - Leah Remington, Groundwork North East
 - Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership
 - Lucy Mo, Environment Agency
 - John Dixon, Stockton Borough Council
 - Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust
 - Beryl Bird, Tees Valley Local Access Forum

- Alan Hunter, English Heritage

3.3 Table 1 lists the issues raised within the representations received during the 1st consultation and notes where the Council amended the SPD or Action Plan to reflect the comment.

Table 1 – Comments Received and HBC Response

Consultee	Para/Section	Comment	HBC suggested response
Councillor Paul Thompson	Action Plan	Would like to see Seaton Carew Linnear Park included.	Agreed. Promenade Linear Play spaces masterplan to be included.
National Farmers Union	Page 7, 2 nd Paragraph.	How will modern farming buildings and structures needed to meet national legislation (welfare, etc.) and government targets (commitment to produce at least 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020) be considered within 'Traditional farming'?	Para states that traditional farming will sit alongside other uses – it is not expected that renewable energy schemes for example are considered traditional farming. No change.
Chris Scaife, Countryside Access Officer, HBC	Page 10	Shape of Summerhill Country Park needs altering. Land which runs down towards Brierton Lane is not part of the Country Park.	Agree to change.
Chris Scaife, Countryside Access Officer, HBC	Page 12, 1 st Para.	Last sentence should read: "...this route will have the legal status and title of English Coastal Path and will be..."	Agree to change.
Allan Wise, Huntsman Tioxide	Whole SPD / Action Plan	Provided information on Greenabella Marsh. This is an area in their ownership which has public access.	Agree to add info into SPD on Greenabella Marsh. Should improvement schemes or other works be proposed in the future these could be added to the Action Plan.
Fens Residents Association	SPD	Accepts that the green wedge as part of the South West Extension cannot be included at present but	Noted, and agree Fens Residents would be a key consultee.

APPENDIX 1

		request that they be a key consultee if the Local Plan is adopted and includes the SWE. At that point the document would need to include the green wedge.	
Fens Residents Association	SPD/Action Plan	Should the SWE green wedge occur in future it should link to wider vision for the whole watercourse which is formed by Greatham, Dalton and Char Becks. This comes under the umbrella of the Tees Catchment Plan. There are opportunities for wetland creation downstream from the Fens to the railway line.	Noted and agree this is an opportunity. Reference to the watercourses and possible future enhancements will be made.
Fens Residents Association	SPD/ Action Plan	Developer contributions should always be spent firstly in the areas immediately impacted by developments before any residue is spent elsewhere.	Noted and agree.
Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum	SPD	Has impact of Claxton Development been considered?	Comment noted. Yes it is considered, however until Local Plan is adopted cannot add the green wedge to the SPD and Action Plan.
Natural England	SPD / Action Plan	In general these documents are extremely useful, being well written and easy to follow and understand. Welcome commitment to adopt documents and for them to form part of LDF.	Support noted and welcomed.
Natural England	SPD	Improved consistency between maps would be beneficial. Eg Map 2 shows coastal designations but map 4 does not.	Agree to amend maps
Natural England	SPD / Action Plan	SPD appears to focus mainly on targets that can be influenced by HBC but does not give much consideration to GI benefits that can be realised by individuals in their gardens.	Agree to make reference to this in document.
Natural England	SPD	Page 11, Access across the former industrial area at the Headland may also be addressed through the implementation of the planning permission for development.	Agree to make reference to potential housing scheme at Britmag.
Natural England	SPD	Page 12, DEFRA stands for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – Not Fisheries.	Agree to make change.
Natural	SPD	Page 21. Hartlepool Borough also	Agree to make change

APPENDIX 1

England		includes the northern section of the Teesmouth National Nature Reserve.	to reference this.
Natural England	Action Plan	Page 1. What frequency will the Action Plan be updated?	This is covered on page 25 of SPD. Agree to add reference within Action Plan as well for clarity.
Natural England	Action Plan	Page 4. The Environment Agency should also be considered as a potential key partner for enhancement projects along the coast.	Agree to make reference.
Natural England	Action Plan	A number of the enhancements identified in the AP have already been identified and some are already underway. Has consideration also been given to potential future enhancements and aspirations?	Yes, many of the schemes are drawn up but do not have funding and are aspirational. The fluid nature of the AP will allow for new projects to be added when they are identified. No change.
Natural England	Action Plan	The actions for the rural area appear to focus on access – has consideration been given to other GI asset creation or enhancement?	The schemes included were those identified, however very happy to add new schemes as and when identified. Some, such as watercourses have been identified within the consultation and will be included.
Minna West, Elwick Parish Council	SPD	Elwick Parish Council fully supports the proposals in the SPD.	Support noted and welcomed.
Nigel Bell, Yuill Homes	SPD	Yuill Homes does not wish to make any comment on this document.	Noted.
Michael Houtt, Highways Agency	SPD	The HA has reviewed and considered the documents but has no specific comments to make.	Noted.
Leah Remington, Groundwork	SPD/Action Plan	Further information on allotments would positively improve the SPD. Information provided on the community allotment at Waverley Terrace.	Agree to include information on allotments.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	TVNP very much welcomes the production of a GI SPD which will support and implement policies and proposals on GI and the wider natural and built environment within	Support noted.

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		the H'pool Local Plan.	
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	Intro provides useful context but could go further by expanding on the multifunctional benefits of GI to show how it cuts across a number of service areas and can play a role in meeting several key objectives including stimulating economic growth, place building, local identity, improving & enhancing biodiversity & the natural environment, climate change adaption & mitigation, health & well-being and recreation & leisure	Agree to expand on the multifunctional benefits element of the introduction.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	Intro could also consider the role of GI benefits to ecosystem services. Eg How products obtained from ecosystem provisioning services such as food, fuel and fresh water link through to GI benefit areas of biodiversity, land management and health and well-being.	Agree to strengthen this element.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	To emphasise the prominent role of GI in the policy process at the outset of the Policy Context section state that the document has been prepared within the context of up to date European and national legislation and reflects the key themes of policy guidance. Ref to the Natural Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, 2011) needed. The White Paper refers to the role of urban green infrastructure as completing "the links in our national ecological network" and "one of the most effective tools available to us in managing environmental risks such as flooding and waves".	Agree to strengthen links to legislation and to make ref to White Paper.

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Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (2011) could be referred to. It builds on the White Paper and sets out how international and European commitments are to be implemented and achieved. Action 3.4 sets out how the approach of the planning system will guide development to the best locations, encourage greener design and enhance natural networks.	Agree to add reference to Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (2011).
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD / Action Plan	SPD & Action Plan should strengthen links with TV GI Strategy to illustrate strategic networks better. Strategic green corridors could be illustrated on Map 1 or a separate map to illustrate where links/corridors need to be strengthened.	Agree to improve links to TV GI Strategy and to illustrate strategic corridors on a map within the SPD.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	Could also refer to the following docs: Tees Valley Economic & Regeneration Statement of Ambition (TVU 2011) Hartlepool Landscape Assessment Strategic Flood Risk Assessment TV & Hartlepool Climate Change Strategies Local Transport Plan and Cycling Strategies GI Strategies for Stockton and Durham	Agree to make reference to these documents to help emphasise a co-ordinated approach with other strategies.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD - Visions and Objectives section	This section is generally strong and covers the range of objectives expected in a local GI Strategy. It may be worth trying to make objectives more concise, perhaps making clear the difference between those that relate to the broader principles of GI and those that relate to desired "outcomes"	Support of section noted. Agree to look at objectives to see if they can be made more concise.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD – Existing GI in Hartlepool	At present role of GI is addressed very much on a site by site basis. Although sites/areas are important, it is also important to take a strategic overview of the Borough to address the context of specific sites within the wider GI network.	Agree to look to look at the strategic context in more detail. Map 1 was meant to help give this type of strategic context, but agree this could be improved.
Tees Valley	SPD – Map	Map 1 should capture all sites and	Agree to alter Map 1 to

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Nature Partnership	1	assets listed in section and developed a common framework to assess each site, particularly in terms of its current status strengths, weaknesses etc.	ensure all elements in the section are captured on the map. Agree to look at presentation of sites to ensure they all look at same criteria such as strengths, weaknesses etc.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	A more strategic overview would help to show where existing networks are weak or missing altogether – this could help to set priorities for network improvement/enhancement for the future. A map illustrating desired GI network would be very helpful and could also show how the Hartlepool network links to networks in other authorities.	Agree to look to create a map which shows GI on a more strategic level taking into account TV GI corridors and those within neighbouring authorities.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	The SPD should also refer to other social, economic and environmental data that could be used to inform local GI planning and help to set priorities for future action eg Open Space audit, PPG17 Assessment and Natural England's Accessible Natural Space (ANGST+). Also Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – to show how GI can play a role in flood alleviation The Index of Multiple Deprivation	Agree to add reference to these documents and some key data from them.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD – element on Wildlife Habitats	Could be expanded to say a bit more on the significance and evaluation of wildlife habitats and their biodiversity value. Many of the land use typographies mentioned also have a high wildlife value. The document states that “away from the coast, the wildlife habitats in Hartlepool are generally small in extent and widely dispersed...expanding and linking these habitats together is a key objective.” This objective is welcomed but there should also be	Agree to expand on this. Support welcomed. Reference to the importance to be added as well as how it is being addressed strategically.

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		some indication on why this is important and how it has been addressed strategically and in the accompanying Action Plan.	
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD – element on Wildlife Habitats	The function and importance of LNR's could be mentioned, perhaps emphasising their significant role in providing access to nature on the doorstep of many local communities.	Agree to add reference to function and importance of LNR's.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	The Action Plan is an essential element to show how challenges and priorities addressed in the strategy can be implemented and developed "on the ground". There is perhaps too much focus on specific sites without tackling the strategic priorities or initiatives needed to develop a coherent GI network in Hartlepool. The sub areas are essentially rural, urban and coast with little discussion on how they relate to and enhance each other.	Note the concern re: specific sites against strategic priorities. It is hoped the changes to Map 1 / possible inclusion of an additional "strategic map" in the SPD will help to show this relationship. However it is also essential for the planning function of the Action Plan to have specific schemes included so that developer contributions can be directed to schemes within the locality of the development.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD / Action Plan	Within GI the most interesting landscapes can be the links between the built environment and the more natural, greener spaces. These areas need good design principles which can be applied through the planning and development process. While providing trees and cycle paths is valuable, it is important to work closely with developers to get the right sort of layouts, protect key areas and getting the right amount of appropriate mitigation. These principles and working relationships should be emphasised to show how new development can be integrated into the green environment.	Agree with comment. This is something the planning process in Hartlepool always attempts to do. Will emphasise this within the SPD and in the Action Plan where there are developments we are aware of.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	It may help if all projects could be presented in the same format; objectives, project summary,	Where this is possible the Action Plan will do this. However due to

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		outputs, timescales, costs, funding opportunities, partners and so on.	levels of detail on some schemes it is not always possible to go into this level of detail.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	Quick wins are useful, however Action Plan should set out milestones towards achieving more ambitious and strategic objectives.	Many of schemes included in the Action Plan are strategic level schemes which would take many years to deliver and develop. It may be that once a “strategic map” is produced within the SPD that other “strategic schemes” may come to light and need to be included within the Action Plan.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	Document has strong emphasis on urban green space improvement and management. Less formal green spaces and rural areas seem to take a back role with few plans for their enhancement and potential opportunities around ecosystem services and their role for biodiversity and future ecological networks.	Agree that focus is on urban area at present and would welcome suggestions for rural schemes to be included.
Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	Further discussion around GI in future areas proposed for major new development would be useful.	Agree to look at this.

4. Consultation Responses to 2nd Focused Consultation

- 4.1 This consultation was undertaken to ensure that those who made comments during the 1st consultation were happy with the revised document. The 17 organisations and individuals (listed at 3.2) were sent copies of the revised SPD and Action Plan and given 4 weeks to submit any comments.
- 4.2 Eight of those organisations and individuals submitted further representations. One further representation was received from one of the Parish Council's who had become aware of the document. This representation has been accepted and included with the other comments, shown in table 2 below.
- 4.3 Table 2 below records the representations received during the focused consultation and notes the Council's response to them, including where comments have been included in the final documents.

Table 2 – Comments received during focused consultation and HBC response

Consultee	Para/Section	Comment	HBC suggested response
Robert Smith, Fens Residents	SPD, Watercourses	<p>The watercourse which rises at Elwick as the Char Beck, becoming Dalton Beck and then Greatham Beck until its confluence with Greatham Creek is of considerable importance as a wildlife corridor and provider of high quality riparian habitat supporting many species of plants, mammals, birdlife and invertebrates.</p> <p>It should be protected, along its whole length, from the impacts of future housing developments by the provision of significant green wedges which should be managed to expand and enhance biodiversity and human well being.</p>	Noted, additional text to be inserted into the SPD to reflect this.
Alan Hunter, English Heritage	General	No substantive comments to make. Both documents appear to recognise the heritage value of some of the Borough's GI.	Noted.
Alan Hunter, English Heritage	Action Plan	It is worth bearing in mind that where GI improvements are proposed that might impact directly or indirectly upon heritage assets, there is an opportunity to modify those interventions in such a way as to safeguard or even re-establish what it is that makes those assets significant in heritage terms.	Noted. Will ensure the Conservation Team are involved in the development of schemes which come forward.
Michael Hoults, Highways Agency	General	The Agency is generally supportive of green infrastructure, notably its role in supporting sustainable travel, in this case the Agency has	Noted.

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		no specific comment to make in relation to the proposed SPD.	
Chris Scaife, HBC, Rights of Way Officer	Page 4 & 6	Slight amendments to text in relation to footpaths / walkways.	Noted and Agreed.
Kate Wheeler, Natural England	General	Overall the revised GI SPD and Action Plan is well structured and detailed. It appears many of the points raised by Natural England have been covered.	Noted.
Kate Wheeler, Natural England	SPD and Action Plan	Many of the identified actions are a continuation of ongoing work. Again, we would encourage the SPD and action plan to be as aspirational as possible, identifying new opportunities for GI and priority habitat creation. This is addressed somewhat where there is an aim to create new routes (e.g. page 6)	Noted. Similar comments received from the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. Hopefully some of the text they have provided will address this issue.
Kate Wheeler, Natural England	Action Plan	The action plan has little focus on biodiversity/wildlife in relation to specific projects. We would welcome more specific references to priority habitat creation and supporting objectives of Tees Valley BAP at the identified project sites, and to support the Wildlife Habitats and Waterways sections of the main SPD document (pages 26-27)	Noted. Similar comments received from the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. Hopefully some of the text they have provided will address this issue. Additional information has also been added to the Habitats and Waterways sections.
Kate Wheeler, Natural England	SPD and Action Plan	Throughout, ensuring the outcomes and benefits are clearly stated (social, economic, environmental) to ensure the document sends a strong message/rationale to decision makers and incentive for local authority department or third party as to why projects should be implemented.	Noted. Will try and strengthen the outcomes and benefits of schemes where possible.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	General	We consider that it is a much improved document. The points below are intended to be helpful and constructive and are simply suggestions. We recognise the tight timetable that you are working under and that it may not be	Noted.

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		possible to address some of the wider issues raised.	
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Introduction	You may wish to introduce the concept ecosystem services in section “Who benefits from Green Infrastructure.”	Noted. Will include some information on ecosystem services.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Policy Context	This is much improved and now provides a strong policy context, both in national and local policy integration.	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Policy Context	We welcome the reference to the Residential Design and Sustainability SPD and the role of well planned and managed GI here.	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Vision and objectives	Under Objective descriptions – We welcome the addition of new areas of woodland in objective 4.	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Strategic GI – making sure Hartlepool fits in	This now provides a robust context to the plan. Note- The Tees Forest is included as a green infrastructure resource. (fig 4). Understand that this is taken from the TVU GI Strategy; The Tees Forest now no longer exists as a policy or organisation.	Note, will remove reference to Tees Forest as an organisation.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Existing GI in Hartlepool	This is well described.	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Existing GI in Hartlepool	Good to see the link to strategic flood risk assessment and Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Audit and Assessment (2008).	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Existing GI in Hartlepool	Welcome the strengthened links between GI and cultural heritage (e.g. Ward Jackson and Rossmere Park).	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Rights of Way	Although rights of way are mentioned as networks of footpaths on some section, an overview of the rights of way network within the GI appears to be lacking and a future plan for strengthening and maintaining these and the role they play in linking elements of GI. We found this surprising as you have an excellent rights of way section at	The Rights of Way shown on the plans throughout have been drawn up with the Rights of Way Officer to show existing, upgradable and aspirational routes. Perhaps the text can be strengthened and will look to see if the

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		HBC.	diagrams can be altered to make these stand out better.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Wildlife Habitats	We welcome the addition of section on wildlife habitats. We particularly welcome the addition of the sentence on page 23 “Expanding and linking these habitats....” but this may fit better in the objectives section rather than be the description of existing GI. Perhaps it would be relevant in this section to make brief reference to the borough’s Local Sites.	Will include within the objectives section as well. Reference and information on Local Sites will also be added.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Wildlife Habitats	In this section we could provide you with two maps, one of designated sites in Hartlepool and the other a map of UK BAP habitats. This would help give a flavour of the types and diversity of the wildlife habitats and species.	Noted. HBC has received the maps from the TVNP and will include in this section.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Wildlife Habitats	There is no mention of wildlife value of brownfield sites. Brownfields are mentioned in the Objective Description for objective 2 as supporting redevelopment of brownfield land. However some brownfield land is “Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land” and is a UK Priority habitat (England – Habitat of Principle importance). In the Tees Valley we are one of the few areas of the UK where the location and wildlife interest of brownfield land is well documented, due to the work of INCA, TVWT and Buglife. We consider that inserting a paragraph on the significance of brownfield habitat here would be useful and also inserting an aspiration on the objectives section. We can assist with providing some draft text if that would be helpful.	Noted. HBC has received text on this from the TVNP and will include in this section.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Waterways and Wetlands	We welcome the addition of the section on Waterways and Wetlands, with its recognition of their importance. The strategic improvements are especially welcomed.	Noted.

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Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD	We welcome the addition of the section on the historic environment which demonstrates the sense of place that the historic environment and GI plays in Hartlepool.	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Investment in GI	We didn't know if it was appropriate here to make reference to the reduction in local authority budgets that will be available for maintenance of HBC Parks and Open spaces, as this will have huge implications over the next decade on the delivery of any GI strategy and make partnerships and external opportunities for funding for delivery/management even more significant.	Noted and will include.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	SPD – Investment in GI and Objective	The importance of community groups in GI delivery could be improved. Although they are mentioned in action plan we consider that their contribution at a strategic level needs to be recognised in this document. In Hartlepool there are a number of "Friends of " groups who are currently playing a significant role in improving , caring for and engaging others in Parks, Cemeteries and Countryside Sites. In addition their involvement also provides opportunities for local people to be activity engaged in their community and provides a sense of pride and ownership. Their role is likely to grow in significance with anticipated reduction in local authority funding. We suggest an objective in the strategy is the continued development and support of "Friends of " groups to work in partnership to maintain/ improve the quality of Hartlepool's GI .	Noted, will include additional text and a new objective.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	General	An overall comment, from an LNP perspective, would be to emphasise the % or importance of biodiversity a little more strongly. Sometimes this element of GI	Hopefully, with the additional text, maps and objectives provided by TVNP this will come across more strongly

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		loses out in terms of developer contributions.	within the document. Some further text will be added regarding biodiversity within the element on developer contributions.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	General	Welcomed, the acknowledgement of development implications and opportunities for GI. Separate paragraph on the principles used to ensure development delivers GI priorities, would help in the delivery of the document.	Noted.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	The Action Plan appears very detailed (use of specific costs) and as a result may lack relevance, depending on timescale.	The costs are necessary to assist in obtaining developer contributions. As the Action Plan will be regularly updated, costs will be reviewed to ensure they remain up-to-date.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	A few non costed aspirational projects, especially on the urban fringe and in rural areas would add greater diversity and balance to the document. Case studies, with photos and more detail for biodiversity gain / habitat creation, in Hartlepool would help balance the report	TVNP to provide some text on aspirational projects which they are aware of which will be included in the Action Plan.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	A Heavy bias towards Green Wedges (formal areas), with a lack of expansion on the role of other GI assets, such as LNR's, LWS's, etc, along with other semi natural biodiverse areas, such as becks, hedgerows, relic Woodland, especially in relation to climate change adaptation. It is mentioned, but only in a sentence or paragraph, in comparison to the pages given to formal green wedges. A section referring to the principles of connectivity, movement, opportunities, enhancement in relation to the designated and non designated areas would help in ensuring resources are targeted more	The bias within the Action Plan stems from these being projects we are aware of. Will strengthen the desire to see opportunities for enhancement in relation to more natural GI.

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		effectively for specific biodiversity gain, such as SUDS being designed to maximise biodiversity and not just for engineering and aesthetic benefits.	
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	Maintenance and Management is a key consideration and an opportunity has been omitted in demonstrating how biodiverse solutions to open space management is often the most cost effective and long term sustainable approach, even within more formal, initially well funded sites.	Noted, and will include.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	Relating to brownfield land in particular – there is a long corridor of it between Belle Vue Way and the coast and it is the most important non-statutory wildlife area outside of the borough's extreme perimeters.	Will work with the ecologist to put information and aspirations for this corridor into the Action Plan.
Sue Antrobus, Tees Valley Nature Partnership	Action Plan	In particular there is the need to either state in the introduction that the action plan is limited to those projects that are already planned, or else it needs to include some outline of long term aspirations. The main GI document does list a number of these aspirations, if only by showing them on the maps, but these need to be reflected somehow in the action plan or be explicitly excluded from the current action plan.	Hopefully the information on aspirational schemes provided by TVNP will ensure the Action Plan covers this.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	General	We welcome the focused re-consultation, in particular the new Waterways and Wetlands proposals.	Noted.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	General	We welcome the previous comments that have now been adopted into the Green Infrastructure strategy.	Noted.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	Allotments / Action Plan	We advise the particular attention should be paid to ensuring waste refuge is available on allotments when waterbodies are adjacent to an allotment site.	Noted. To be included.
James Hudson, Environment	SPD	The Strategy should extend outwards to demonstrate links with surrounding local authorities and	This was amended in the last version – with links into key areas of

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Agency		their green infrastructure networks	neighbouring Boroughs GI shown.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	Waterways	Greater emphasis should be placed on watercourses and river corridors such as the watercourses along Crimdon Beck, Hart Beck, the beck that runs north of Blakelock Road, Greatham Green, Claxton Beck and North Bum;	Noted. The text on this element has been expanded.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	Waterways	River corridors could be linked to other greenspaces as well as wildlife corridors.	Noted – the rivers obviously play a vital role in a number of green spaces, including helping to reduce flooding of those spaces.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	SPD	Create and enhance wildlife corridors, linking existing and potential wildlife sites; Create and/or enhance access networks linking important nodes such as recreational, educational and employment sites.	The SPD and Action Plan have attempted to do this – liaison between various Council officers and the Rights of Way officer has resulted in the existing, upgradable and aspirational routes being included.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	SPD / Action Plan	Street trees within verges and planters could be promoted in all new developments. Though consideration will need to be given to their long term maintenance	This is a primary aim of our Trees and Development SPD which will sit alongside this SPD. Reference to street trees is also made in this SPD.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	Action Plan	The Burn Valley Gardens Masterplan may need to be revised to ensure compliance with Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives if further work is envisaged	Noted.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	Action Plan	There seems to be an emphasis on hard landscaping and sports facilities such as the skate park. If this is to be included as green infrastructure, this should be explained in the introduction	Noted. The skate park is one small element of a much larger park and is an integral element which ensures the children which use it have a sense of pride and help to look after the park.
James Hudson,	Action Plan	It may be beneficial to have 'secure by design' principles	Noted. If developed, secure by design will

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Environment Agency		applied to the outline designs for the creation of new parks such as Central Park and Golden Flatts.	be a key consideration.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	General	Further to our previous consultation, we welcome reference to the Seaton Carew Bating Waters being a key priority for the Environment Agency and the requirement to bring failing waterbodies up to a 'sufficient' standard as part of the Bathing Waters Directive.	Noted.
James Hudson, Environment Agency	Waterways and Wetlands	<p>We welcome the inclusion of the waterways and wetlands section, in particular opportunities to de-culvert watercourses. In support of this, we would like to highlight a specific opportunity to de-culvert a watercourse that crosses the Esplanade for approximately 100m which joins the sea at grid reference NZ5220830901.</p> <p>We would support the inclusion of text which states that particular attention should be paid to waterbodies which are failing the WFD due to obstructions for fish passage or wildlife.</p> <p>We also recommend that water quality associated with WFD should be captured within the policies in this section. Flood alleviation via a green approach can also be captured within the policies in this section along with a stronger emphasis on sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).</p>	Noted. Will include text to highlight these opportunities. HBC engineers will need to be consulted regarding the esplanade to ensure they are comfortable with that being included. This will be investigated and if appropriate included in the 1 st update of the Action Plan.
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	General	In general the SPD looks very comprehensive	Noted.
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Vision	We particularly like the vision and the clear commitment to include trees and woods as part of any new development and to ensure that ancient woodland and ancient trees are protected. The wording that such protection is "imperative" comes across as very powerful.	Noted.

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Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Page 3	There is some very good description of the role and benefits of green infrastructure. You could mention here that some types of GI deliver a wider range of benefits than others: for example natural greenspace delivers additional biodiversity benefits; woodland delivers these but also others such as shading in hot weather, sequestration of carbon from atmosphere and improvement to air quality (by filtering out pollutants from the air).	Noted and will include.
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Page 8	There is some good wording on page 8 about the ability of certain types of GI to enable wildlife to move and adapt to the impacts of climate change.	Noted
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Page 10	The economic value of GI is well set out on page 10. There was some very good work done a few years back by the Natural Economy North West project on the economic benefits of GI and I believe that much of this is still available on the internet.	Noted
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Page 5	There is a reference to the Countryside Agency – can you make it clear this is now part of Natural England	Noted and agree to change.
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Page 14	You state on page 14 that you will be revising your Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit and Assessment (2008) sometime during 2014. The Woodland Trust advocates the use of access standards to determine the need for different types of GI and we have developed our own Access to Woodland Standard, which has been adopted by a number of local authorities including Leeds and Calderdale. We would be keen to contribute to the revision of your open space assessment when this is carried out.	Noted. Will involve the Woodland Trust in the consultation.
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Management of GI	This is an important issue, particularly in times of tight budgets when the potential	Noted and will include.

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		ongoing maintenance costs might deter a landowner or developer from including GI in their plans. The Woodland Trust has produced a report which shows clearly that woodland is much cheaper to manage in the short and long term than other types of GI, such as short mown grass. We would welcome a reference to the findings of our report at this point in your SPD.	
Nick Sandford, Woodland Trust	Action Plan	There are a number of references to tree planting and woodland creation. We would be interested in talking to the Council further about how we might be able to help in supporting woodland creation on these sites, working with the local community, developers, landowners etc.	Noted and will contact you in relation to discussing projects.
Brian Walker, Greatham Parish Council	General Comments	Greatham seems to have been overlooked. Greatham has a wonderful rights of way network which links Hartlepool to the exceptionally wildlife sites at Cowpen Bewley Wildlife Park and to the Ramsar site at Seal Sands. There is potential to improve this network for access to industrial areas at Claxton and Seal Sands as an alternative to accessing these areas by road. Further improvements could be made to link to the RSPB site at Saltholme, especially as the RSPB has an interest in the new tidal area being developed by the Environment Agency at Greatham Creek. We also feel it is important for Greatham Beck to receive greater recognition as a wildlife corridor, as it is in the Teesside document. The beck feeds/runs into the nature sites at Greatham Creek and Seal Sands and provides a link from those sites into the heart of the rural west of Hartlepool. The local nature reserve at Greatham Beck/South Fens is also very hard	Work has been undertaken in the amended document to improve the rights of way text. Also work on natural and semi natural areas of GI has been included as have the text on Waterways, in particular Greatham Creek.

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		to see on the map overlaid as it is by boundaries and leisure route markings.	
Brian Walker, Greatham Parish Council	General Comments	It does feel as if this policy document is distinctly Urban-centric, concerned very largely with the open spaces in the urban area while neglectful of the opportunities to support the villages such as Greatham and their economies through supporting and encouraging the potential available. Green links/routes also seem to be almost all orientated east-west. Continue this way and one produces disconnected sandwiches of green - there needs to be some north-south connections introduced now before the town spreads further west.	The urban feel probably comes from the number of schemes within the Action Plan being in the Urban Area. As previously noted, the Action Plan is a living document which can be updated when new schemes arise. The Nature Partnerships text on aspirational schemes may help address this.

5. Next Steps - Adoption

- 5.1 The comments received during the consultation periods have, where appropriate, been included into the finalised versions of the SPD and Action Plan. These will be taken to full Council in February 2014 for adoption.
- 5.2 It will be important following the adoption that the documents, in particular the Action Plan, are kept up to date and modified to reflect any changes in GI provision or emerging opportunities across the Borough.

List of People/Organisations Consulted during 1st Consultation

Contact Name (if any)	Name/Organisation
	DEFRA
Christine Blythe	EDF Energy
Ray Levy	Northern Gas Networks Ltd
	British Telecom
Emily Forsythe	The Crown Estate
Mr M J Means	Defence Land Agent
	North East Strategic Health Authority
	Department for Transport
Alan Hunter	English Heritage
Lucy Mo	Environment Agency
Richard Pow	Forestry Commission
Mr K J Ensell	Hartlepool Water
Michael Houlton	Highways Agency Northern
GVA Grimley	Crown Commissioners
Miss Laurie Norris	National Farmers Union
David Greenwood	Northumbrian Water
Marie Higgins	Sport England Northern Region
John Cunliffe	Dalton Piercy Parish Council
Minna Ireland	Elwick Parish Council
John Cunliffe	Greatham Parish Council
Mr R Gray	Hart Parish Council
Mrs Christine Nowell	Newton Bewley Parish Meeting
Valerie Adams	Darlington Borough Council
Paul Clarke	Middlesbrough Borough Council
Alex Conti	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Rosemary Young	Stockton Borough Council
Mike Alum	Durham County Council
Christopher Barnard	New Deal for Communities Trust
Robin Daniels	Tees Archaeology Service
Malcolm Steele	Tees Valley Unlimited
	Emergency Planning Officer
Steve Davies	Police Crime Prevention Officer
	County Fire Brigade
	North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Trust
Helen Cassini	Crown Castle International
	Able UK Ltd
Mark McMullan	Asda
David Barker	David Barker
Dan Mitchell	Barton Willmore
	Brenda Road Properties Limited
Paul Newman	EDF British Energy,

	CJC
	Cameron Hall Developments Ltd.,
	Cameron's Brewery
Mr H J Williams	Dean and Chapter of Durham,
Daniel Robinson	Gus Robinson
	Youngs Recycling
Mr Windebank	Heerema
Mr John Herbert	John Herbert
Trevor Cartner,	Helios Properties
Mr Bryn Hughes	HMS Trincomalee Trust
Bill Beattie	Huntsman Tioxide Ltd
Ian Butler,	J & B Fuels
A Pailor	J J Hardy & Sons Ltd
	Lorne Stewart
George Gandy	Manches LLP
	Mandale Properties
Allan Henderson	Marina
	McAlpine & Sons
Mr & Mrs D Ogle	Mr & Mrs D. Ogle
David Robinson	P D Ports
D C Handley	ConocoPhillips UK Ltd
Mark Rycraft	Middleton Grange Shopping Centre
	Stadium Group Ltd
F Sturrock	F Sturrock
Mike Dunton	Tesco
Mr & Mrs P A Wood	Mr & Mrs P A Wood
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Mr Iain Wright, M.P	MP
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	Jomast Construction Ltd
	Leebell Developments Limited
	Talyor Wimpey UK Limited
	McNicholas Bros
Tim Williams	Miller Homes
Richard Tindale	Persimmon Homes
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Louise Nicholson	Yuill Homes Ltd
	Anchor Housing Association
	Accent North East
Mr C Hughes	Endeavour Housing Association
Susan Douglas	The Guinness Trust
	Home Group Ltd
	Tees Valley Housing Association
Ann Barker	Homes & Community Agency

	Three Rivers Housing Group
Sebastian Hanley	Dialogue
	Jones Day
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Mrs Johnson	Grindon Parish Council
Mr P Healey	Wolviston Parish Council
Mrs L A Wardle	Monk Hesleden Parish Council
Mr A P Abbot	Sheraton with Hulam
Mr G Reid	Wingate Parish Council
	The British Wind Energy Association (BWEA)
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Noel Jackson	Durham Bat Group
	Legato Properties
	La Farge Aggregates
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Damien Holdstock	National Grid plc
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	Friends of Ward Jackson Park
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	Hartlepool Crime Prevention Panel,
	Hartlepool People Ltd
	Muslim Welfare Association
	Rural Housing Trust
	Safe in Tees Valley
	Wharton/Errol Street Residents Group
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	Banks
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	Hartlepool Golf Club
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	Hartlepool United Football Club
	LARA Motor Recreation
	Seaton Carew Sports and Social Club
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Lynn Burn	Teessmouth Field Centre
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	Sustrans
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	James Barr
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	Landmark Partnership
	Limes Development
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	Matthews & Goodman
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Justin Gartland	Nathanial Lichfield and Partners
Malcolm Walker	Peacock & Smith
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	Raymond Barnes
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	Sanderson Wetherall
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	WSP Development
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	Brougham Primary School
	Catcote School
	Clavering Primary School
	College of Art
	Dyke House School
	Eldon Grove Primary School
Steve McDonnell	St Peters Elwick Primary School
	English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College
	Fens Primary School
	Golden Flatts Primary School
	Grange Primary School
	Greatham CE Primary School
	Hart Primary School
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	Hartlepool Education Development Centre
	Hartlepool Sixth Form College
	St Hild's School
	High Tunstall School
	Jesmond Gardens Primary School
	Kingsley Primary School
	Lynnfield Primary School
	Manor College of Technology
	Owton Manor Primary School
	Rift House Primary School
	Rossmere Primary School
	Sacred Heart RC Primary School
	Holy Trinity CE Primary School
	Springwell School
	St. Aidan's Primary School
	St. Bega's RC Primary School
	St. Cuthbert's RC Primary School
	St. Helen's Primary School
	St. John Vianney RC Primary School
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School
	St. Teresa's RC Primary School
	Stranton Primary School
	Throston Primary School
	Ward Jackson Primary School
	West Park Primary School
	West View Primary School
Mr A Brahimi	Mr A Brahimi

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	Mr R Dixon
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	NEDL
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Ed Alder	BenBailey Homes
Carol Watkin	Keepmoat Partnership
	Dunelm Property Services Limited
	Lovell Partnerships Limited
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Margaret Haughey	West End Residents Association
Angie Wilcox	Manor Residents Association
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	Housing 21
	Malcolm Arnold
David Loughrey	ASP Services
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David Stovell	David Stovell & Millwater
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	Ancient Monuments Society
	Council for British Archaeology
	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
	Georgian Group
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Steven Allison	Headland Residents Association
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Mary Mincher	West View Residents Association
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Michael Ward	Fens Residents Association
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Rosemary Kennedy	Rossmere Residents Group
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Brian McBean	Hartwell Residents Association
Wendy Hay	Marmion Estate Residents Association
John Osbourne	Residents of St Aidens (ROSA)
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Christopher Akers-Belcher	Rift House East Residents Association
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John Lauderdale	Oxford Road Residents Association
Charles Hardcastle	
Matthew Wyatt	JWPC
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	National Federation of Gypsy Liason Groups
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Daniel Chant	Gladman Developments
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Melys Pritchett	Savills
Jane Harrison	Country Landowners Association
Sean Hedley	Hedley Planning Services