

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



**Monday 12 May 2014**

**at 9.30 am**

**in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS:** NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Ainslie, Barclay, Dawkins, Gibbon, Jackson, Loynes and Tempest

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record of the meeting held on 15 April 2014 *(previously circulated)*

**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

No items

**5. KEY DECISIONS**

- 5.1 Headland Walls and Block Sands Coastal Protection Works – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*

**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 6.1 Kesteven Road Traffic Regulations Order – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*



**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 Our Place Programme – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*

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

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Date of next meeting** – to be confirmed in the new municipal year.



# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

12<sup>th</sup> May 2014



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

**Subject:** HEADLAND WALLS AND BLOCK SANDS COASTAL  
PROTECTION WORKS

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision test (i) and (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference No. RN14/14

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 This purpose of this report is to:-

- Inform Members of the findings of the Headland Coastal Defence Condition Survey which commenced in Autumn 2013;
- Update Members on progress made to date regarding coastal protection options for the Headland frontage;
- Present the preferred option of works and set out the perceived risks and the financial/ legal considerations;
- Update members on progress made regarding '*Partnership Funding*';
- Note the requirement for Hartlepool Borough Council financial contribution;
- Request Committee approval for the scheme and set out the next steps towards implementation.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Strategy Study Review for North Sands to Newburn Bridge incorporating Hart Warren (hereafter 'the Strategy') was adopted by the Environment Agency in April 2014. The Strategy sets out the Council's proposals to

manage the Headland frontage over the next 100 years and was approved by Members in May 2013.

- 3.2 The Strategy covers a frontage that runs from North Sands (Crimdon Beck) at its northern extents down to Newburn Bridge in the southern extremity and covers elements of the Shoreline Management Plan
- 3.3 The Hartlepool Headland and Block Sands frontages are exposed to extreme North Sea tidal and wave conditions. The coastline is characterised by sandy beaches and European and Internationally designated rocky foreshores, supporting various protected species.
- 3.4 The Strategy confirmed that coastal erosion is a key risk to Hartlepool. It included the derivation and justification of preferred coastal protection options for the full frontage. The Headland Walls and Block Sands areas have been developed further during the production of a Project Appraisal Report (PAR).
- 3.5 In October 2013, the Council commenced the production of a PAR, effectively producing a business case to the Environment Agency for funding to upgrade key coastal structures around the Heugh Gun Battery and Block Sands.
- 3.6 Production of the PAR involved the assessment of existing defence condition, the evaluation of assets at risk from coastal erosion, the development of a Preferred Option and the identification of potential contributors (both financial and in-kind).
- 3.7 Works around the Heugh Gun Battery have been identified as a 'Project for Accelerated Growth' (PAG) and as such are required to have work started on site by April 2015.
- 3.8 The frontage has been divided into Management Units (MU6 to 14). The Headland Walls and Block Sands frontages are divided by the Heugh Breakwater (a privately owned structure) but have similar characteristics and assets at risk. A plan outlining the scheme frontage and key issues is provided in **Appendix A**.
- 3.9 The PAR was fully funded by the Environment Agency (£120k in total).

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Headland Walls and Block Sands frontages are under significant pressure from wave attack, erosion and overtopping. Significant sections of the seawall are in very poor condition and have zero residual life. A condition survey was undertaken in 2011 and updated in October 2013. It is evident that the defence condition has further deteriorated between the two surveys with some further significant damage occurring in January 2014 which required emergency repairs. Without significant maintenance or

improvement the defences are likely to fail, exposing the coastline and assets behind.

- 4.2 A continuing reduction in beach levels is threatening the integrity of the existing defences. The sand levels on the beaches previously protected the toe of the defences by dissipating wave energy, but erosion over time has reduced this effect.
- 4.3 The seawalls are frequently overtopped during storms, making the promenade unsafe for pedestrians. The existing defences have voids behind them and these voids have formed as a direct result of fill materials being lost through openings in the masonry front, often leading to some settlement of the promenade, which subsequently requires re-instatement.
- 4.4 Ultimately the rate of wall deterioration is already exceeding the maintenance budgets that the Council has to repair reactively, leading to an increasing risk of major failure over time.
- 4.5 Erosion bands developed under a 'do nothing' scenario estimate that a total of 562 residential and commercial properties will be lost by year 100. Coastal erosion will also impact on infrastructure such as the loss of a major Northumbrian Water pumping station and sewer network, the coastal road (access along Marine Drive), the Lighthouse and the Scheduled Ancient Heugh Gun Battery as well as the Coastal Footpath and the Town Moor.
- 4.6 An Environmental Baseline report was submitted to the Council's Planning Authority who agreed that the proposed scheme is not perceived to have any significant long-term adverse impact on landscape or water resources. The proposed works will also help maintain and enhance access for tourism and recreation. However potential habitat loss associated with the increased footprint of the coastal structures within the environmentally designated areas, is a significant environmental concern. Therefore determining that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. Natural England are also required to issue a letter in support of the scheme before funding will be granted.

## **5 THE PROPOSED SCHEME**

- 5.1 In order to make a reasoned decision as to how to manage the Headland and Block Sands frontages under a 'Hold the Line' policy, a wide variety of options were considered. The options from the Strategy were taken forward and developed further. The advantages and disadvantages of each option were considered at an Optioneering Workshop attended by Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Council and Mott MacDonald Coastal Engineering Specialists (Nov 2013).
- 5.2 During the optioneering workshop key criteria were considered including: design life, constructability, maintenance, cost, adaptability, habitat impact and creation, impact on coastal processes, sustainability, regeneration,

public accessibility and social acceptability. Each option was scored and ranked in a Multi Criteria Decision Analysis. Through this process a number of options were eliminated and a Preferred Option was chosen.

- 5.3 Residents were invited to express their opinions through a series of public open days where both the shortlisted options and then the final Proposed Option were showcased.
- 5.4 The preferred option is for a low level granite rock armour revetment and a full concrete encasement around the Headland Walls area and a concrete stepped revetment for the Block Sands.
- 5.5 The preferred option has been optimised by spreading the expenditure over several years taking into account the level of exposure and the existing damage in each of the management unit to minimise costs.
- 5.6 Due to the varied condition and relative exposure of the existing defences, the preferred option provides a composite solution with staggered construction which is more cost effective. The phasing of the works are proposed as follows:-

**Construction in 2015-2017:**

- Rock armour revetment and concrete encasement (above level of rock revetment) in MU8-9 and half of MU7,
- Stepped revetment and concrete encasement in MU13 and 14,
- Full concrete encasement (without rock armour) for MU10 and remaining half of MU7.

**Construction in 2020-2021 (undertake maintenance in meantime):**

- Full concrete encasement at MU6, 12 and remainder of MU13.
- Concrete encasement to the seawall in MU11.
- Full concrete encasement for the rest of MU14 except the area of vegetated beach.

- 5.7 **Appendix B** provides an overview of the preferred option and a breakdown of the work phasing.

**6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 A comprehensive consultation process was carried out during the PAR development to ensure any potential environmental and social impacts were identified and key stakeholders including the public had the opportunity to contribute their views. The preferred PAR options and their environmental potential impacts have been considered in more detail in the Environmental Baseline report and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The proposed scheme has not received any significant objections from any stakeholder organisations.
- 6.2 Two public drop-in sessions were held at the Borough Hall on the Headland and these sessions were well attended by both the public and the press. There is unwavering community support for the scheme to preserve the

Headland and Block Sands, particularly the area surrounding the historic Heugh Gun Battery.

## **7. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 In Management Units 7-11 there are significant risks of seawall collapse due to undermining of the wall toe; this will only worsen in time with reduced beach levels and wave cut platform lowering. Significant sections of the structure have zero residual life and are vulnerable to collapse, potentially releasing fill material behind the walls onto the designated platform. Routine maintenance is undertaken by the Council; however maintenance spends are becoming unsustainable and with predicted sea level rise a permanent long term solution is required before a significant failure occurs.
- 7.2 Northumbrian Water have recently upgraded their sewer infrastructure assets along the Block Sands frontage which now serves the entire Headland community. Continuous protection along the frontage and specifically at the location of these new works is required to reduce the risk to the sewage assets, which if disturbed would cause significant disruption, damage to property, a public health and safety risk and potential detrimental impact on the local marine environment.
- 7.3 The Headland Walls section of this scheme is classified as a PAG (Project for Accelerated Growth). This allows funding to be granted upfront to allow the scheme to progress on the provision that construction starts before the start of April 2015. It is therefore important to obtain Committee approval for the scheme to allow commencement of the Detailed Design, Planning and Environmental Assessments as well as Contractor procurement, to start construction on time. There is a risk that if this deadline is not achieved future funding for this scheme is unlikely and the residual risk of defence failure will remain with the Council primarily responsible under the Coast Protection Act 1949.

## **8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The production of the PAR was fully funded through the Environment Agency.
- 8.2 Under the '*Partnership Funding*' regime that came into force in 2011, all potential Flood and Coastal Risk Management projects are now required to identify potential beneficiaries to the scheme and seek a contribution. The Council, PD Ports and Northumbrian Water have been identified as potential contributors to this scheme.
- 8.3 The scheme is partly funded by the Environment Agency under their Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) programme to the value of approximately £6.3million.

- 8.4 A further £300k has been secured from the Local Levy as a contribution to the scheme.
- 8.5 The Council have offered to take responsibility for the short section of sea wall currently owned by PD Ports for a period of 100 years in exchange for a £425k contribution from PD Ports towards the cost of the capital upgrade of the seawall defences in these areas. This responsibility will be taken by the Council following sectional completion of works over the next five years. After 100 years the responsibility of the named sections will revert back to the original agreement. It is anticipated that this liability will be minimal given the schemes 100 year design life.
- 8.6 Negotiations with Northumbrian Water for a financial contribution are currently ongoing.
- 8.7 The Council are required to contribute £2million towards the cost of the scheme. £200k of this has already been achieved through a reduced maintenance regime while the PAR has been developed and a further £1.8million will be prudentially borrowed through the coastal protection budget on the basis that future maintenance costs should be substantially reduced once the scheme is complete. It is anticipated that the Council's contribution will be reduced if further contributions can be secured.
- 8.8 By utilising the above funding streams it is anticipated that the Council can generate approximately £7million in contributions for an asset that the Council are ultimately responsible for.

## **9. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 Any contribution from PD Ports is dependant on the Council taking sole ownership of the Headland Walls for a 100 year period. This will need to be covered by a legal agreement between the Council and PD Ports.
- 9.2 Under Section 4 of the Coast Protection Act 1949 the Local Authority has a responsibility to protect the coast against erosion and encroachment of the sea. The implementation of the proposals set out in Section 5 above will help the authority fulfill its reasonability.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no equality or diversity implications to this report.

## **11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no Section 17 implications to this report.



## **12. NEXT STEPS**

- 12.1 Following consideration of the report by the Committee, should approval to proceed with implementation of the scheme be given, detailed design will commence. Throughout the detailed design there are various other permissions and consents that need to be achieved before site work can commence. The main approvals are discussed below:-

- The scheme will require planning approval; this is anticipated to be submitted November 2014.
- A Marine Management license will be required for the proposed new structure on the foreshore; this is anticipated to be submitted November 2014.
- Natural England will need to be satisfied that the proposed scheme will not have any undue impacts on the designated foreshore; this will be identified as part of the planning approval.

## **13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 The Committee approve construction of the works subject to gaining the necessary further approvals.
- 13.2 The Committee note the financial strategy documented in Section 8 and refer this issue to Finance and Policy Committee and then Council to seek approval for prudential borrowing subject to gaining approval of the business case from the Environment Agency.

## **14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 The works are commensurate with the Council's duties and responsibilities as Local Lead Flood Authority and Coast Protection Authority.

## **15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 The study documents and business case proposals to the Environment Agency are available on [www.hartlepoolcoastal.com](http://www.hartlepoolcoastal.com).

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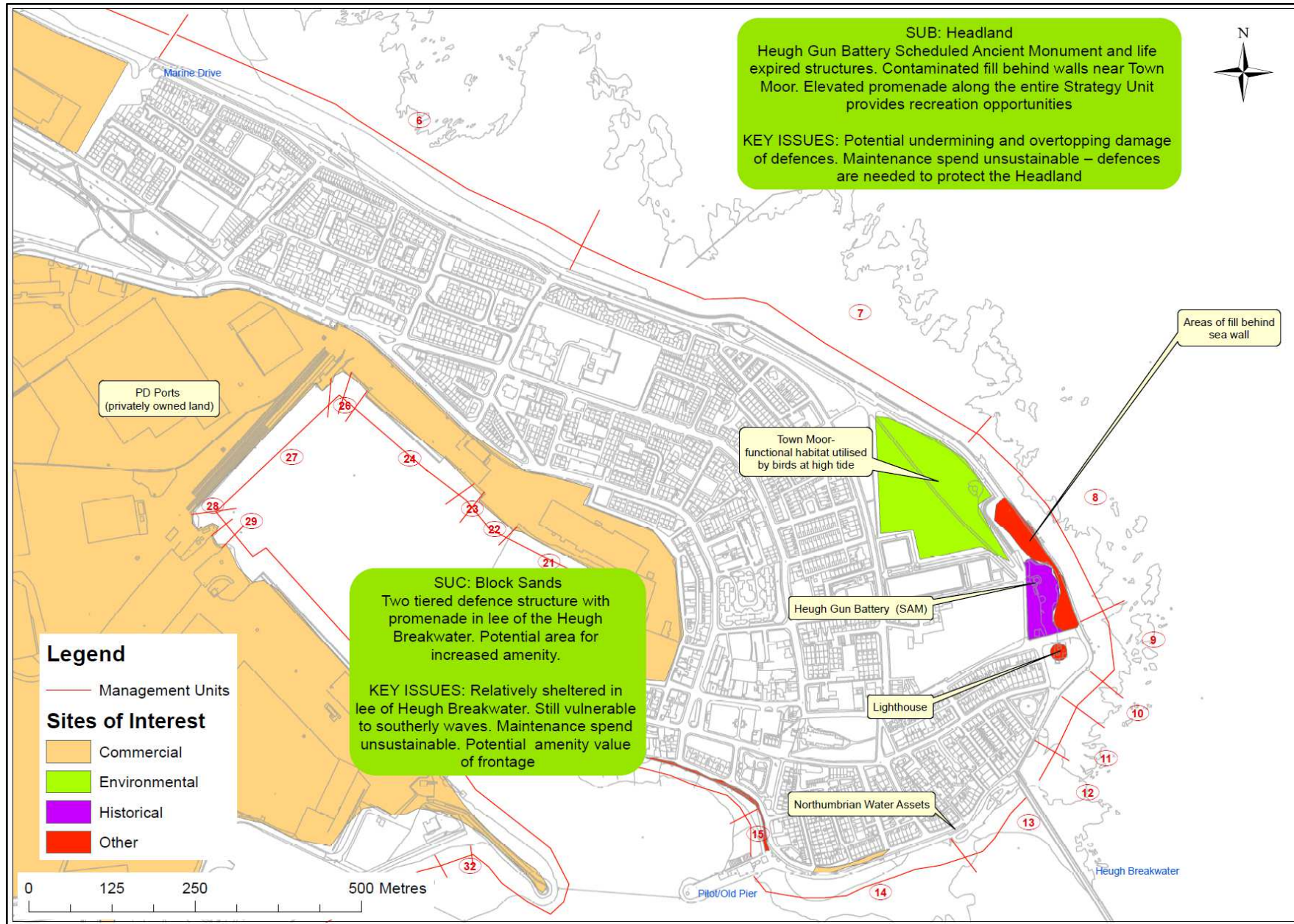
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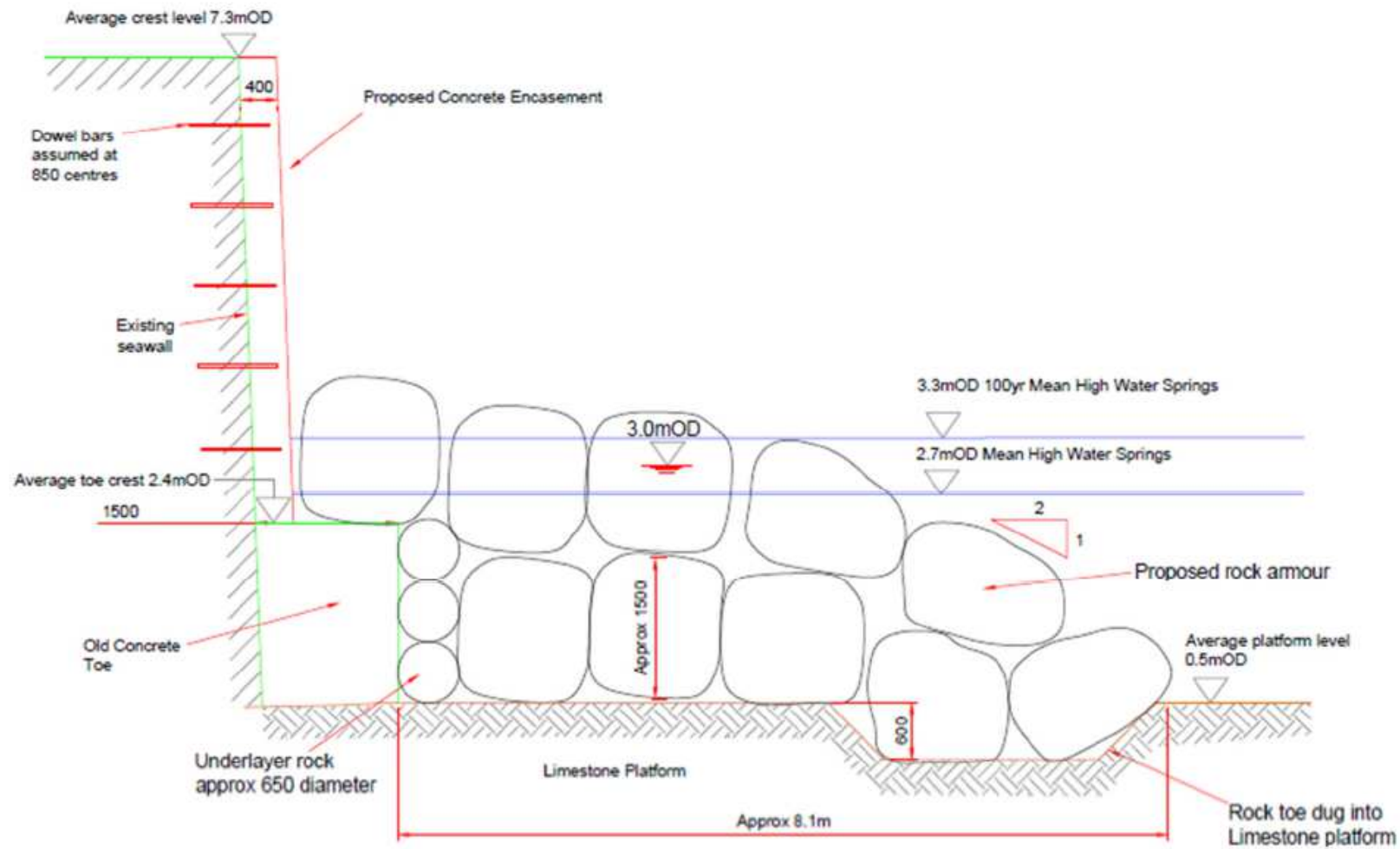
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# APPENDIX A

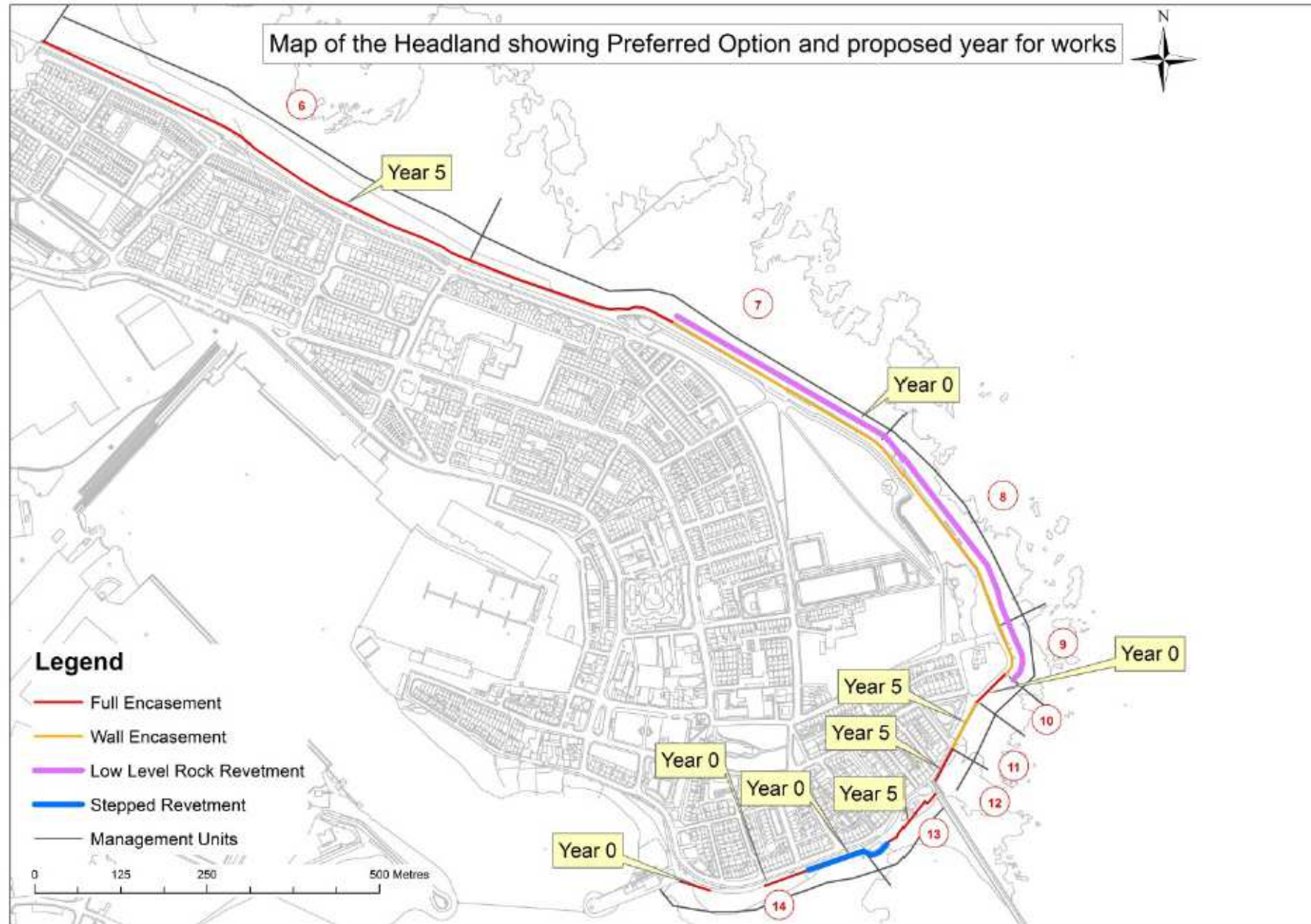
## Key Issues



## Appendix B Typical Cross Sections and Work Phasing







# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

12<sup>th</sup> May 2014



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

**Subject:** KESTEVEN ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-Key.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To report an objection received into proposed yellow lines at Kesteven Road, and seek a decision from the Committee to approve the scheme as shown in **Appendix 1**.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Complaints were received from a resident, via Ward Councillors, regarding vehicles parking on the footpaths in Kesteven Road. There are 6 cul-de-sacs on the north side of the road, and parked vehicles close to the junctions can cause visibility problems for motorists when exiting them.

3.2 Parking of this nature can also cause damage to the footpath, leading to potential insurance claims, and damage to underground utility apparatus, and also necessitates pedestrians having to walk into the road.

## 4. PROPOSALS

4.1 It is proposed to cover the corners of each of the 6 junctions with double yellow lines, which would prevent parking on both the carriageway and the footpath. (**See Appendix 1**).

4.2 Parking at junctions is a major cause of accidents due to the reduced visibility for motorists, and the Highway Code recommends that no one should park within 10 metres of a junction. The yellow lines proposed at Kesteven Road are for less than this recommended distance.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation was undertaken with the residents of the 12 corner properties, and Ward Councillors, and 2 responses were received, both in favour of the proposed yellow lines.
- 5.2 Following this the traffic regulation order was advertised, at which stage a formal objection was received. The objection is from the residents of one property, but is also on behalf of another 6 properties.
- 5.3 The reasons given for the objection is that the lines are unnecessary, only one person parks on the corners, and on cost grounds.
- 5.4 Complaints have been made about several vehicles being observed parked on the corners, and a call was received from a resident since the traffic regulation order advert, asking when the lines were to be implemented.

## **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The scheme would be funded from existing traffic and transportation budgets, and is estimated to cost around £200.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

## **8. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the scheme shown at **Appendix 1**.

## **10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To improve road safety and visibility at the junctions.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 None

## 12. CONTACT OFFICER

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APPENDIX 1



# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

12th May 2014



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

**Subject:** OUR PLACE PROGRAMME

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee about progress on the national Our Place programme.

## 3. BACKGROUND TO THE PROGRAMME

3.1 Locality in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA) and delivery associates including the Community Development Foundation (CDF) are delivering the Our Place programme. The programme is funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and is viewed as an integral element of the Government's Localism agenda, as well as transforming public services.

3.2 The £4.3 million package of direct support, grants and shared learning resources will be delivered over the next two years (2013-2015), working with 123 neighbourhoods to work collaboratively with their communities and local partners to address a shared priority or local service. The programme of support encompasses the following areas:

- Direct Support: areas will be allocated a Relationship Manager for consultancy and coaching support.
- Grant Payments: areas will be able to access grants of at least £13,000 during the programme with additional resources available for those areas exploring innovative approaches. The support is split in to three specific milestones:

1. Getting Ready: grant funds of £3,000 with some direct support between March and May 2013;

2. Getting Going: grant funds of £10,000 available in May / June 2014 with further provision of direct support;
  3. Going Further: grant funds of between £5,000 and £7,000 available for those who are prepared to trial innovative approaches, and up to £20,000 for projects preparing to 'break new ground'.
- Shared Learning: a number of shared learning opportunities will be available including peer groups, coaching, guides and learning resources, training and learning events and networking opportunities.
- 3.3 A national pilot scheme was delivered in 2012 and 2013 through the Our Place Pioneers (formerly known as the Neighbourhood Community Budgets). Each of the pilots had different objectives, reflecting local demographics and need, and were led by a variety of partners including parish councils, local authorities and voluntary and community sector groups. In all neighbourhoods however, a multi agency approach was taken to reconfigure local services and budgets in order to address the priorities of local communities.

#### 4. **BACKGROUND TO WORK WITH WHARTON TRUST**

- 4.1 The Wharton Trust has been established for over 20 years and is a charity limited by guarantee based in the Dyke House area, which is encompassed within the Jesmond and Victoria wards. The Trust is based in the Annexe, a local community and resource centre and has historically delivered a number of services and projects that seek to address the issues of poverty and worklessness. These include:
- Supporting people to access employment, training, advice and opportunities;
  - Promoting healthier lifestyles;
  - Engaging young people in positive activities;
  - Improving literacy and access to information; and
  - Developing IT skills.
- 4.2 The Wharton Trust is the locally based host for the national Community Organisers programme, is a Star Partner with the UnLtd Star People Project, is the locally trusted organisation for the £1 million Big Local programme and is an active member of the Cocollaborative Inspiration Network. The Trust also deliver youth activities to approximately 70 young people as part of Hartlepool Borough Council's Early Intervention Grant (EIG) contract, and have had a strong working relationship with various sections of the Local Authority for a number of years.
- 4.3 In late 2013 / early 2014, discussions were held between the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhood and the Manager of the Wharton Trust to explore opportunities for stronger partnership working in the Dyke House area, particularly looking at

alternative models for, and the coordination of service delivery. Given the confluence of opportunities within a defined geographical space, and the recent launch of the Hartlepool Vision, the Wharton Trust were keen to support the town's future regeneration of strategic sites through neighbourhood level action, whilst also ensuring that local residents would benefit from the opportunities that such regeneration activity may bring.

- 4.4 A speculative application to explore the concepts outlined in Section 4.3 was submitted to the Delivering Differently Programme in January 2014. Delivering Differently is a joint programme between the Cabinet Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and is focussed on assisting Local Authorities to transform their services through the use of new delivery models such as mutuals and voluntary organisations. The funding application was unsuccessful, however an alternative application to the Our Place programme was submitted in February 2014.

## **5. RESOURCES SECURED THROUGH THE PROGRAMME**

- 5.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has secured direct support, and grant assistance of £3,000 as part of the Getting Ready phase of the programme (as outlined in Section 3.2). The support has been made available to enable the Local Authority and Wharton Trust to develop a partnership, which once formed, will look specifically at the area of employability and how local people can realise the benefits of the wider regeneration vision for the town. It is envisaged that the partnership will complement the Community Organisers and Big Local programmes and take advantage of the Star Unlimited status that Wharton Trust has, whilst aiming to ensure that the organisation are contract ready for any of the above opportunities.
- 5.2 A Development Strategy outlining the intention to explore the development of the partnership, including a broad scope of the proposals, community engagement, partner involvement, business case and cost benefit analysis, governance and accountability, project management and financial management arrangements is required to be submitted in mid May 2014. The Development Strategy will also be act as the application to the next phase of the programme, where further resources can be secured to develop an operational plan (to be submitted in October 2014) for the project.
- 5.3 The outcome of next phase of the programme will be subject to a further report to Neighbourhood Services Committee.

## **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no known risk implications.

## **7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 As outlined in Section 5.1, Hartlepool Borough Council have been successful in securing direct support, and grant assistance of £3,000 as part of the Getting Ready phase of the programme. This funding will be to support the development of the Strategy, including associated publicity and printing costs.

## **8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no legal considerations associated with the Our Place programme at this stage.

## **9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The Community Safety and Engagement Team are developing the Strategy in partnership with the Wharton Trust; aside from this, there are no staff considerations.

## **10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations in this instance.

## **11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

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

- 12.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

## **13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 Neighbourhood Services Committee is requested to note the progress made to date on the national Our Place programme.

## **14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 The Our Place programme will enable Hartlepool Borough Council to work with the Wharton Trust explore opportunities for stronger partnership working in the Dyke House area, particularly looking at alternative models for, and coordination of service delivery.

## **15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 Given this is a new funding programme, there are no background papers available, however further details can be found at <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/our-place/>.

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

12th May 2014



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

**Subject:** NEIGHBOURHOOD APPRENTICESHIP  
PROGRAMME – ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
INITIATIVES

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key decision.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval to introduce an initiative aimed at providing employment and training to individuals whilst enhancing the efficiency of existing enforcement service areas. The initiative, by default, will also harmonise the working partnership arrangements between Hartlepool Borough Council and the College of F.E.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At a meeting of full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014, approval was given for 80K of clawback money from the Domes, Tees Road, Seaton Carew, to be used to provide additional Enforcement Officers for a period of two years.

## 4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Maximising Efficiencies from the funding within a newly formed enforcement operation
- 4.2 The funding represents a welcomed opportunity to improve the capabilities of a service area that is effective and popular with members of the public. It will enhance the present operational arrangements where the previously separate environment and civil enforcement teams merge to create a new multi-skilled unit, taking on board a combination of roles and tasks.
- 4.3 This reconfiguration of existing enforcement services will create new and innovative specialist roles for staff that will aid the analytic and delivery

mechanisms. This in turn will enhance the efficiency of the enforcement unit, through education and guidance based work streams. A continual review of the service area will be undertaken throughout the two year funding period.

- 4.4 Of the newly formed workforce, two members of staff will play a pivotal role in reconfiguring the new service area, which in itself will be supported by the introduction of a Neighbourhood Apprenticeship scheme.
- 4.5 Working in partnership with Hartlepool College of Further Education and the Council's Organisational Development Team, apprentices will be appointed within the concept of Street Care where service areas including the newly reconfigured Enforcement, Refuse, Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance and Highways are all combined. The scheme will also include apprenticeship opportunities in catering within the Inspirations Coffee House establishment.
- 4.6 It is anticipated that up to six apprentices will be recruited under this scheme (unit costs determining final numbers) with each apprentice achieving a wide range of skills, knowledge, qualification and experience over a two year period.
- 4.7 Working on the basis of the Street Care concept, employees will be multi-disciplined to carry out tasks across a number of service areas including Grounds Maintenance, Cleansing, Parks & Countryside, Cemeteries and Crematoriums, Waste Management and Enforcement. An emphasis will be placed on a quality service provision and enhanced standards. This will ultimately lead to greater productivity and improved outputs, which in turn will benefit the community and lead to greater public satisfaction; it will also improve employability for the apprentices involved in the scheme and create a unique learning environment.

## **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 This welcomed additional funding of £80k will enhance a service area where there is currently insufficient mainstream funding to provide for such a valuable scheme and funding from alternative sources is likely to be scarce in the foreseeable future. It is therefore essential that the Council looks to maximise the efficiencies of this particular funding source in order to realise the full potential and subsequent benefits for the town.

## **6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rule 17.5 of the Constitution, a recorded vote was taken on the recommendations that a part of the Clawback monies from the Domes, Tees Road Seaton Carew, is used to recruit two Enforcement Officer posts for a two year period.



**7. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The staff roles identified within this initiative will be processed through the corporate Job Evaluation (JE) scheme.
- 7.2 All employees appointed under this initiative will receive comprehensive training in all relevant aspects of work.
- 7.3 The service areas within which the apprentices will be employed have suffered unprecedented budget cuts in recent years and will continue to do so under current government restraints. As a consequence, staffing levels have fallen to a level where services are striving to meet required standards and expectations. The Neighbourhood Apprenticeship Scheme will not only enhance the existing workforce resource levels but will also allow participants to gain new skills and increased employability. This will also enhance the already innovative Council commitment to apprenticeships.

**8. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no asset management considerations associated with this proposal.

**9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 Recruitment to this scheme will be carried out in full compliance with the corporate Equality and Diversity Policy and in line with corporate Procurement policies.

**10. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 Issues such as dog fouling, littering, fly tipping and other environmental crime feature highly amongst residents concerns and without effective intervention the situation would get progressively worse. This is not only harmful to the environment, but it also contributes significantly towards the social decline of communities.
- 10.2 The Neighbourhood apprenticeship scheme will incorporate an element of environmental enforcement, which is fundamental to the Council's key aim of providing a safe and clean environment for the people of Hartlepool. Staff will embark upon a training programme that will enable them to effectively tackle these issues head on.

## **11 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 That approval is given to the proposals detailed in section 4 of this report.

## **12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 Whilst the clawback funding represents a welcomed opportunity to improve the capabilities of a service area that is popular with members of the public, the introduction of a Neighbourhood Apprenticeship Scheme would provide added value to the original proposals, maximise efficiencies of the funding, and harmonise the working partnership arrangements between Hartlepool Borough Council and the College of Further Education.
- 12.2 The Neighbourhood Apprenticeship Scheme will not only allow participants to gain new skills and increased employability, but it will also enhance the already Council commitment to apprenticeships.
- 12.3 There is currently insufficient mainstream funding to provide for such a valuable scheme and funding from alternative sources is likely to be scarce in the foreseeable future. It is therefore essential that the Council looks to maximize the efficiencies of this particular funding source in order to realise the full potential and subsequent benefits for the town.

## **13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Finance & Policy Committee - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014.  
Council Minutes of Proceedings – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.

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