

Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

23 June, 2014

Councillors Ainslie, C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Atkinson, Barclay, Beck, Brash, Clark, Cook, Cranney, Dawkins, Fleet, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Hind, Jackson, James, Lauderdale, Lilley, Loynes, Martin-Wells, Dr. Morris, Payne, Richardson, Riddle, Robinson, Simmons, Sirs, Springer, Thomas and Thompson

Madam or Sir,

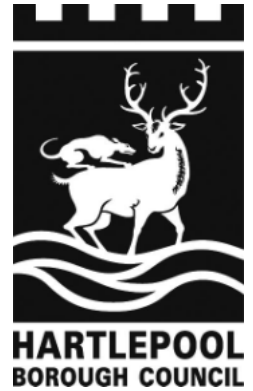
You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 3 July, 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

D Stubbs
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL AGENDA



3 July 2014

at 7.00 p.m.

**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 meeting of the Council held on 10th June 2014 and the annual council meeting held on 12th June 2014 as the 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 about recent decisions of Council Committees and Forums without notice under Council Procedure Rule 12.1
 - b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 12.2
 - c) Questions on notice to the Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority
 - d) Minutes of the meetings held by the Cleveland Fire Authority on 14 February 2014 and 7 March 2014 are attached.

- (8) To deal with any business required by statute to be done;
 - (1) Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (attached)
- (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) Hartlepool Youth Justice Plan 2014 – 2015 – Report of Children's Services Committee (attached)
 - (b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework;
 - (1) Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2014/15 Final Outturn and 2015/16 Budget Timetable – Report of Finance and Policy Committee (attached)
- (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.



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

10 June 2014

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

PRESENT:-

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor S Akers-Belcher) presiding:

COUNCILLORS:

Ainslie	C Akers-Belcher	Atkinson
Barclay	Brash	Clark
Cook	Cranney	Fleet
Gibbon	Griffin	Hall
Hind	Jackson	James
Lauderdale	Lilley	Loynes
Martin-Wells	Dr Morris	Payne
Richardson	Riddle	Robinson
Simmons	Sirs	Springer
Thomas	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
Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health
Denise Ogden, Director of and Neighbourhoods Regeneration
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager
Amanda Whitaker, David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

Prior to the commencement of business, Members stood in silence as a mark of respect following the recent deaths of former Mayor, Mick Lennon and former Mayoress, Rose Stubbs.

The Chairman welcomed newly elected Councillors Clark, Hind, Riddle, Springer and Thomas to the meeting

185. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Beck, Dawkins and Hargreaves.

186. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None.

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

None.

188. PUBLIC QUESTION

None.

189. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council held on the 8 May 2014, having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed subject to minute 168 being amended:-

Councillors Shields, Hall and Cranney declared a personal interest in Minute No. 183.

Councillors Thompson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 182 and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillors Shields, Hall, Cranney Lauderdale, Brash, G Lilley, A Lilley, Gibbon and C Akers-Belcher declared a personal interest in Minute No. 182.

Councillors Thompson, Barclay, Fleet, Griffin and Cook declared a personal interest in Minute No. 180.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

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

None.

191. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(a) Questions to Chairs of Committees and Forums

Referring to minute 91 of the meeting of the Adult Services Committee held on 1 May 2014, a Member referred to Section 136 Mental Health Act (MHA) 1982/2007 Place of Safety Pilot Evaluation and asked the Chair of Adult Services Committee for a summary of the evaluation and for his thoughts on the issue. The Chair advised that he would provide a comprehensive written response.

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

None.

192. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

None.

193. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

194. 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.

195 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

None.

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

None.

197. REPORT FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEES

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

None.

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

None.

198. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None.

199. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, FORUMS AND OTHER BODIES

The proposed membership of Committees, Forums and other bodies had been circulated. An invitation had been extended to leaders of the political groups and independent Members of the Council to make nominations for the list of Chair and Vice-Chairs. These were indicated on the list circulated to Members. Additional nominations and changes to nominations were subsequently made at the Council meeting as follows:-

Chair Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Lilley's nomination was withdrawn and replaced with nomination of Councillor Riddle. Councillor Riddle advised that, if appointed, he would not be accepting any special responsibility allowance; the allowance to be used for apprenticeships.

Chair Adult Services Committee – additional nomination of Councillor Brash, was submitted. Councillor Brash advised that, if appointed, he would not be accepting any special responsibility allowance; the allowance to be used for apprenticeships.

Councillor Thompson advised that he would not be able to attend the annual council meeting and confirmed that his nomination for Chair of Council continued to be applicable. He advised that, if appointed, he would not be accepting any special responsibility allowance.

Votes were taken on the contested positions. Members were advised that voting for committees and outside bodies would be in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.6. Voting was by show of hands.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the following appointments are made:-

Chair Adult Services Committee – Councillor Richardson.

Chair Licensing Committee – Councillor Morris.

Chair Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Martin-Wells
Health and Wellbeing Board – position 1 was allocated to Leader of Council and Councillors Brash, Richardson and Simmons were appointed to positions 2, 3, and 4.

- (ii) That the Members indicated to the remaining positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, detailed in the circulated proposed membership documentation, in each case be appointed to those offices.
- (iii) That the remaining positions on Committees, Forums and other bodies, details of which are included in the Council's Minute Book,

be constituted with the membership as indicated.

- (iv) That any remaining vacancies to be reported to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

200. APPOINTMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEES AND OTHER OUTSIDE BODIES

A list setting out suggested representatives on joint committees and other outside bodies had been circulated. Prior to the meeting the leaders of the political groups and independent Members had been invited to make nominations. The Council was requested to agree the suggestions as set out in the document, the format of which reflected the division of outside body list in Part 7 of the Constitution. At the meeting, votes were taken on the contested positions.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the following appointments be approved:-

Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee – Councillor James.

Hartlepool and District Sports Council – Councillors Payne, Barclay and Hind (following the withdrawal of Councillor Jackson's nomination).

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust – Councillor Hall.
Tees Valley Arts – Board of Directors – Cllr Ainslie.

North East Regional Employers Organisation – Councillors Hall, Sirs and Richardson.

School Admissions Forum – Councillors Simmons, Fleet and Griffin.

- (ii) That appointments to Hartlepool Credit Union be deferred to a future Council meeting to allow clarity to be sought on the number of positions to which the Council appoints.
- (iii) That the remainder of the nominations, as detailed in the Council's Minute Book, be appointed as the Council's representatives on joint committees and other outside bodies.
- (iv) That any remaining vacancies to be reported to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

ANNUAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

12 June 2014

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

PRESENT:-

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor S Akers-Belcher) presiding:

COUNCILLORS:

Ainslie	C Akers-Belcher	Atkinson
Barclay	Brash	Clark
Cook	Cranney	Fleet
Gibbon	Griffin	Hall
Hind	Jackson	James
Lauderdale	Lilley	Loynes
Martin-Wells	Dr Morris	Payne
Richardson	Riddle	Robinson
Simmons	Sirs	Springer
Thomas	Thompson	

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Alyson Caman, Legal Services Manager
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer
Denise Ogden, Director of and Neighbourhoods Regeneration
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Beck, Dawkins and Hargreaves

2. APPOINTMENT OF CEREMONIAL MAYOR

Nominations had been sought for the office of Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year.

Nomination moved by Councillor Brash and seconded by Councillor Lilley:-

"That Councillor Thompson be elected as Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year".

Nomination moved by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Barclay:-

"That Councillor S Akers-Belcher be elected as Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year".

The vote was put.

The Chief Executive announced that Councillor S Akers-Belcher had been elected as Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing municipal year

The Ceremonial Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was proposed by Councillor Cranney and seconded by Councillor Martin-Wells to the retired Ceremonial Mayor for the admirable way in which he had discharged his duties during his term of office. Other Councillors also expressed their thanks to, and appreciation of, the Retired Ceremonial Mayor.

4. ADDRESS BY CEREMONIAL MAYOR

The Ceremonial Mayor expressed his appreciation to the proposer and seconder for their kind words and paid tribute to those who had supported him in his role as Chairman. Council was also informed by the Ceremonial Mayor of the charities he would be supporting during his forthcoming term of office.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CEREMONIAL MAYOR

The Ceremonial Mayor requested nominations for the office of Deputy Ceremonial Mayor for the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year.

Nomination made by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Griffin:-

"That Councillor Fleet be elected as Deputy Ceremonial Mayor of the Borough of Hartlepool for the ensuing municipal year".

Motion put and agreed.

The Deputy Ceremonial Mayor had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. ADDRESS BY DEPUTY CEREMONIAL MAYOR

The Deputy Ceremonial Mayor addressed the Council thanking her proposer and seconder for their kind words

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None

8. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council meeting held on the 10 June 2014 were deferred for consideration at the next Ordinary meeting of the Council.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

10. ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

A schedule of Council meetings for the municipal year for 2014/15 was submitted for approval.

RESOLVED - That the dates scheduled for Council meetings for the Municipal Year 2014/15 be approved.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 p.m.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

14 FEBRUARY 2014



PRESENT: **CHAIRMAN:-** Cllr Robbie Payne – Hartlepool Borough Council
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Stephen Akers-Belcher, Carl Richardson, Ray Martin-Wells
MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Shamal Biswas, Janice Brunton, Garry Clark, Naweed Hussain, Hazel Pearson, 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, Jean O'Donnell, Mick Stoker, Steve Walmsley, William Woodhead
AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Legal Adviser/Monitoring Officer, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer

APOLOGIES: Councillors Evaline Cunningham, John Gardner – Stockton Borough Council

108. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

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

109. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Ordinary Meeting on 13 December 2013 be confirmed.

110. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 24 January 2014 and the Tender Committee Meeting, 31 January 2014 be confirmed.

111. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

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

Brandon Lewis MP

- Firefighters' Pension Scheme Consultation
- Firefighter Pension Reforms - Trade Dispute

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

- Council Tax Freeze Scheme 2014-15

Gill Gittings - National Joint Council for Brigade Managers

- Industrial Action (FAQs)
- Pay Claim 2013

Cllr Kay Hammond – LGA Fire Services Management Committee Chair

- Fire Sprinkler Week 3 – 9 February 2014

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

112. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

112.1 Information Pack

112.1.1 Fire and Rescue Service Monthly Bulletins

112.1.2 Pay Claim 2013

112.1.3 Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

RESOLVED – that the Information Pack be noted.

113. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

113.1 Cleveland Fire Authority Meetings 2014/15

The Director of Corporate Services (DoCS) sought Members' approval of the proposed schedule of Cleveland Fire Authority meeting dates for the municipal year 2014/15, as attached at Appendix 1, taking into account the time and day, venue and frequency of meetings. The DoCS reported that the meeting schedule was aligned with the Authority's business planning calendar to ensure Members receive the most current information.

RESOLVED – that the Cleveland Fire Authority Meetings schedule, as detailed at Appendix 1, be approved.

114. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

114.1 Pay Accountability – Pay Policy Statement 2014/15

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) reported that in line with the provisions set out in the Localism Act 2011, the Authority had a statutory duty to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year relating to:

- the remuneration of its chief officers
- the remuneration of its lowest paid employees
- the relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers

The LAMO referred to the Authority's Pay Policy Statement 2014/15 at Appendix 1 and drew Members' attention to the changes highlighted in yellow at paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 8.2. He reported that at the Executive Committee meeting on 24 January 2014, Members considered the Pay Policy Statement 2014/15 and recommended its approval by the Authority and subsequent publication on the Brigade website by 31 March 2014 as part of the statutory process.

Councillor Jeffrey asked whether the Authority employed staff on less than the living wage and suggested that it may aspire to achieve 'Living Wage' employer status.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Pay Policy Statement 2014/15, as outlined at Appendix 1, be noted.**
- (ii) That the Pay Policy Statement 2014/15 be approved, as recommended by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 24 January 2014.**
- (iii) That the Pay Policy Statement be published by the Authority by 31 March 2014.**
- (iv) That the CFO considers the Authority's position in relation to the 'Living Wage' initiative and reports back to a future meeting.**

115. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

115.1 Information Pack

Councillor Cooney outlined the areas scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 January 2014. The Chairman requested that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered adding Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to its forward work programme. The LAMO confirmed that the Authority had to respond to FOI requests, since they became a statutory duty in 2005 and confirmed they had become burdensome on the Authority's resources. The Chair asked that Members be made aware of who is making the requests and the information they are requesting as well as the resultant cost to the Authority.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the information pack be noted**
- (ii) That 'Freedom of Information Requests' be considered for inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee forward work programme.**

116. JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND TREASURER

116.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 - 2017/18 and Council Tax Setting 2014/15

The Treasurer outlined the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014/15 – 2017/18 in detail which covered:

- Implications of the Local Government Settlement
- Forecast Outturn 2013/14
- Capital Programme, Prudential Code and Treasury Management Strategy
- Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15
- Revenue Budget 2014/15 and Indicative Forecasts for 2015/16 to 2016/17
- 2013/14 Tax Base and Collection Fund
- Robustness of Budget Forecasts and Reserves

The Treasurer highlighted two fundamental changes in the overall system for funding Local Authorities which continued to affect the Authority. These were the re-localisation of business rates and the replacement of the national Council Tax Benefit System with locally determined Council Tax Support Schemes

He reported that the Government considered it fairest and most accurate to look at an authority's overall spending power rather than grant levels and referred to the table at para 4.4 of the report illustrating how Cleveland's spending power had been reduced by 5.1% for 2014/15 against an average of 2.8% across other fire authorities.

Appendix B 'Council Tax Resolution for 1.9% Increase' was circulated to Members and the Treasurer updated Members of some changes to the report as a result of late changes to the finalised National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) 1 returns. He pointed out that the Actual Figures for NNDR at para 8.2 in the report had been reduced as a result of a deficit in the collection fund.

The Treasurer reported that the Forecast Outturn 2013/14 was expected to be £0.6m, this variance was due to the pay freeze implemented by the Government, vacant posts in the establishment and the long lead-in time for the Capital Programme that the Authority had planned to fund.

116.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 - 2017/18 & Council Tax Setting 2014/15 cont.

This underspend was expected to increase the capital reserve and reduce the need for long term borrowing. He reported that a separate report was being prepared on the Capital Programme and Future Funding Arrangements for Members to review the programme at a later date.

The Treasurer noted the reserves had been reviewed to meet the challenges now facing the Authority and that uncommitted reserve levels of 5% had been reviewed and increased to 5.5% to take account of the increasing number and value of financial risks, as detailed at Appendix C. He reported that in relation to the Authority's Core Revenue Grant (including mainstreamed Council Tax Support Funding) when grant figures are adjusted for funding changes, by 2015/16 grant funding will be £17.390m, compared to £24.547m in 2010/11 – a cut of £7.157m equating to 29%.

The Treasurer informed Members that following the announcement by the Government that Council Tax referendum trigger points for 2014/15 would remain at 2% the latest planning assumptions included in the MTFs were based on a Council Tax increase of 1.9% for 2014/15 which would generate additional permanent income while staying below the threshold. He reported that the MTFs was clearly aligned to the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan (CIRMP) 2014-18 and figures on the table at para 8.2 of the report would be populated once the efficiencies had been agreed following CIRMP Consultation.

The Treasurer assured Members that in his opinion the budget forecast and the proposed level of balances as suggested within the report were robust, based on the criteria detailed at para 10.2 of the report.

Councillor Pearson asked if the Authority was required, in accordance with new regulations, to record a vote on Council Tax Setting. The LAMO confirmed that the regulations did not come into effect until 25 February 2014, and did not apply to the Authority.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for a comprehensive budget report and reported that the Treasurer would be retiring at the end of March 2014. He introduced Deputy Treasurer Chris Little, who would be taking over the role as Treasurer from 1 April 2014.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the position of the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in the report, be noted.**
- (ii) That the 2014/15 Revenue Budget, as detailed at Appendix 1, be approved**
- (iii) That a 1.9% rise in Council Tax for 2014/15 (equating to a Band D Council Tax of £69.05) and supporting statutory calculations as detailed in the tabled Appendix B and verbal amendments be approved, as recommended by the Executive Committee on 24 January 2014.**
- (iv) That indicative Council Tax increases of 2% for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be approved.**
- (v) That Members receive a separate report on the Capital Programme and Future Funding Arrangements at a future CFA meeting.**

117. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

117.1 Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15

The Treasurer outlined the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15, which included Prudential Indicators for 2014/15 – 2016/17 and confirmed that the strategy fulfilled the key legislative requirements, detailing the following issues:

- Economic Background Outlook for Interest Rates
- Prudential Indicators
- Capital Financing Requirement
- Borrowing Strategy
- Investment Strategy
- Treasury Management Advisors

He informed Members that the Strategy would be subject to scrutiny by the Audit & Governance Committee on 21 February 2014, which would monitor it on behalf of Authority.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Prudential Indicators and Limits relating to the Capital Expenditure for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017, as detailed in sections 5 and 6 of the report, be approved.**
- (ii) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement in section 6 of the report be approved.**
- (iii) That the Borrowing and Investment Strategies (sections 7 and 8) and the continuation of the netting down of investment and borrowing, noting that specific loans will be taken out for schemes approved on the basis of individual business cases, be approved.**
- (iv) That the Treasury Management Limits on Activity in section 7 be approved.**
- (v) That the Treasury Prudential Indicators in Sections 7 and 8 be approved.**
- (vi) That the Investment Strategy Counterparty Criteria contained in section 8 be approved.**

118. 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.

119. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 13 December 2013 be confirmed.

120. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, 24 January 2014 and Tender Committee 31 January 2014 be confirmed.

**COUNCILLOR ROBBIE PAYNE
CHAIRMAN**

CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

7 MARCH 2014



PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN:- Cllr Robbie Payne – Hartlepool Borough Council
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Carl Richardson , Stephen Akers-Belcher

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 Evaline Cunningham, Jean O'Donnell, Mick Stoker

AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Legal Adviser/Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

BRIGADE OFFICERS
Director of Community Protection, Director of Technical Services

TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES
Dave Howe (FBU), Edwin Jeffries (UNISON)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Hazel Pearson – Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Ray Martin-Wells – Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillors Gillian Corr, John Gardner, Steve Walmsley, William Woodhead - Stockton Borough Council

127. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

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

128. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

128.1 Draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan Proposals 2014-18

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He reported that at the Executive Committee meeting on 7 March 2014, Members had considered the revised draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2014-18 proposals and recommended its approval by the Authority, which were detailed at the tabled Appendix 6.

The CFO presented the report to Members outlining the outcomes from the consultation exercise on the draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan (CIRMP) 2014-18. He reported that at its meeting on 13 December 2013 the Authority approved the Draft CIRMP 2014 -18 and a six week consultation period had commenced from 6 January 2014 – 16 February 2014.

The CFO outlined the key areas which included:

- Risk Assessment
- Medium Term financial position as at December 2013
- Draft CIRMP Proposals 2014-18
- Cleveland Fire Authority's Consultation Process
- Key findings from the Authority's Consultation Exercise

128.1 Draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan Proposals 2014-18 cont.

- Updated Medium Term Financial Position
- Proposed Changes to Draft CIRMP Proposals 2014-18
- Impact assessment following changes to draft CIRMP Proposals 2014-18
- Workforce Transition Plan
- Appendix 1 - Summary of Outcomes from our Risk Assessment
- Appendix 2 - CFA Draft CIRMP – Organisational Development Proposals
- Appendix 3 - Indicative Timetable for Implementation of Cleveland Fire Authority's Draft CIRMP Proposals
- Appendix 4 - Consultation Feedback Report for the Draft CIRMP 2014-18
- Appendix 5 - Consultation Feedback Impact Analysis
- Appendix 6 - CFA CIRMP Proposals 2014-18

The CFO reported that the proposals detailed at Appendix 6 of the report were built on prevention, protection and emergency response risk assessment outcomes which allowed the Authority to fully review the configuration and deployment of its resources across the whole of the organisation to ensure that it continues to:

- Pursue its risk reduction strategies of prevention, protection and emergency response
- Deliver true value for money to the people of Teesside
- Ensure firefighter safety

The CFO referred to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report outlining the results from the Authority's consultation exercise and the key findings. He reported that the response to the online questionnaire had been disappointing and in conventional survey methodologies would not be considered to be sufficiently representative to guide decision making.

The CFO drew Members' attention to paragraph 10 of the report detailing a change to the Authority's Medium Term Financial Position following a £283,000 contribution from reserves and adjustment as a result of local council tax collection fund towards the budget deficit for 2014/15, reducing the overall shortfall for the four year period of the CIRMP from £5.946m to £5.758m, as shown in the table at paragraph 10.3.

In light of the new financial position and outcomes from the consultation exercise, the CFO outlined the key changes to the draft CIRMP 2014-18 proposals, as detailed at paragraph 11 of the report:

- The combining of OD3, OD5 and OD6 as all three were interrelated and dependent on the outcomes of the other.
- The removal of OD4 - 'Subject to the Business Case, consult with public on the move to a PSM' - to be considered outside of the CIRMP process.
- ER5 – 'Introduce Rescue Pumps' - deferred for a further year to assist in managing staff reductions i.e. natural wastage.
- ER9 – 'On-call Crewing Arrangements' - one less fire engine to be transferred to the on-all duty system. This would be either Stranton or Stockton (pending risk assessment) to save either 12 or 16 whole time firefighter posts.

The CFO gave assurances that all proposals would be scrutinised through the annual risk assessment process to ensure they continued to meet the community risk and demand, the Authority's strategic objectives; and the financial challenges.

128.1 Draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan Proposals 2014-18 cont.

Davy Howe (DH), FBU Secretary thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the meeting and FBU Members for their support in attending. He reported that the FBU represented the professional view of firefighters based on what the public and Members want. He reported that the key issues the FBU had with the consultation were that:

- it should have been at least 12 weeks long to allow both the Authority and the FBU to get a wider response.
- the questionnaire was too complicated for the public to complete therefore it may not be clear how or what people think
- availability and accessibility of the consultation questionnaire was not good enough – the public consistently told the FBU that they didn't understand
- it would call into question the results of the consultation process
- three different approaches should have been used:
 - Informing the public as much as possible
 - Allowing them to show their opposition by signing a petition
 - Conducting a survey in town centres to get a response from the public

DH presented a petition against cuts to Cleveland Fire Brigade to the Chair of over 11k signatures which had been received by the FBU during the 6 weeks consultation period and he was confident that if this had been extended to 12 weeks they could have gained the support of up to 99% of Cleveland. He said very few people had not been interested in what was happening to the Fire Brigade which in his view sends out a very clear message. He confirmed that there had been 652 responses to the FBU questionnaire online which was five times more than the CFA survey response.

DH reported that it was the FBU's view that the Authority uses the IRMP process as a budget reduction tool and if it doesn't have enough money to address that risk it needs to be dealt with at a higher level. DH referred to Sir Ken Knight's review which reported that the number of fires had reduced, but he maintained that the number of rescues attended by firefighters had increased. He reported that the FBU's view was that the Authority needed to ensure it had the right rate of response, at the right time and in the right place and if response times were to increase injuries and deaths would increase. He asked the Authority's Members to be mindful that any comeback as a result of the decisions they made would rest with themselves.

DH informed Members that the FBU believed that reserves should be used more and asked Members for evidence of the reported £11m backlog of repairs and whether the repair bill could be mitigated. He added that the FBU's position was that the Rebuild Programme should be halted and proposed the Authority:

- shared HQ in centre of Cleveland to reduce fuel costs
- shared workshops / HQ with local authorities / police
- shared back-office services / training facilities
- reduced senior management pay
- reduced size of whole management structure
- downsized fleet of vehicles
- used low-fuel vehicles instead of appliances for community safety work
- revisit holding a referendum to increase council tax precept

- openly showed transactions between the CFA and CIC

128.1 Draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan Proposals 2014-18 cont.

- revert the evening shift back to 5pm as evidence showed 7pm – 9pm as the Brigade's busiest time

DH welcomed the removal of PSM from the CIRMP 2014-18 and asked Members to consider whether all the documentation in connection with the consultation and risk assessments was justified and validated clearly and urged them to fully assess all the alternative options put forward by the FBU. He also urged Members to continue lobbying Government to demonstrate that the Authority was no longer able to cope with the systematic taking apart of this public service. He added that someone needed to stand up and say no and the people wanted that to be Cleveland Fire Authority.

Edwin Jeffries (EJ), UNISON secretary, confirmed that UNISON had responded in writing to the consultation sharing the concerns nationally and locally of the FBU. He reported that UNISON was very concerned by the potential 25% reduction in support staff and discussions to mitigate these reductions would take place as appropriate.

Councillor Biswas pointed out that the Government had put the responsibility on the Authority to deliver its legal obligations regardless of the level of funding cuts. He confirmed that the best way to protest would be to take their concerns to the Government as at a local level, Member's hands were tied.

Councillor Briggs reported that out of 46 Fire Authorities Cleveland was the best performing and worst funded and despite meeting with MPs the Authority was still struggling. He reported that all Members were going through similarly 'unfair cuts' with their constituent Authorities and the concerns of the FBU would be taken on board.

Councillor Hannon put forward a motion to defer the decision for 6 weeks to allow further consultation by the FBU to take place with the people of Cleveland. He also suggested a self-funded delegation of CFA and FBU Members should meet with the Fire Minister to raise their concerns. The motion was not seconded.

Councillor Akers- Belcher reported that that the Chair, Members and Officers had already met with Ministers and added that if the Authority did nothing now it risked a take-over by the coalition Government.

Councillor Dunning reported that Tom Blenkinsop MP (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland) had presented a petition to the Government against Cleveland Fire Authority becoming a Public Service Mutual (PSM) and deemed the removal of PSM from the CIRMP 2014-18 to be progress for the trade unions.

Darran Harrety, Stranton Blue Watch, made a statement in relation to recent cuts in London and fire deaths.

Members unanimously approved the following recommendations with no dissent.

RESOLVED :-

- (i) That the outcomes from the Authority's integrated risk assessment process, as detailed in section 4.3 of the report and at Appendix 1, be noted.**

128.1 Draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan Proposals 2014-18 cont.

- (ii) That the outcomes from the consultation exercise on the draft CIRMP 2014-18, as detailed in Sections 8 and 9 of the report and at Appendices 4 and 5, be noted.**
- (iii) That the revised medium term financial position detailed in Section 10 of the report, which changes the budget shortfall over the four years to 2017/18 from £5.946m to £5.758m, be noted.**
- (iv) That the proposed changes to the draft CIRMP Proposals 2014-18, as a result of the above points and as detailed in Section 11 of the report, be noted.**
- (v) That the revised CIRMP Proposals 2014-18, as detailed in the tabled Appendix 6, be included within the Authority's CIRMP 2014-18 to be published in April 2014, be approved as recommended by the Executive Committee.**
- (vi) That the use of £176,000 from reserves to offset the 15/16 budget shortfall to assist the Authority in managing the reduction of staff i.e. natural wastage, be approved.**
- (vii) That an ongoing review of the proposals to ensure they continue to meet the community risk and demand; the Authority's strategic objectives; and the ever present financial challenges be approved.**
- (viii) That a Workforce Transition Plan be developed, as per the principles outlined in Section 13 of the report, and presented to the Fire Authority for approval in 2014/15.**

Meeting closed: 2.05pm

**COUNCILLOR ROBBIE PAYNE
CHAIRMAN**

COUNCIL REPORT
3rd July 2014



Report of: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Subject: Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Attached at Appendix A is the Independent Remuneration Panel's (IRP) report on Members' Allowances. Council's view and instructions on the IRP recommendations are requested.

Report of Independent Remuneration Panel

Council – 3rd July 2014

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Council of the Panel's review of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances and their recommendations for the Council's scheme.

2. Background

The Independent Remuneration Panel was established to advise the Council on the level of Members Allowances under the Local Government Act 2000.

The Panel have made a number of reports to the Council over the years, reviewing various parts of the Members Allowances Scheme including Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.

The level of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances had been frozen for the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2013 in line with the pay freeze for Local Government employees.

The Panel last reported to Council on 11th April 2013 and recommended that the Basic Allowance payable from 1st April 2013 should be increased by £250 from £5,767 to £6,017, with further annual increases of £250 in April 2014 and April 2015. This recommendation would have resulted in the following Basic Allowances:

- £6,017 payable from 1st April 2013;
- £6,267 payable from 1st April 2014;
- £6,517 payable from 1st April 2015.

Council determined that the Basic Allowance to be paid from 1st April 2013 should remain at £5,767 and should only increase on 1st April 2013, 2014 and 2015 when Council staff receive a rise currently projected to be 1% for each of these years. The Basic Allowance paid from 1st April 2013 was subsequently increased by 1%, to £5,825, to reflect the April 2013 national pay increase for Local Government employees.

The Panel also made recommendations in relation to the Special Responsibility Allowances paid by the Council and recommended that these should be linked to the recommended Basic Allowance. The Council approved the recommendations made by the Panel, with the exemption of the proposal to reduce the Principal Group Leader Special Responsibility Allowance from 60% to 30%, which the Council determined should be retained at 60%. Council also

approved that the percentage Special Responsibility Allowances should be linked to the Basic Allowance approved by Council.

The Panel conducted a review of the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances during March and April 2014. In carrying out this review the Panel sought the views of the political parties.

3. Basic Allowance

The Panel noted the decision made by the Council in April 2013 not to implement the recommended increase in the Basic Allowance.

The Panel was interested in the level of Basic Allowance paid by the other eleven North East Councils, which are all comparative single tier authorities (i.e. either unitary authorities or metropolitan authorities). This analysis involved comparing the Basic allowances paid by individual authorities and the population per Councillor (based on the Department of Communities and Local Government 2012 Local Government Finance Settlement population figures), as summarised in the following table:

SUMMARY MEMBERS ALLOWANCES FOR NORTH EAST COUNCILS 2013/14

	Number of Councillors	Number of Residents per Councillors	2013/14 Basic Allowance
			£
Durham	126	4090	13,300
Northumberland	67	4686	12,625
Gateshead	66	2901	10,120
Redcar & Cleveland	59	2332	9,550
Stockton	56	3460	9,300
Newcastle	78	3690	9,210
Sunderland	75	3756	8,369
Darlington	53	1927	8,027
North Tyneside	60	3353	7,896
South Tyneside	54	2834	7,226
Middlesbrough	49	2889	6,130
Hartlepool	33	2878	5,825
<hr/>			
Average for North East Councils	65	3233	8,965

The Panel again noted that the comparative information on Basic Allowances, whilst interesting, was subject to variation and therefore was not conclusive and provides one component to support the current review. The Panel also considered the implications of the Basic Allowance in attracting people to become Councillors and increasing diversity, including working age people who need an adequate allowance to compensate them for loss of earnings where they need to take unpaid leave from work, or to offset a loss of income if they are self employed, while undertaking duties

as a Councillor. The Panel indicated that they remained concerned regarding the low Basic Allowance in comparison to the other 11 North East Councils. The Panel remain of the opinion that the Basic Allowance from 1st April 2014 be set at £6,267 as recommended last year, with a further increase from 1st April 2015 to £6,517.

The Panel noted that the recommended Basic Allowance payable from 1st April 2015 would still be the second lowest Basic Allowance in the North East and significantly lower than the current average for North East Councils, based on other Councils not changing their existing Basic Allowances.

4. **Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's)**

Special Responsibility Allowances are paid to a number of Councillors who hold positions that have varying degrees of additional duties. These allowances are paid in addition to the Basic Allowance and are determined as a proportion of the Basic Allowance. Only one Special Responsibility Allowance can be received by an individual Councillor, even if they hold more than one position with a Special Responsibility Allowance.

In considering the level of Special Responsibility Allowances to be recommended under the new Governance arrangements the Panel were previously provided with an explanation of the new arrangements, the similarities and difference to the Mayoral system and comparative information on Special Responsibility Allowance paid by the other North East Councils. The Panel noted that owing to the significance of the changes in the Council's Governance arrangements that the Special Responsibility Allowances recommended in April 2013 should be reviewed after 12 months to ensure they remain appropriate.

The Panel recommend that the existing system of determining Special Responsibility Allowances as a proportion of the Basic allowance should be retained and linked to the recommended Basic Allowance detailed in section 3.

Following the latest review of Special Responsibility Allowances the Panel's recommendations and reasons for these recommendations are detailed below:

Position	SRA Recommended April 2013	SRA Recommended April 2014	Basis for Recommendation
<u>Policy Committee Chairs</u> Children Services Adult Services Regeneration Services Neighbourhood Services	100% 100% 100% 100%	100% 100% 100% 100%	The Panel consider that the existing SRA of 100% remains appropriate and reflects the responsibility and workloads of these roles. The panel also considered the level of SRA's paid for similar roles in the other North East Councils.
Planning Committee	100%	100%	No change in SRA as existing role continues and level of SRA is appropriate for responsibilities.

Position	SRA Recommended April 2013	SRA Recommended April 2014	Basis for Recommendation
Licensing Committee	60%	60%	No change in SRA as existing role continues and level of SRA is appropriate for responsibilities.
Chairs of Neighbourhood Forums (2 Chairs)	60%	30%	The Panel recommends a reduction in the SRA as the Forums are not decision making and have a low number of meetings.
Audit & Governance Committee	70%	100%	The Panel recognised the importance of this role and the workload it attracts. Comparisons were noted in relation to other Committees and the Panel recommend an increase in the SRA from 70% to 100%.
Finance & Policy Committee	300%	300%	The Panel recommends the existing SRA of 300% remains appropriate and reflects the responsibility and workloads of the role. The panel also considered the level of SRA's paid for similar roles in the other North East Councils.
Principal Group Leader	60%	60%	The Panel noted that the Council had previously determined not to reduce this allowance from 60% to 30% and do not recommend changing this allowance from 60%.
Chairman of Council	100%	100%	The Panel recommends the existing SRA of 100% remains appropriate and reflects the role the Chairman of the Council has representing the Council.

5. Financial Consideration – Advice of Chief Finance Officer

The Panel were advised that the previously recommended Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances would provide an annual saving of approximately £0.129m in 2013/14 and future years assuming there are no further changes in Allowances. This saving has been reflected in the overall Council budget.

The Panel requested that the Chief Finance Officer calculate the cost of the proposed Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances and include these details in this report. The following table summarises the annual savings against the existing base budget for Members Allowances, which covers the cost of Basic allowances, Special Responsibility allowances and employers national insurance contributions on these allowances. Individual Members pay tax and employees national insurance contributions on Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.

Financial impact of Panel recommendations

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Budget *	274	281
Forecast full year cost	287	299
Budget Pressure/(saving)**	13	18

* In line with the MTFs planning forecasts annual increases in the budget of 2.5% have been provided, with the anticipation of a small saving if pay awards for Council employees are limited to 1% and no further increases in Allowances are approved by the Council.

** The budget pressure arises as a result of the Panel's recommended increase in the Basic Allowance and corresponding increase in Special Responsibility Allowances exceeding the inflation increase included with the budget forecasts.

At the Council meeting on 11th April 2013 it was resolved that the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances payable from 1st April 2014 and 1st April 2015 should only increase if there is a pay award for Council employees. Assuming the public sector pay cap applies to Council employees it is currently anticipated that a 1% pay cap will apply from 1st April 2014 and 2015. On this basis and assuming the Council approves the changes to the Special Responsibility Allowance percentages detailed in section 4 the costs of the resulting scheme are summarised in the table below:

Financial impact of Panel's recommended Special Responsibility Allowances and increases in allowances being limited to 1% from 1st April 2014 and 2015

	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Budget	274	281
Forecast full year cost	270	273
Budget Pressure/(saving)	(4)	(8)

6. Recommendations

The Panel makes the following recommendations.

a) That the Basic Allowance increases previously recommended be implemented as follows:

- £6,267 payable from 1st April 2014;
- £6,517 payable from 1st April 2015.

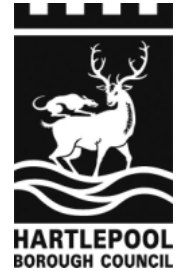
b) That the Special Responsibility Allowances continue to be calculated as a proportion of the basic allowance and following amounts be approved as

detailed Special Responsibility Allowances (recommended changes shaded grey);

	2014/15 £	2015/16 £
Basic Allowance	6,267	6,517

Current SRA %		Number of Councillors receiving SRA	SRA %	2014/15 SRA £	2015/16 SRA £
300%	Chair of Finance and Policy Committee	1	300%	18,801	19,551
100%	Chair of Council	1	100%	6,267	6,517
100%	Chairs of Policy Committees	4	100%	6,267	6,517
100%	Chair of Planning Committee	1	100%	6,267	6,517
60%	Chairs of Neighbourhood Forums	2	30%	1,880	1,955
60%	Chair of Licensing Committee	1	60%	3,760	3,910
70%	Chair of Audit and Governance Committee	1	100%	6,267	6,517
60%	Principal Minority group	1	60%	3,760	3,910

- c) Note if the above recommendations are approved there will be a budget pressure in 2014/15 of £13,000 and in 2015/16 of £18,000 against the forecast budget for Members Allowances. This potential pressure would reverse part of the permanent saving of £129,000 included in the base budget from the review of allowances completed in 2013/14.



Report of: Children’s Services Committee

Subject: HARTLEPOOL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2014 - 2015

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Council the final draft of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2014-2015 (Appendix 1) and seek ratification from Council prior to the Plan being submitted to the National Youth Justice Board.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The national Youth Justice Performance Improvement Framework is the Youth Justice Board’s primary tool for monitoring and securing performance improvement across Youth Offending Services in England and Wales. The framework builds upon the statutory responsibilities for Youth Offending Services established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 through a requirement for all Youth Offending Services to annually prepare, as part of the local business planning cycle, a local Youth Justice Plan for submission to the Youth Justice Board.

3.2 The primary functions of Youth Offending Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by Children & Young People and reduce the use of custody. It is the responsibility of local Youth Offending Services to develop and coordinate the provision of these services for all of those young people in the Local Authority area who need them.

3.3 The annual Youth Justice Plan should provide an overview of how the Youth Offending Service, the Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board and wider partnership will ensure that the service has sufficient resources and infrastructure to deliver youth justice services in its area in

line with the requirements of the *National Standards for Youth Justice Services* to:

- Promote performance improvement;
- Shape youth justice system improvement;
- Improve outcomes for young people, victims and the broader community.

3.4 Whilst the local Youth Offending Service partnership can develop its own structure and content of the Youth Justice Plan, national guidance suggests the Plan should address four key areas:

- Resourcing and value for money. The sufficient deployment of resources to deliver effective youth justice services to prevent offending and re-offending.
- Structure and Governance. The Plan will set out the structures and governance necessary to ensure the effective delivery of local youth justice services. The leadership composition and role of the multi agency Youth Offending Service Management Board are critical to this.
- Partnership Arrangements. To demonstrate that effective partnership arrangements are in place between the Youth Offending Service, statutory partners and other local partners that have a stake in delivering youth justice services and that these arrangements generate effective outcomes for children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending.
- Risks to Future Delivery. To ensure the Youth Offending Service has the capacity and capability to deliver effective youth justice services, identifying risks to future delivery and the Youth Offending Service's partnership plans to address these risks.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The planning framework to support the development of the 2014-2015 Youth Justice Strategic Plan has drawn upon the appraisal of the Youth Justice Boards Regional Partnership Manager, the local Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board and the views and opinions of service users, staff and key partners.

4.2 Alongside the above, the development of the plan has also incorporated recommendations from Children's Services Committee and Finance and Policy Committee, the views of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Executive Group and the current scrutiny investigation into re-offending in Hartlepool. The plan also acknowledges the role of the Youth Offending Service in taking forward the priorities of the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner.

4.3 Based upon the findings from the Strategic Assessment, it is proposed that the Youth Offending Service and broader youth justice Partnership focuses on the following key strategic objectives during 2014 - 15:

- **Re-offending** – reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime
- **Early Intervention and Prevention** – sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that their remain strategies and services in place locally to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- **Remand and Custody** – demonstrate that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.
- **Restorative Justice** – ensure all victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches and restorative justice is central to work undertaken with young people who offend.
- **Risk and Vulnerability** – ensure all children and young people entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk and vulnerability to inform effective intervention and risk management.
- **Think Family** – embed a whole family approach to better understand the true impact of families in our communities and improve our understanding of the difficulties faced by all members of the family and how this can contribute to anti-social and offending behaviour.
- **Maintain Standards** – ensure that all assessments, reports and interventions developed by the Youth Offending Service are effective and of a high quality.
- **Effective Governance** – ensure that the Youth Offending Strategic Management Board will be a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Offending Service performance.

4.4 The local Youth Offending Strategic Board will establish responsibility for taking each improvement activity forward within agreed timescales.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Council is requested to approve the Youth Justice Plan for 2014-2015 prior to the plan being submitted to the National Youth Justice Board.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The development of the Youth Justice plan for 2014-2015 has been informed by the views and wishes of key stakeholders and as such, will provide the local Youth Offending Service with a clear steer on the prioritisation of activities that will bring about further reductions in youth offending and further develop the services contribution to local contribute to community safety initiatives.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

The Youth Justice Boards: Youth Justice Performance Improvement Framework (Guidance for Youth Justice Board English Regions available at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk>)

8. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Hartlepool Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2014 - 2015



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8	STRATEGIC SUMMARY	Page 36
9	ACTION PLAN	(to be added)

1 FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2014 - 2015 Hartlepool Youth Justice Strategic Plan. This plan sets out our ambitions for Youth Justice Services in Hartlepool and how they will contribute to our overarching aspirations for the town, set out in our Community Strategy 2008-20 wherein:

“Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential”.

The Youth Offending Service has a key role in contributing to this vision by building upon the success of 2013-2014 through the delivery of high quality, effective and safe youth justice services that prevent crime and the fear of crime, whilst ensuring that young people who do offend are identified and managed appropriately without delay.

In recent years Hartlepool has witnessed a significant reduction in youth crime. The local youth justice partnership has been particularly effective in reducing the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time and we are now starting to see a reduction in the rate of crime being committed by those young people who have previously offended.

Beyond this the service was the subject of a Short Quality Screening Inspection in 2013 – 2014 undertaken by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation who found that ‘Hartlepool Youth Offending Service can be ‘rightly proud of the substantial progress it has made since our previous inspection in 2011’. The inspectors highlighted that staff were well supported, committed and were delivering high quality services. They produced good quality assessments and plans and had ready access to an appropriate range of services.

This plan seeks to build upon the above progress by identifying priorities for the Youth Offending Service in the coming year and highlighting further areas for improvement.

As always, the Strategic Management Board is extremely grateful for the skill and dedication of our employees in supporting young people who offend or are at risk of becoming involved in offending in Hartlepool.

On behalf of the Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board I am pleased to endorse the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2014 -2015.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Beeston', written in a cursive style.

Lynn Beeston Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board Chair

2 INTRODUCTION

The national Youth Justice System primarily exists to ensure that children and young people between the age of 10 and 17 who are arrested and charged with a criminal offence are dealt with differently to adult offenders to reflect their particular welfare needs.

In summary, children and young people who offend are:

- Dealt with by youth courts
- Given different sentences
- And when necessary, detained in special secure centres for young people as opposed to adult prisons.

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority and statutory partners to secure and coordinate local youth justice services for all of those young people in the Local Authority area who come into contact with the Youth Justice System as a result of their offending behaviour through the establishment and funding of **Youth Offending Services**.

The primary functions of Youth Offending Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people and reduce the use of custody.

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service was established in April 2000 and is responsible for the delivery of youth justice services locally. It is a multi-agency service and is made up of representatives from the Council's Children's Services, Police, Probation, Health, Education, Community Safety and the local voluntary/community sector and seeks to ensure that:

- All children and young people entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk and protective factors associated with offending behaviour to inform effective intervention.
- Courts and youth offender panels are provided with high quality reports that enable sentences to make informed decisions regarding sentencing.

- Court orders are managed in such a way that they support the primary aim of the youth justice system, which is to prevent offending, and that they have regard to the welfare of the child or young person.
- Services provided to courts are of a high quality and that magistrates and the judiciary have confidence in the supervision of children and young people who are subject to orders.
- Comprehensive bail and remand management services are in place locally for children and young person's remanded or committed on bail while awaiting trial or sentence.
- The needs and risks of young people sentenced to custodial orders (including long-term custodial orders) are addressed effectively to enable effective resettlement and management of risk.
- Those receiving youth justice services are treated fairly regardless of race, language, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or any other factor, and actions are put in place to address unfairness where it is identified

Beyond the above, the remit of the service has widened significantly in recent years due to both national and local developments relating to prevention, diversion and restorative justice and there is a now requirement to ensure that:

- Strategies and services are in place locally to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- Assistance is provided to the Police when determining whether Cautions should be given.
- Out-of-court disposals deliver targeted interventions for those at risk of further offending.

- Restorative justice approaches are used, where appropriate, with victims of crime and that restorative justice is central to work undertaken with young people who offend.
The Hartlepool Youth Justice Plan for 2014-2015 seeks to establish how youth justice services will be delivered, funded and governed in response to both local need and the changing landscape and how the Hartlepool Youth Offending Service will work in partnership to prevent offending and re-offending by Children & Young People and reduce the use of custody.

3 STRATEGIC NEEDS ANALYSIS

The strategic assessment contains information to aid understanding of the priority youth justice issues identified for the communities of Hartlepool, including what has changed over the last year, what work we are doing and how we are measuring effectiveness and future challenges, alongside a description of the current local and national delivery landscape.

As the service nears the end of its annual Youth Justice Plan 2013-2014, the Strategic Assessment will assist the Local Authority and broader partnership in setting strategic objectives to inform the new Youth Justice Plan 2014 – 2015.

The Delivery Landscape

There are many factors that will impact on the Youth Offending Service in the coming years:

- A challenging economic climate, including the impact of welfare reform.
- Changes to commissioning arrangements following the transition of Public Health into Hartlepool Borough Council and the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Significant changes to and development of Government policy in key areas, including re-offending, anti-social behaviour and alcohol.
- Widespread restructuring and change across local public sector agencies due to the significant loss of funding.
- The transfer of financial burdens associated with the remand of young people to the Local Authority continues to be a key financial pressure.
- The decision to transfer Youth Court listings to Teesside Magistrates

The Hartlepool Youth Offending Service remains well placed to meet these challenges. The service is confident that it has a structure and the staff with the appropriate skills alongside the support of a committed, strong strategic management board to meet any future challenges.

We recognise that youth justice priorities impact upon each other, and those of partner organisations, and with limited resources and budgets, there is opportunity to maximise collaborative working and joint commissioning at a local level.

Local Context

Hartlepool is the smallest unitary authority in the North East region and the third smallest in the country comprising of some of the most disadvantaged areas in England. Issues around youth justice can be understood by a number of contextual factors:

Population

- Hartlepool has a stable population rate, maintained by low levels of migration.
- Hartlepool has become more diverse in recent years, although a very small proportion of the population are from the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) community.
- 46% of the population in Hartlepool live in five of the most deprived wards in the country, where crime and anti-social behaviour rates are high.

Unemployment

- Unemployment rates in Hartlepool are above the regional average and more than double the national average.
- 14.5% of young people aged 18-24 years are unemployed.
- Hartlepool has high rates of people incapable of work due to disability and ill health.

Housing

- Strong links exist between the occurrence of anti-social behaviour and the location of private rented housing.
- The percentage of long term empty properties in Hartlepool is higher than the regional average.

Health & Wellbeing

- The health of people in Hartlepool is generally worse than the England average.
- There is a higher prevalence of long term health problems, including mental health.
- The number of alcohol related hospital admissions and hospital stays for self-harm in Hartlepool are significantly worse than the England average.
- The number of Class A drug users in Hartlepool is more than double the national average.

Deprivation

- Hartlepool has pockets of high deprivation where communities experience multiple issues: higher unemployment, lower incomes, child poverty, ill health, low qualification, poorer housing conditions and higher crime rates.
- Residents living in more deprived, and densely populated areas have high perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour and feel less safe.

Geography

- Community safety problems are not evenly spread and tend to be concentrated in geographic hotspots, particularly in the most deprived wards in Hartlepool.

Children, Young People and Families

Most young people in Hartlepool make the transition to adulthood successfully through a combination of supportive families, good schools, colleges and training providers and access to opportunities for personal and social development outside the classroom along with the vision and belief that they can succeed.

Whilst many young people make mistakes along the way and do things they should not do, or wish they had not done, most are able to get back on track quickly with little harm done.

But whilst many young people in Hartlepool are thriving, evidence is clear that it is young people from deprived and disadvantaged backgrounds and communities who lack many of the protective factors highlighted above, who are disproportionately at greater risk of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour and poorer outcomes generally.

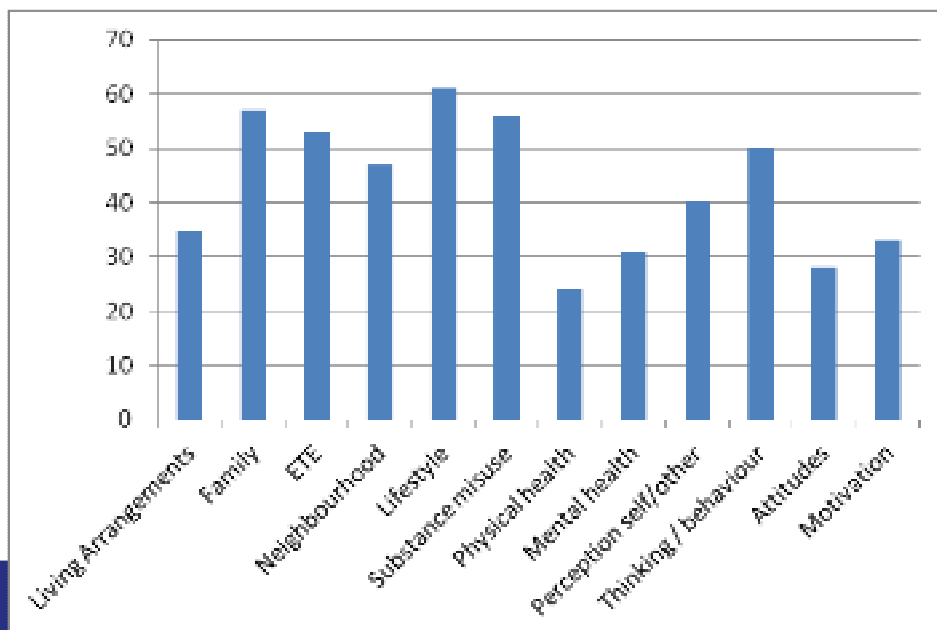
Despite significant regeneration over the past twenty years the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007) indicates that Hartlepool is still ranked as the 23rd most deprived out of England's 354 Local Authority districts. Deprivation covers a broad range of potentially life limiting issues and refers to unmet needs caused by the interplay of a number of local factors that impact upon families living conditions such as:

- Low Income;
- Exclusion from the labour market;
- Impairment of quality of life by poor physical and mental health and disability;
- Educational underachievement, barriers to progression and a shortage of skills and qualifications amongst adults;
- Barriers to accessing key local services and affordable housing;
- Low quality of individuals' immediate surroundings both within and outside the home;
- And a prevalence of violent crime, burglary, theft and criminal damage in an area.

Local analysis of need and outcomes highlights that, whilst there are families who are more resilient to deprivation, the interplay of the above factors clearly places families who are contending with deprivation at a disadvantage. This can significantly limit the opportunities and outcomes for their children which, in time, will tend to perpetuate a cycle of deprivation and disadvantage due to diminished life chances.

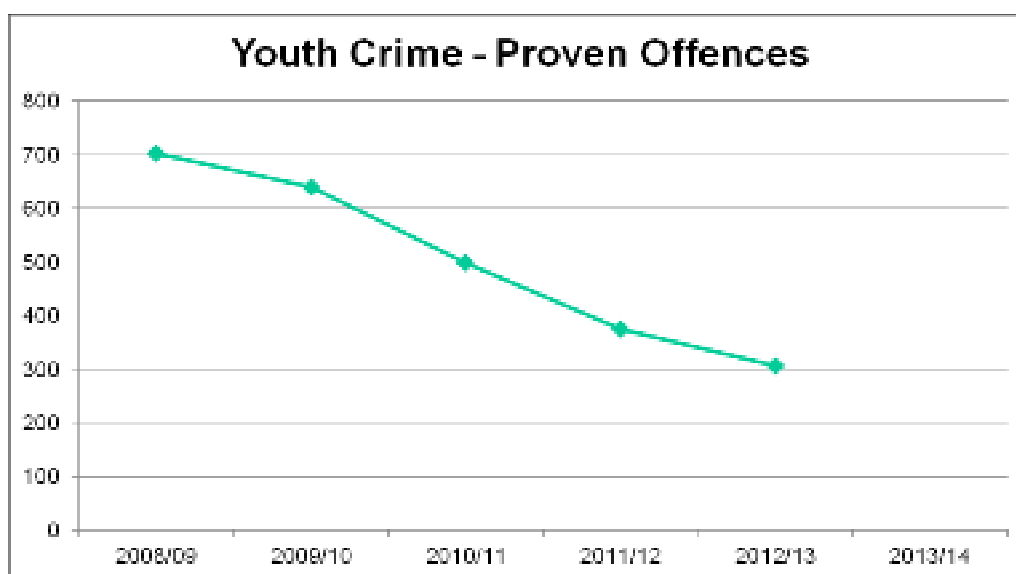
A more detailed analysis of the broader circumstances/factors of families whose children are experiencing difficulties indicates that parenting, parental substance misuse, housing and home conditions, employment issues and domestic violence are often the main factors linked to the prevalence of poor outcomes in local children and young people. It is often the complex interplay of each of these factors that makes problems in some households insurmountable and places the children at significant risk of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour.

An annual local analysis (see below) of the factors that contribute to young people's offending behaviour highlights that the most prevalent factors are often a combination of the young person's family circumstances, their lifestyle, their misuse of substances and a lack of engagement with education and/or further learning all of which shapes thinking and behaviour.



Youth Crime

In spite of the adversities that significant numbers of young people, families and communities contend with in Hartlepool the local Youth Justice Partnership has had significant success in recent years in terms of preventing and reducing youth offending behaviour.



It is notable that there have been significant reductions in:

- Violence against the person
- Criminal Damage
- Public Order offences
- Breach of Bail

Some crimes, particularly those falling within the acquisitive crime category are estimated to be on the increase with projections indicating an increasing trend for the following twelve months. Whilst current socio-economic factors can affect this crime type, locally it is recognised that substance misuse continues to be the key driver in the prevalence of acquisitive offences across the young offender cohort.

Given the recent decision to transfer Youth Court listings to Teesside Magistrates it is anticipated that there is likely to be an increase in Breach of Bail as young people and their broader families struggle to undertake the journey from Hartlepool to Teesside.

Anti-social behaviour relating to young people continues to follow a strong seasonal trend with incidents and complaints often related to alcohol reaching their peak during the summer months.

Community perception results from the recent Household Survey indicate that from a town wide perspective the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour related issues have generally improved, however it is noted that these results do vary across wards with perceptions in our most disadvantaged communities remaining high.

Youth crime continues to be concentrated in our most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, co-existing with high levels of anti-social behaviour, health inequalities, unemployment and poor housing all of which place a significant demand on partner resources. People living in deprived areas experience significantly higher levels of crime and disorder; therefore they are at greater risk of victimisation and for this reason remain vulnerable.

OFFENCE CATEGORY	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	Apr 2011 - Mar 2012	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	Actual Change 2011/12 Vs 2012/13
Arson	7	0	0	0
Breach of Bail	26	26	10	-16
Breach of Conditional Discharge	14	14	12	-2
Breach of Statutory Order	67	65	27	-38
Criminal Damage	144	121	77	-44
Domestic Burglary	39	10	15	5
Drugs	30	19	20	1
Fraud and Forgery	6	4	0	-4
Motoring Offences	39	13	22	9
Non Domestic Burglary	26	11	9	-2
Other	41	10	18	8
Public Order	189	92	69	-23
Racially Aggravated	5	5	1	-4
Robbery	7	3	0	-3
Sexual Offences	8	2	11	9
Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	221	111	114	3
Vehicle Theft / Unauthorised Taking	26	5	9	4
Violence Against the Person	156	126	93	-33
TOTAL	1051	637	507	

Offence Category - Year on Year Comparisons

Prevention and Diversion

Research consistently highlights that children and young people who are exposed to multiple risks and disadvantage are more likely to become involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. Similarly, children and young people who engage in anti-social behaviour at an early age are more likely to become serious persistent offenders.

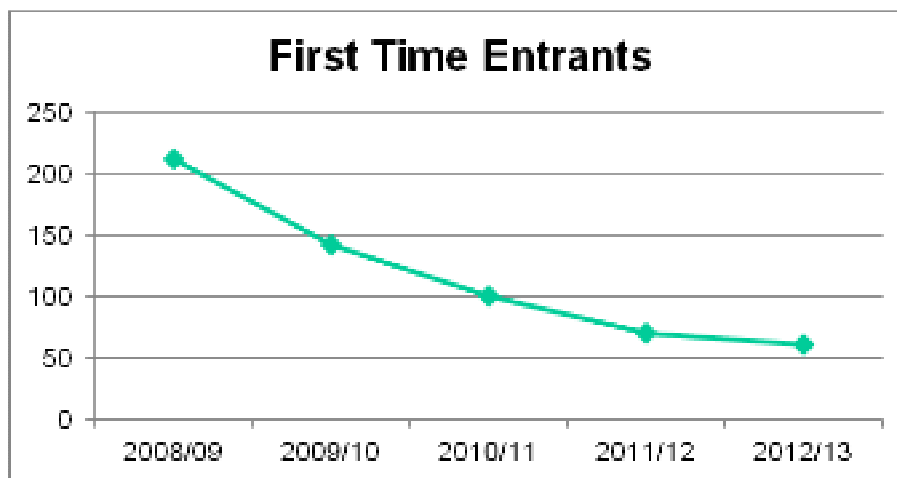
In addition to this, research highlights that young people involved in offending

behaviour are more likely to experience significant difficulties during adulthood in relation to housing, health, relationships, substance misuse and employment.

Youth crime prevention and diversion is based on the premise that it is possible to change the life-course trajectories of young people by reducing risk factors that may lead to offending behaviour and building on protective factors that might help prevent offending.

It marks a concerted shift away from reactive spending towards early action and intervention through a range of programmes for young people who are deemed to be at risk of offending, which can result in better outcomes and greater value for money.

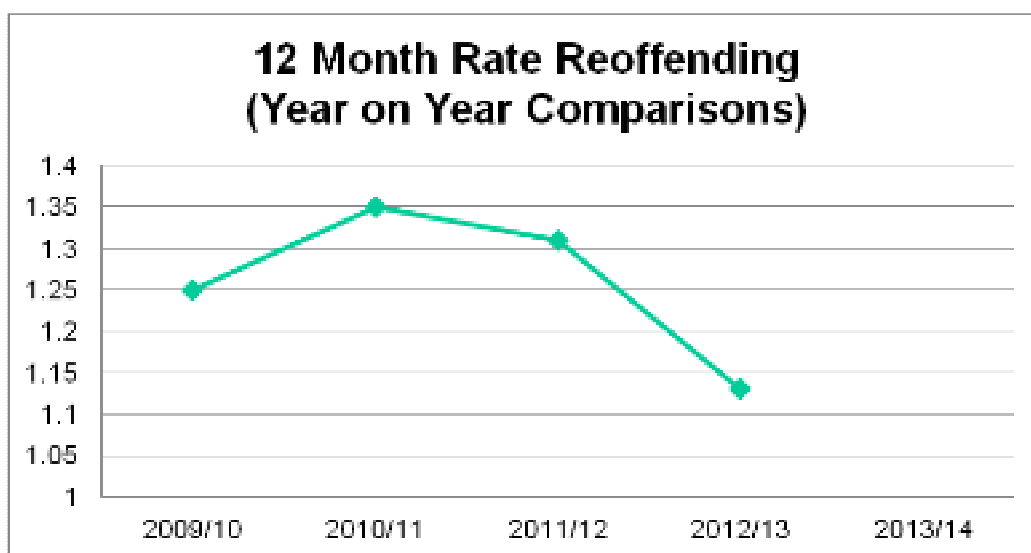
In recent years, Hartlepool Youth Offending Service and the broader youth justice partnership have placed a significant emphasis on the prevention of young people's involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour and this has had a notable impact upon the numbers of young people entering the Youth Justice System.



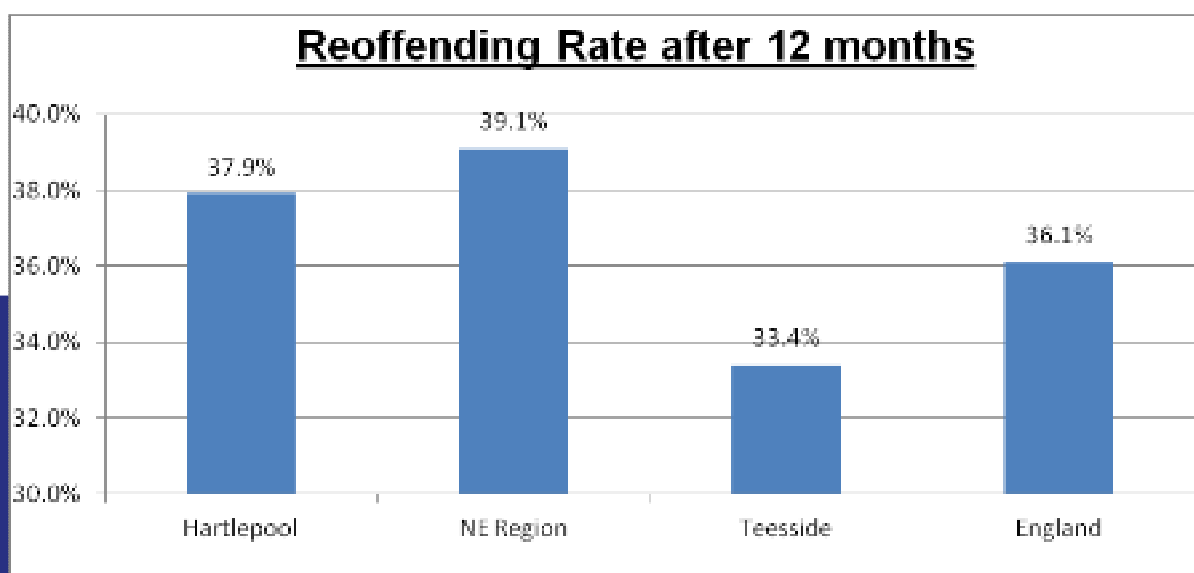
For young people whose behaviour has become more problematic robust pre-court interventions have proven to be highly successful in diverting young people away from further involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour through the use of interventions that whilst impressing upon the young people the seriousness and potentially damaging effect of their actions, do not criminalise the young people in the way that statutory court orders inevitably do.

Re-offending

On top of the continuing reductions in the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time, we are now starting to see a reduction in the rate of crime being committed by those young people who have previously offended.



However, the re-offending rate for young offenders in Hartlepool remains higher than both the Tees Valley average and the national average.

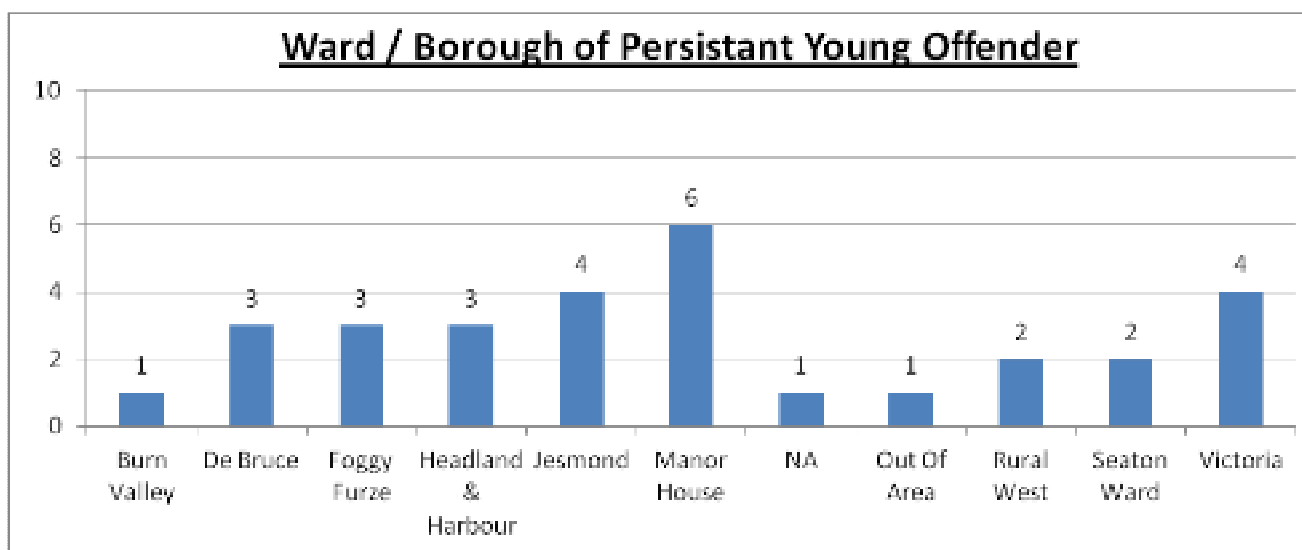


Data highlights that were a young person offends for the first time in Hartlepool 60% do not go on to re-offend. Analysis highlights that the service is dealing with a small number of persistent offenders (see below) who repeat offend; often in line with broader lifestyle choices relating to substance misuse and the need to generate income to maintain substance misuse levels.

Number of Re-offences Committed

No. of Offenders	77	28	13	5	3	5	5	4	2	1	1	1
No. of Re-offences	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	13	14

This cohort of persistent young offenders are predominantly young men who are aged between 15 and 17 and who reside within Hartlepool's most deprived neighbourhoods.



These young people are often the most socially excluded and often have complex and deep rooted health and social problems such as:

- Higher than average mental health needs
- Higher levels of drug and alcohol use than for the general population and in particular 'heavy cannabis use'

- Low educational attachment, attendance and attainment
- Having family members or friends who offend
- Higher than average levels of loss, bereavement, abuse and violence experienced within the family
- A history of family disruption

Working in partnership with the local 'Think Families – Think Communities' initiative will be key to supporting a greater understanding these underlying issues and addressing them in a holistic and co-ordinated way to provide “pathways out of offending”, reduce crime and break the cycle of offending behaviour across generations.

Victims of Youth Crime

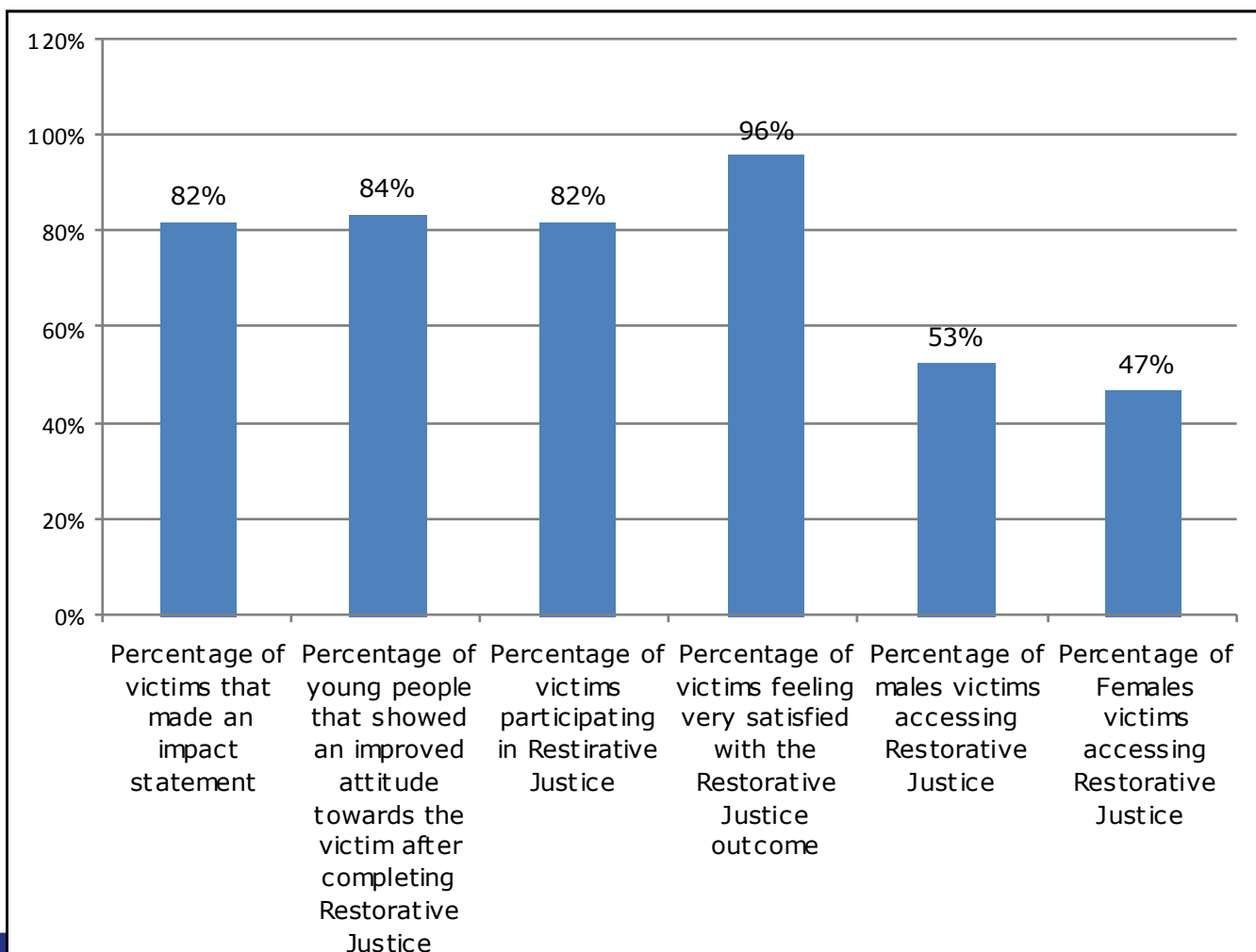
Whilst crime rates in Hartlepool have fallen, the likelihood of being a victim of crime still remains a reality, especially in our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The Youth Offending Service is working hard to reduce the numbers of victims of crime, including the successful use of restorative justice to achieve this objective. Restorative Justice aims to give victims of crime a voice, choice and control in the criminal justice system. Personalised victim impact statements are collected to enable the offender to hear first-hand how their offence has impacted on the victim and wider community.

Restorative Justice in Hartlepool has contributed to the reduction in reoffending rates and repeat victimisation. Over the past 4 years victim satisfaction rates have significantly improved following participation in a Restorative Justice process. This year 96% of victims reported feeling very satisfied with their participation in restorative justice. 84% of offenders also showed an improved attitude towards the victim of their offence.

Victims of crime are helped to access appropriate support pathways that enable them to move on from the impact of crime. A personalised approach is taken to ensure that victims of crime in Hartlepool are placed at the centre. This includes ensuring that individual needs and wishes are fully taken into account. As a result we aim to visit all victims of crime so they are able to access pathways to support, including the option to participate in restorative justice.

Hartlepool is no different from many other areas across England. It has pockets of Anti-Social behaviour which tend to be more prevalent in some of our more disadvantaged areas. To tackle this we gather intelligence to identify the issues that are cause for concern, and are committed to using restorative justice to resolve issues of Anti-Social Behaviour and restore community confidence. To build on this, we are encouraging local communities to get involved in restorative justice and where possible volunteer their time to make a difference. This approach has been successful and we are now looking at how young people tend to migrate out of their local communities to commit crime and or

Hartlepool recognises that females are more likely to suffer repeat victimisation in general; particularly in relation to domestic abuse. As a result Hartlepool is committed to providing services to stop this cycle of abuse from happening. Restorative Justice in some incidences can be used to help victims of domestic violence to tell the perpetrator how they feel about the abuse and how to stop it from reoccurring. Perpetrators of domestic violence are then supported to acknowledge how the victim feels with the aim of stopping cycles of abusive and harmful behaviour from reoccurring. Restorative Justice in Hartlepool has successfully resolved domestic incidents involving young people assaulting their parents/carers. As a result we are currently exploring the wider use of restorative justice to reduce the number of repeat domestic violence incidents in Hartlepool.



Quality of Services

In May 2013 a Short Quality Screening Inspection of Hartlepool Youth Offending Service was undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.

The Short Quality Screening inspection is an inspection of the initial assessment, planning, effective management and partnership working undertaken by a Youth Offending Service in response to young people who are subject to a court order.

The inspection focused upon the percentage of victims participating in Restorative Justice quality of the work undertaken to increase the likelihood of successful outcomes.

- Reducing the likelihood of reoffending
- Protecting the public
- Protecting the child or young person
- Ensuring that the sentence is served

Overall, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation found a 'very positive picture' in Hartlepool. The Inspectors reported that Hartlepool Youth Offending Service can be 'rightly proud of the substantial progress it has made since our previous inspection in 2011'. The inspectors highlighted that staff were well supported, committed and were delivering high quality services. They produced good quality assessments and plans and had ready access to an appropriate range of services.

The Inspectors found that Hartlepool Youth Offending Service had responded to its previous inspection by implementing a range of measures aimed at improving the quality of their work. This included co-locating the team with relevant partner services and developing practice guidance for work that tackled risk of harm to others, vulnerability and compliance.

The Short Quality Screening inspection determined that staff had welcomed these developments and had incorporated them into their practice. The inspectors found that the

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service staff were well trained and supported in their work and that they were clear about what was required of them. The inspectors reported that staff were aware of the principles of effective practice and of the local policies and procedures that related to addressing risk of harm, vulnerability and compliance in their work with children and young people.

The best aspects of work that the inspectors found in Hartlepool included:

- There was routine engagement with children and young people and with their parents/carers in carrying out initial assessments and in case planning. This was often in the face of challenging circumstances and we noted the determination and persistence shown by staff in this respect.
- The assessments of risk of harm and vulnerability issues were of good quality and reflected the skills and experience of staff and the organisational support that underpinned their work.

The areas for improvement identified were:

- In all cases, assessments, plans and reviews of work to tackle risk of harm and vulnerability should be timely.
- There was scope for further improving the quality of the work by ensuring that plans fully reflected the breadth of the issues that had been identified in the assessments undertaken in the cases.

These areas for improvement were swiftly addressed through the development of an action plan.

4 RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

Adequate resourcing and the appropriate use of resources underpin the ability of the Youth Offending Service to deliver high quality services. The Youth Offending Service budget is made up of a central grant from the Youth Justice Board and contributions from statutory partners (Health, Children's Social Care, Police and Probation).

Funding from the national Youth Justice Board for 2014-2015 has remained at the same level to the previous year. However, contributions from some statutory partners will inevitably reduce in light of significant reductions in their own funding arrangements. As a consequence it is anticipated at this stage that the overall budget for the Youth Offending Service will be 3.8% less than 2013/2014.

Organisation	Financial Contribution	In kind staffing contribution	Total
Youth Justice Board	£497,114		£497,114
HBC Children's Services	£355,410		£355,410
Cleveland Police		£45,000 (Police Officer)	£45,000
Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust	£11,146	£36,250 (Probation Officer)	£47,396
HBC Public Health	£25,736	£41,250 (Nurse)	£66,986
Totals	£889,406	£122,500	£1,011,906

Alongside this, in 2013-2014 Hartlepool Youth Offending Service was able to secure the funding diverted by the Home Office from Youth Offending Services Service's to support the introduction of the Police & Crime Commissioners. Hartlepool Youth Offending Service has again applied to the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner to secure this money for 2014 – 2015 to support the ongoing continuation of the local Triage and the emphasis on Out of Court Disposals and remains hopeful that this application will be successful given the historical support for the Triage Programme in Hartlepool and its proven track record of diverting young people from the Youth Justice System.

5 STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Service Structure

The Youth Offending Service deploys a staff team of thirty eight people, which includes four seconded staff, four commissioned staff and eight sessional workers (**see Appendix 1**). The service also benefits from a team of thirteen active volunteers who sit as Referral Order Panel members. All staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)s which are renewed every three years.

The service has undergone undergoing significant service remodelling in response emerging priorities and areas of need. Historically the service was organised into two discreet areas; Pre-court and Post-court provision. The service now operates a 'through court' model that places the majority of the services resources at the point of prevention and diversion to reflect the decreasing numbers of young people appearing before magistrates and the ongoing reductions in court orders.

It is envisaged that for those young people who go onto offend (in spite of preventative and diversionary interventions), the Youth Offending officer who will have established a relationship and rapport with the young person will be provided with the capacity to support the young person and their broader family through the court process, support any statutory interventions and then go on to provide aftercare with a view to reducing any further offending behaviour.

Governance

The Youth Offending Service is located within the Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services Division of Child and Adult Services. The Management Board is chaired by a local Police Area Commander and is made up of representatives from Child and Adult Services, Police, Probation, Health, Courts, Housing, Youth Support Services, Community Safety and the local Voluntary and Community Sector. Effective integrated strategic partnership working and clear oversight by the Management Board are critical to the success and effective delivery of youth justice services in Hartlepool. The board is directly responsible for:

- Determining how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded;
- Overseeing the formulation each year of a draft youth justice plan;
- Agreeing measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan'
- Ensuring delivery of the statutory aim to prevent offending by children and young people.
- Giving strategic direction to Youth Offending Service Manager and Youth Offending Service Team
- Providing performance management of the prevention of youth crime and periodically report this to the Safer Hartlepool Executive Group.
- Promoting the key role played by the Youth Offending Service within local integrated offender management arrangements.

The Management Board is clear about the priority areas for improvement, and monitors the delivery of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan, performance and prevention work. It is well attended and receives comprehensive reports relating to performance, finance and

specific areas of service delivery.

Members of the Board are knowledgeable, participate well in discussions and are members of other related boards, which contribute to effective partnership working at a strategic level.

Board meetings are well structured and members are held accountable.

The membership of the Board is as follows:

Lynn Beeston Chair	Local Police Area Commander
Mark Smith	Head of Youth Support Services (incorporating YOS Manager functions)
Sally Robinson	Assistant Director - Prevention, Safeguarding & Specialist Services Hartlepool Borough Council
Dean Jackson	Assistant Director – Performance and Achievement Hartlepool Borough Council
Lucia Saiger	Director of Offender Services - Durham Tees Valley Trust
Louise Hurst	Deputy Youth Offending Service Manager
Emma Rutherford	Education Inclusion Co-ordinator
Paul Whittingham	Commissioning Manager NHS
Lindsey Robertson	Community Services Manager for Children and young people North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation
Lynda Igoe	Principal Housing Officer Hartlepool Borough Council
Sally Forth	Community Safety Manager Hartlepool Borough Council
Dave Wise	Chair of the West View Project (Voluntary/Community Sector representative).
Young people's representative	Currently vacant

6 PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service is a statutory partnership which includes, but also extends beyond, the direct delivery of youth justice services. In order to deliver youth justice outcomes it must be able to function effectively in both of the two key sectors within which it operates, namely:

Criminal justice services.

Services for children and young people and their families.

The Youth Offending Service contributes both to improving community safety and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and in particular protecting them from significant harm. Working Together to Safeguard Children highlights the need for Youth Offending Services to work jointly with other agencies and professionals to ensure that young people are protected from harm and to ensure that outcomes for local children, young people and their families are improved.

Many of the young people involved with the Youth Offending Service are amongst the most vulnerable children in the borough and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. The Youth Offending Service's multi-agency approach ensures that it plays a significant role in meeting the safeguarding needs of these young people. This is achieved through the effective assessment and management of vulnerability and risk and through working in partnership with other services, for example Children's Social Care, Health and Education to ensure young people's wellbeing is promoted and they are protected from harm.

In order to generate effective outcomes for children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending the Youth Offending Service has in place effective partnership arrangements and is an important delivery partner for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. This close relationship is embedded in Hartlepool's 'Crime, Disorder, and Drugs Strategy' and 'Children and Young

People's Plans'.

The Youth Offending Service Manager and nominated officers from within the Youth Offending Service are members of strategic boards relevant to young people who offend. For example representatives sit on the Criminal Justice Intervention Managers Partnership, 11-19 Strategic Board, Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Partnership, Parenting Strategy Board, Substance Misuse Steering Group, Pupil Referral Unit Management Board, Social Inclusion Strategy Group and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Youth Offending Service is also represented on the Children's Strategic Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Well-being Board and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

7 RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY

There are many factors that have the capacity to have an adverse impact on the Youth Offending Service in the coming twelve months and potentially beyond.

Secure Remand Costs

The service continues to contend with the financial risks inherent in remand costs following the decision to transfer financial responsibility to Local Authorities for the funding of all remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (A secure Children's Home; a Secure Training Centre; a Young Offender Institution) following the passing of Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act in 2012.

In 2013 – 2014 Hartlepool incurred a total of **115 days** at an approximate combined cost of **£77k** which at this stage represents an estimated **27k** overspend against the monies allocated to Hartlepool.

The financial pressure lies in:

- a) the unpredictability of a youth from Hartlepool being charged with a serious offence which then runs for several months whilst waiting to be dealt with in Crown Court. This could result in a lengthy period on remand for the young person.
- b) the desire to advocate for secure arrangements that are commensurate with the young person's needs.

It will be essential that the service can demonstrate to magistrates going forward that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill

These recent reforms set out in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill are intended to ensure that 'professionals have effective powers that are quick, practical and easy to use, provide better protection for victims and communities and act as real deterrents to perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.

However, it has been highlighted that the grounds of the new civil injunction - 'preventing nuisance and annoyance' and that it is 'just and convenient' – constitute a lower threshold than that for current anti-social behaviour orders.

For example, a civil injunction can be made on the basis of the balance of probabilities. This is a weaker test than currently in place for ASBOs which are subject to a 'heightened civil standard' of proof. Like ASBO's, the new provisions allow the use of hearsay evidence.

Alongside this, the inclusion of positive requirements in civil injunctions and criminal behaviour orders may support some children to address their problem behaviour. However, they are also likely to make compliance harder for children, resulting in more breaches. Children with learning disabilities, communication difficulties, mental health problems and low literacy have difficulty understanding what is expected of them, and what will happen if they fail to comply. Children may lack parental support to ensure they stick to positive requirements. Take-up of Individual Support Orders at present is limited, and many have questioned whether take-up of the new requirements will be significant.

Access to suitable support locally is already highly variable, and is likely to be limited by current budgetary pressures, which are reducing levels of youth service provision and positive activities, with the greatest reductions focused on disadvantaged localities with high levels of anti-social behaviour.

It is hard to predict the likely impact of the provisions in practice on levels of anti-social

behaviour by children. However, it is becoming increasingly accepted that aspects of the Bill are likely to lead to an increase in the number of children being subject to civil injunctions, more breaches of orders and injunctions, and more children being sent to

custody.

It will be essential that the service works closely with Police and the local Community Safety Team to ensure that orders support local children and young people to address their problem behaviour, whilst ensuring that the correct support arrangements are secured to enable them to fully comply with requirements stipulated within the orders.

Decision to Transfer Youth Court Listings to Teesside Magistrates

From April 2014 local young people listed to appear before magistrates will be required to present at Teesside Magistrates in Middlesbrough. It is anticipated that this additional requirement is likely to have a significant impact upon the ability of local young people and their families to attend court as and when specified and is likely to have the following consequences:

- Cost and time taken to get to Middlesbrough to attend court – families using public transport will have to set off very early and this is expensive. These are generally the families with little spare capacity in weekly budgets.
- Likely increase in non-attendance at court and issuing of warrants which will result in significant police time in chasing these up.
- Travel to and from Middlesbrough court by Youth Offending Service staff will result in a pressure on resources.
- There is the potential of significant expenses being incurred if Hartlepool has to seek internet access through installation of a fixed line at Teesside Magistrates.
- The whole principle of “local justice” will seem less likely. Hartlepool YOS has a



good working relationship with all court staff and other users (Solicitors / Magistrates /Security Staff etc)

It will be essential that the service works closely with Teesside Magistrates to develop a similar relationship to the one experienced in Hartlepool.

Alongside this, the impact on local re-offending rates will need to be keenly monitored to determine if the inability of young people and their families to attend Teesside Magistrates has an adverse impact upon local resources and affects local performance in relation to the reduction of re-offending by young people.

8 STRATEGIC SUMMARY

In spite of the adversities that families and communities contend with in Hartlepool the local Youth Justice Partnership has had significant success in recent years in terms of preventing and reducing youth offending behaviour.

However, an emphasis on prevention and diversion needs to be maintained and in spite of recent reductions in re-offending, the rate of re-offending in Hartlepool continues to be higher than the Tees Valley average and national average.

Evidence highlights that it is often the complex interplay of multiple deprivation factors and difficulties that makes problems in some households insurmountable and places the children at significant risk of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour. As a result there is a need to place an even greater emphasis on whole family interventions to create “pathways out of offending”, reduce crime and break the cycle of offending behaviour across generations.

Whilst crime rates in Hartlepool have fallen, the likelihood of being a victim of crime still remains a reality, especially in our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and there remains a need to continue to invest in the delivery of restorative approaches to give victims of crime a voice, choice, control and satisfaction in the criminal justice system.

Alongside the above, there has been a significant shift in the local delivery landscape, such as changes to commissioning arrangements, the transfer of financial burdens associated with the remand of young people to the Local Authority and the decision to transfer Youth Court listings to Teesside Magistrates.

Clearly, the Youth Offending Service and broader Youth Justice Partnership will need to be

proactive in addressing the above challenges to ensure it continues to achieve its central aim of preventing offending by children and young people.

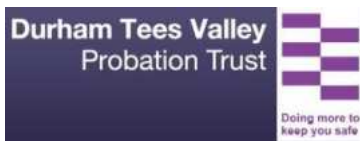
Proposed Strategic Objectives and Priorities

Based upon the findings from the Strategic Assessment, it is proposed that the Youth Offending Service and broader youth justice Partnership focuses on the following key strategic objectives during 2014 - 15:

Youth Justice Strategic Priorities
Re-offending - reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime
Early Intervention and Prevention – sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that there remain strategies and services in place locally to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
Remand and Custody – demonstrate that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.
Restorative Justice – ensure all victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches and restorative justice is central to work undertaken with young people who offend.
Risk and Vulnerability – ensure all children and young people entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk and vulnerability to inform effective intervention and risk management.
Think Family – embed a whole family approach to better understand the true impact of families in our communities and improve our understanding of the difficulties faced by all members of the family and how this can contribute to anti-social and offending behaviour.
Maintain Standards – ensure that all assessments, reports and interventions developed by the Youth Offending Service are effective and of a high quality.
Effective Governance – ensure that the Youth Offending Strategic Management Board will be a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Offending Service performance.

The local Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2015 will establish responsibility across the Youth Offending Service and the Youth Offending Strategic Board for taking each improvement activity forward within agreed timescales.

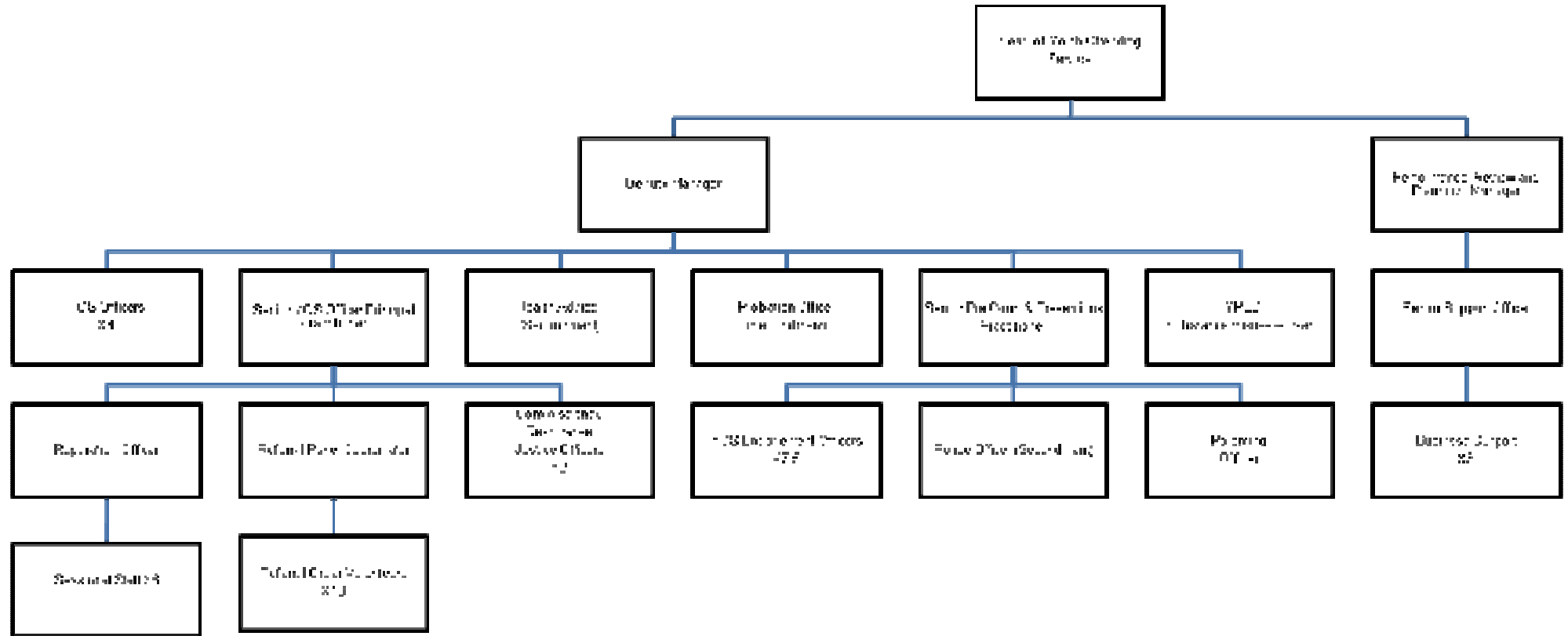
Hartlepool Youth Justice Partnership





Appendix 1

Youth Offending Service Structure



COUNCIL

3rd July 2014



Report of: Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2013/14 Final
Outturn and 2015/16 Budget Timetable

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To enable Council to consider the Finance and Policy Committee's proposals in relation to the 2013/14 final Outturn and budget timetable for 2015/16.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on 30th June 2014 the Finance and Policy Committee will consider a detailed report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2015/16 to 2018/19. This report commences the budget process for 2015/16 and includes details of the 2013/14 final outturn position.

2.2 The report to the Finance and Policy Committee includes a number of recommendations which are changes to the approved Budget and Policy Framework, which in accordance with the constitution must be referred to Council for consideration. Owing to the timing of meetings the report for Council has been prepared before the Finance and Policy Committee had met to consider these issues. Therefore, if there are any changes to the proposals detailed in this report a supplementary report will be issued after the Finance and Policy Committee has met.

2.3 The following sections have been extracted from the Finance and Policy Committee report and detail the issues which need to be considered by Council at this stage. Other issues detailed in the MTFS will, as has been the case in previous years and as required by the Council's constitution, be reported to Council later in the year for consideration and a decision.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 2013/14 Final Outturn – General Fund Budget

3.2 The gross General Fund budget for 2013/14 was £152m (£96.7m excluding those services funded from fees and charges). Both figures exclude expenditure funded from specific grants, Housing Benefit payments and Local Council Tax Support scheme expenditure. An early assessment of the

2013/14 outturn was prepared and regular up date reports presented to Members throughout the year. This approach enabled the Council to develop a strategic approach for using one-off resources available from the effective management of 2013/14 budgets and the review of reserves completed during 2013/14. The outturn strategy will help the Council manage the significant financial challenges and risks over the next few years. This approach included allocating significant one-off resources to support the revenue budget over the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 to partly mitigate the impact of Government grant cuts on services. Without this longer term strategic approach to managing the Council's resources even greater budget cuts would have been needed in 2014/15 and then again in 2015/16 and 2016/17. Similarly LCTS (Local Council Tax Support Scheme) cuts could not have been phased in during 2013/14 and 2014/15.

- 3.3 The February 2014 MTFS report confirmed an uncommitted forecast managed under spend within the range of £0.729m to £1.160m, which reflected the impact of seasonal factors and demand led budgets. As part of the approved MTFS Member's earmarked the lower forecast outturn of £0.729m to help support the budget over the period 2014/15 to 2016/17. The higher forecast outturn was not committed owing to uncertainty over the achievement of this figure and potential risks in relation to Business Rates income arising from the Business Rates Retention system changes. Assuming the higher outturn was achieved there would have been an uncommitted outturn of **£0.431m**.
- 3.4 Closure of the 2013/14 accounts is progressing and nearing completion and this work has been significantly more challenging than in previous years. This is mainly owing to the year-end accounting requirements in relation to the first financial year end for the Business Rates Retention system, as information and/regulations from the Government were only received towards the end of April 2014.
- 3.5 The final uncommitted outturn is **£0.495m**, as detailed in Appendix A which provides a comprehensive overview of the outturn position. Whilst there have been a number of variances from the forecast outturn the factors directly under the Council's control have had a broadly neutral impact on the forecast outturn. The key factors affecting the improvement in the outturn relate to the following issues:

- Receipt of House Sale income from Housing Hartlepool - £0.215m

In accordance with the stock transfer agreement the Council will receive £7m (at 2003/04 prices) from Housing Hartlepool from the sale of the housing stock. The Council received notification at the end of March that the amount due in respect of 2013/14 is £0.215m, which reflects a slight improvement in the local housing market.

This amount brings the cumulative amount received since 2004/05 to £4.292m and 88% (£3.752m) of this funding was received before 31st March 2009. The funding received up to 2011/12 was committed to

support the budget in earlier years. The 2012/13 amount was earmarked as part of the funding strategy to underpin the Jacksons Landing risk management strategy.

The amount received at the end of 2013/14 is uncommitted as this amount had not previously been anticipated in the forecast outturn. Revised arrangements have been agreed with Housing Hartlepool for 2014/15 to identify this income earlier as it is hoped the improvement in the housing market will continue.

- Receipt of Government Grant hold backs £0.198m.

The Government top sliced the national grant allocation for 2013/14 to fund capitalisation applications approved during the year and committed to return any unspent monies to local authorities. The Government provided no information during the year on the potential value of the amount to be refunded at a national level and the allocations to individual authorities. Notification and payment to individual authorities were received on 28th March 2014, the penultimate working day of the financial year.

3.6 Strategy for using uncommitted General Fund outturn

3.7 The Council faces an additional one-off budget shortfall in 2015/16 of £0.5m as the financial benefits of the Better Care Fund will not be able to be taken into account in the way previously anticipated. However, there will still be a significant benefit from using this funding to protect Social Care services. A strategy will therefore need to be developed to address this one off additional shortfall in 2015/16.

3.8 This shortfall does not continue in future years as a cautious approach had previously been taken regarding the ongoing impact of the Better Care Fund, pending the clarification of the detailed funding arrangements and the development of the Better Care plan.

3.9 Two options for using the uncommitted General Fund outturn have been identified:

Option one would be to allocate the uncommitted 2013/14 final outturn of £0.495m to sustainably address this shortfall.

Option two would involve allocating the house sale income of £0.215m to purchase houses for rent to replace those lost from the sale of properties by Housing Hartlepool. There is an opportunity for the Council to purchase five new houses included in a current mixed development of houses for sale and for rent. The purchase of these properties would complement the Social Housing developments already being undertaken by the Council and enable much needed high quality homes to be provided within a short time scale. In line with the previously approved business cases this additional scheme will be funded from a combination of the income received from the share of

Housing Hartlepool house sales income and the use of Prudential Borrowing supported from the rental income. The subsidy provided from the house sales income reduces the amount of Prudential Borrowing required for this scheme and therefore the revenue costs to be funded from the rental income. This scheme then provides uncommitted rental income which can be used to support the next phase of the Social Housing project and increase the number of houses which can be provided by a further six. In line with the Council resolution in February a detailed Business Case for extending the Social Housing development project is being worked up and will be reported to a future meeting. It was originally envisaged this should provide an additional 35 to 40 properties, excluding the properties referred to in the previous paragraphs. Details of capital budget and Prudential Borrowing limits required for this scheme are provided in **Confidential Appendix B. This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (paragraph 4) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.**

- 3.10 If **option two** is adopted this would leave £0.280m towards the additional 2015/16 budget shortfall of £0.5m. The residual 2015/16 budget shortfall of £0.220m would then need to be a first call on the 2014/15 outturn and / or any resources identified from reviewing the level of reserves held at the 31st March 2014.
- 3.11 In financial terms either of the options detailed in the previous paragraphs could be adopted and supported by the Chief Finance Officer and the Corporate Management Team. The first option is completely without risk as the 2015/16 additional one-off budget shortfall would be 99% funded. The second option would help address housing needs within the town by providing additional affordable homes for rent. The adoption of this option will mean the Council needs to achieve one-off funding of £0.220m from a combination of the 2014/15 outturn and / or from reviewing the level of reserves held at the 31st March 2014, which it is anticipated can be achieved. On this basis the Corporate Management Team and the Chief Finance Officer recommended that Finance and Policy Committee approve **Option 2** for referral to Council.
- 3.12 **Business Rate Appeals**
- 3.13 As reported on 28th March 2014 a total of 330 Hartlepool businesses have lodged appeals against their rateable values. The majority of these appeals are outstanding and the combined annual rateable value of these appeals is about £23.3m, with an associated gross annual rates yield of £10.1m of which the Council's annual share would be £4.96m. In most cases successful rateable value appeals will be back dated to 1st April 2010. The Government will pass on 50% of the costs of successful appeals to Local Authorities, despite the Government having previously received 100% of the business rates collected for 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

- 3.14 The above figures exclude the value of the Power Station appeal which is significantly more complicated owing to the linkages between a potential successful appeal and the level of 'Transitional Relief' awarded to the Power Station. It is currently anticipated that any reduction in the Power Station's rateable value will largely be offset by a corresponding reduction in 'Transitional Relief' which may mean there is a limited potential net financial impact on the Council, currently estimated at £0.13m. However, there remains a risk that 'Transitional Relief' may be clawed back by the Government if there is a successful rateable value appeal which would result in a significant unfunded financial liability for the Council. This position is unlikely to become clear for some time and there is a significant likelihood that owing to the complexity of the Power Station case this appeal will be within the 5% of appeals which the Government has stated will not be resolved until after July 2015.
- 3.15 Regulations regarding the year end accounting requirements for appeals were issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2014. These regulations require all authorities to use information provided by the Valuation Office to assess the forecast value of appeals. This approach has been adopted to enable the Government to assess the 50% share of potential successful appeals to be funded nationally on a consistent basis across all Authorities. The regulations confirm that the cost of forecast appeals is recognised through the final outturn for the Collection Fund for 2013/14. On this basis this cost will not actually hit the General Fund budget until 2015/16. However, as 2015/16 will be the most difficult financial year the Council has faced so far, it is recommended that the forecast appeals liability is funded from the 2013/14 outturn to avoid an unbudgeted pressure in 2015/16.
- 3.16 On the basis of these regulations the estimated financial impact of forecast successful appeals in 2015/16 is £0.75m and a reserve for this amount is included within the final outturn. This cost consists of the following elements:
- (i) £0.25m – to cover the unbudgeted 2013/14 Business Rates Collection Fund deficit which will need to be funded in 2015/16;
 - (ii) £0.5m to cover the forecast reduction in Business Rates retained by the Council in 2015/16 as a result of forecast successful appeals which have not yet been resolved.
- 3.17 The previous paragraphs underline the continuing financial uncertainties in relation to the annual level of Business Rates income built into the MTFS and the appeal liabilities transferred to Councils. As reported previously the Government has given a commitment to finalise 95% of outstanding appeals by July 2015. This timetable means there will be continuing financial uncertainty until at least the early part of 2016 when the 2015/16 Accounts will be finalised. Depending on the outstanding appeals within the 5% of cases not resolved by July 2015 this financial uncertainty may continue for a longer period. The resources earmarked within the 2013/14 final outturn are

a proactive measure designed to mitigate these financial liabilities and avoid, as far as possible, increasing the budget cuts which will need to be made in 2015/16 and future years. Additional resources may need to be set aside for appeal costs and this issue will continue to be reviewed as part of the ongoing budget process.

3.18 2013/14 Final Outturn – Local Welfare Support (LWS)

3.19 In response to the Government's decision to withdraw the Local Welfare Support funding after 2014/15 an early assessment of the 2013/14 outturn was completed, including the impact of higher potential LWS demand over the Christmas/early New Year Period. This review identified forecast one-off resources which could be used to supplement the final LWS funding allocated by the Government to provide annual funding for a Hartlepool LWS scheme covering the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 of £0.26m (£0.180m for Financial Support to individuals and £0.080m for staff transferring into the Advice and Guidance Hub).

3.20 The available funding and the local solution developed for using this funding over a 3 year period provides a sound basis for the commencement of the Advice and Guidance Hub and reflected Hartlepool experience of managing the new LWS responsibility in 2013/14.

3.21 The actual outturn is more favourable than previously forecast and there is an uncommitted under spend of £0.226m, reflecting the following factors:

- £40,000 from a successful bid for additional DWP Discretionary Housing Payment one off funding;
- £84,000 arising from a lower actual cost of the Council's approved "16 weeks DHP support scheme" for under occupancy changes (bedroom tax cases) as some people moved to smaller properties, or left the Borough;
- £50,000 from an unused awards contingency provision to manage demand. This amount had been approved by Council on 5th September 2013 within the LWS strategy report to ensure this new responsible could be managed effectively in 2013/14;
- £35,000 arising from lower actual LWS awards in the final quarter than anticipated;
- £17,000 lower actual expenditure on staffing costs than estimated.

3.22 It is recommended that the additional funding is allocated to supplement the funding allocated as part of the MTFs with the aim of sustaining the existing scheme at broadly the same level for a further year in 2017/18, which would provide the following annual allocations:

- 2014/15 £260,000
- 2015/16 £260,000
- 2016/17 £260,000
- 2017/18 £226,000

3.23 Ward Member budget outturn

- 3.24 The MTFS report approved in February 2014 by full Council included the following resolution *‘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’*. The MTFS report also indicated that the final outturn would depend on the value of the schemes approved before the year end.
- 3.25 The year end outturn has now been complete and there is a total unallocated Ward Member budget of £19,330. This relates to unused monies for two former Members for 2012/13 and 2013/14 i.e. £8,830 within the Seaton Ward and £10,500 within the Hart Ward.
- 3.26 A proposal has been received from the new Councillor for the Hart Ward requesting that consideration be given to allocate the uncommitted Ward Member budget of £10,500 (from the previous incumbent) to the current Hart Ward Councillors to support projects for the benefit of the residents in this Ward.
- 3.27 The Leader of the Council advised the new Councillor that he supported this proposal, both in respect of the Hart Ward and the Seaton Ward, and advised him that this issue would need to be considered by the Finance and Policy Committee and full Council as a departure from the approved budget.
- 3.28 The recommendations included in the Finance and Policy Committee report enable Members to consider this proposal prior to referral to full Council.
- 3.29 **2014/15 Forecast Outturn and Reserves Review**
- 3.30 Depending on the option adopted for using the 2013/14 outturn (as detailed in section 3.6) the Council may need to identify resources of £0.220m from the 2014/15 outturn and Reserves Review to support the 2015/16 budget.
- 3.31 Members previously agreed at a meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on March 28th 2014 and full Council on 3rd April 2014 to make provision of up to £34,000 (based on the costs of the 2013/14 scheme) to cover the cost of the free junior swim initiative over the summer from the proceeds of selling the Council’s financial interest in The Domes, Seaton Carew. The actual cost is estimated to be £27,000.
- 3.32 It had been envisaged that the monies from selling the financial interest in the Domes would have been received by now. However, these monies have not yet been received as the legal agreements between the Domes current owner and the new owners have not yet been completed. In order to enable the free swims to progress a fall back funding position is needed. Therefore, it is recommend that as a fall back these costs may need to be a call on the 2014/15 outturn.

- 3.33 A report to the Adult Services Committee on 7th July 2014 will inform Members of the current position regarding Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and the implications of a recent Supreme Court judgement. As a result of this judgement there are significant implications for Local Authorities in terms of additional workload, capacity and costs.
- 3.34 The judgement and the new test set the bar at which a person may be deprived of their liberty much lower than before. This means that the Council, as Supervisory Body, will receive more requests for assessment under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) process. This will put pressure on the DoLS function and on the capacity of Best Interests Assessors as well as generating additional work for the legal team and additional applications to the Court of Protection.
- 3.35 At this early stage it is anticipated that there may be a financial pressure of approximately £448,000 in 2014/15 linked to the creation of a new team to deal with the additional work, plus additional mental health assessments by 12 doctors and increased costs for legal advice and court applications.
- 3.36 The Corporate Management Team recommends the costs for 2014/15 should be funded from the use of Child and Adult Services reserves and any underspends within other areas of the Adult Services budget which can be achieved in 2014/15. This funding strategy is designed to protect the Council's overall financial position. The use of Child and Adult Services reserves reduces the Departments ability to manage potential increases in the costs of demand led services. It is hoped the actual costs can be managed down to a lower level, which will enable uncommitted reserves to be carried forward to 2015/16 to partly mitigate this ongoing budget pressure.
- 3.37 The ongoing financial pressure will be able to be better quantified later in the year, and a decision will be required as to how this pressure is addressed on a permanent basis. At this stage no provision for these additional costs has been included within the Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts, pending the outcome of this review. This issue will need to be considered as part of the detailed development of the 2015/16 budget.
- 3.38 If a higher amount of uncommitted funding can be identified from the 2014/15 outturn and the review of reserves, than is needed to address the above issues, a strategy for using these resources will need to be developed, which may include allocating one-off resources:
- a. To fund potential one-off protection costs arising from achieving permanent savings from the Terms and Conditions review, which would enable the full saving to be taken within the 2015/16 budget;
 - b. To continue the use of one-off resources to support the budget and protect services beyond 2016/17 when the existing one-off funding of £1.648m will run out;

3.39 Proposed Budget Timetable 2015/16

3.40 The budget timetable will need to cover the following issues:

- Detailed consideration of key corporate issues by the Finance and Policy Committee regarding the overall budget position, proposed savings and review of reserves;
- Referral of specific savings proposal to individual service Committees for detailed consideration;
- Public Consultation;
- The timetable for completing the statutory process for setting the overall budget, consulting employees/Trade Unions where cuts impact on staff and any other necessary consultation/legal process to implement cuts.

3.41 In previous years the budget process was not completed until February when the final budget proposals, including budget cuts and the level of Council tax were approved.

3.42 The main drawbacks to this 'traditional timescale' is impact this had on the implementation of the full year savings from 1st April and the prolonged period of uncertainty for staff affected by compulsory redundancies. These issues will be more challenging for 2015/16 and future years as budget cuts will become significantly more difficult to achieve. These issues could be addressed by splitting the budget decisions into two components, as detailed below:

- Budget Decisions – this would require Finance and Policy Committee and full Council to approve all the detailed measures underpinning the 2015/16 budget on the basis of the provisional 2015/16 Grant Settlement issued in January 2014 before the Christmas 2014 holidays commence. These measures would include approving the detailed 2015/16 savings proposals, the indicative 2015/16 Council Tax level, the 2015/16 Local Council Tax Support Scheme, the 2015/16 Capital Programme and confirming the amount of reserves to be used to support the 2015/16 budget.
- Council Tax Decisions - Statutory Calculations - these cannot be completed until the final 2015/16 Local Government Finance Settlement is issued and the Police and Fire precepts have been set. Therefore, this technical report would still be submitted to Finance and Policy Committee and the full Council in late January/early February 2015.

3.43 A suggested alternative timetable has been developed which would maximise the time available at the start of the process for the development of detailed Departmental savings proposals and consideration of these proposals by individual Policy Committees. This recognises that these tasks are critical to the delivery of sustainable savings and need an appropriate timeframe for completion.

- 3.44 A draft budget timetable is set out below, which includes when reports on the 2015/16 Local Council Tax Support Scheme will be considered by Members (shaded text), as this issue needs considering at broadly the same time as the budget. Appendix C provides details of how the proposed timetable meets the requirements defined in the Constitution.

Proposed Budget Timetable

Description of Activity	Timetable
Budget Decisions	
Update of MTFS	Finance and Policy Committee - 30.06.14
Development of the 2015/16 Local Council Tax Support scheme	Finance and Policy Committee - 21.07.14 2014
Consideration of detailed Departmental savings reports by individual Policy Committees (special meeting for each Committee)	July to August 2014
Review Reserves held at 31.03.14	Finance and Policy Committee – 13.10.14
Consideration of feedback from individual Policy Committees on budget proposals and update of MTFS and update on proposed 2015/16 Local Council Tax Support scheme.	Finance and Policy Committee – 13.10.14
Finalise 2015/16 budget proposals to be referred to Council and proposed 2015/16 Local Council Tax Support scheme	Finance and Policy Committee – 24.11.14
Consider Finance and Policy Committees' 2015/16 budget proposals and proposed 2015/16 Local Council Tax Support scheme.	Council – 11.12.14
Council Tax Decisions – Statutory Calculations	
Finalise Council Tax proposals to be referred to full Council	Finance and Policy Committee – 26.01.15
Consider and approve Council Tax statutory calculations for HBC	Council – 05.02.15
Approve Council Tax statutory calculations including precepts set by Police and Fire.	Council – 26.02.15

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that Council approves the following proposals:

4.2 General Fund 2013/14 Final Outturn

4.3 Note the final outturn position detailed in Appendix A, including the additional risk reserves and the uncommitted final 2013/14 General Fund outturn of £0.495m

4.4 Approve the proposals to use the uncommitted outturn to implement **Option 2** – which will allocate the housing income received from Housing Hartlepool of £0.215m to purchase additional houses for rent and the residual balance of £0.280m to partly support the additional one-off 2015/16 budget deficit arising from clarification of the Better Care funding regime.

4.5 On the basis of approving recommendation 4.4 to approve the purchase of 5 houses as an addition to capital programme to be funded through a combination of the Housing income and Prudential Borrowing (which will be fully funded from rental income), as detailed in **Confidential Appendix B. This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (paragraph 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.**

4.6 To note that if Option 2 is adopted this will require a one-off contribution of £0.220m from a combination of the 2014/15 outturn and review of reserves to fully address the additional budget shortfall in 2015/16, which it is anticipated can be achieved. To also note that as a fall back the costs of the free junior swims initiative in summer 2014 may need to be funded from the 2014/15 outturn, but only in the event that the Domes proceeds are not received.

4.7 Local Welfare Support 2013/14 Final Outturn

4.8 Approve the proposal to allocate the uncommitted final 2013/14 Local Welfare Support outturn of £0.226m to sustain the existing scheme at broadly the same level for a further year in 2017/18.

4.9 Ward Member Budgets 2013/14 Outturn

4.10 Approve the proposal to allocate the unused Ward Member budgets for the Hart Ward of £10,500 and the Seaton Ward of £8,300 for use by the current Ward Members for these areas to support projects which meet the existing criteria for using Ward Member budgets.

4.11 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards – Implications of the Supreme Court Judgement

4.12 Note that an initial review of Child and Adult Services Reserves has been completed to identify resources to fund the estimated costs in 2014/15, of up to £0.448m, arising from changes to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards arising from a recent Supreme Court judgement and approve the allocation of the following amounts to fund these costs:

- Demographic Pressures in Adult Social Care Reserve – £0.331m
- Supporting Social Care Reserves £0.117m

4.13 To note it is hoped the actual 2014/15 costs will be lower, which will enable the unused reserves to be carried forward to partly mitigated the ongoing costs in 2015/16, currently estimated to be £0.269m:

4.14 Budget Timetable 2015/16

4.15 Approve the budget timetable detailed in Appendix C and provide authority to the Chief Solicitor to make consequential changes to the Council's Constitution.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 Finance and Policy Committee Report 30th June 2014 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

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2013/14 GENERAL FUND OUTTURN

	Forecast Outturn - Overspend/ (underspend) £'000	Actual Outturn - Overspend/ (underspend) £'000	Decrease / (increase) in forecast outturn £'000	Note
Chief Executive's Department	(828)	(1,034)	(206)	1
Child and Adult Services	145	(101)	(246)	2
Public Health Department (General Fund budgets)	167	91	(76)	3
Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services	40	(130)	(170)	4
Corporate Budgets	(253)	(309)	(56)	
Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Business Retention System	0	622	622	5
World War 1 Memorial	0	50	50	6
Sub Total - Controllable Budget	(729)	(811)	(82)	
Receipt of House Sale income from Housing Hartlepool	0	(215)	(215)	7
Receipt of Government Grant hold backs	0	(198)	(198)	8
Grand Total	(729)	(1,224)	(495)	9

1. Chief Executive's Department

The increase in the forecast outturn mainly relates to the early achievement of 2014/15 savings, increased income from Court costs and increased vacancies in the final 3 months of the year.

2. Child and Adult Services Department

The increase in forecast outturn mainly relates to the early achievement of 2014/15 savings and increased use of grant income.

3. Public Health Department (General Fund budgets)

The decrease in the forecast outturn overspend is mainly the result of increased income within Sport & Recreation and licensing.

4. Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services Department

The final outturn is mainly owing to an under spend on the Winter Maintenance budget as a result of a mild winter period. The shortfall in Car Parking was also slightly lower than forecast, including the impact of free parking at Christmas.

5. Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Business Retention System – over spend £0.622m

As reported previously these issues were the most fundamental changes in the Local Government finance system since the Council Tax system was introduced in 1991. As a result of these changes significant new financial risks transferred to Councils in April 2013. Managing these changes was extremely challenging owing to the timescales for implementation and the late announcement of information needed to set the 2013/14 budget. In addition, detailed regulations regarding the closure requirements for 2013/14 were only received in April 2014, which made forecasting the final position difficult as it was uncertain how a range of technical issues would need to be accounted for.

The actual net cost of the 2013/14 Local Council Tax Support Scheme was £0.605m lower than forecast. Previous reports highlighted the potential volatility of the LCTS scheme costs, particularly in the first year of operation, owing to changes in the numbers of claimants, the impact of changes in their financial circumstances (LCTS is a means tested scheme) and the level of Council Tax collection achieved in the first year of operating the LCTS scheme. The first year's outturn was better than forecast and the pressure included in the 2013/14 budget was not needed. This position is not sustainable as the ongoing budget has been reduced from £0.605m in 2013/14 to £0.488m in 2014/15, with a further planned reduction in 2015/16 to £0.312m as the Council phases in reduction in LCTS support as previously approved within the MTFS forecasts. There were also benefits in 2013/14 from higher Council Tax income generated from policy changes to Council Tax exemption discounts, a small reduction in claimant numbers, a reduction in the average value of LCTS awarded to individual claimants and better than forecast collection rates for LCTS claimants, reflecting the Council's effective recovery arrangements.

Further detailed work needs to be completed to assess the sustainability of these factors in 2014/15 and future years. Some of these trends may not continue or will become increasingly challenging to sustain, particularly in-year collection rates which will become increasingly difficult as LCTS support has reduced for 2014/15 and further cuts will be need to be made in future years. This detailed work will be completed as soon as practical and will form the basis for an LCTS update report to the Committee in July 2014, which will enable Members to review the existing planning assumptions for 2015/16 and future years LCTS scheme.

Unfortunately this lower cost was offset by the impact of a reduction in Business Rate income of £0.477m from the amount forecast in January 2013 within the 2013/14 Local Government Finance settlement. This reduction reflects the impact of changes in the town's rateable value owing to more properties being empty and claiming Business Rates relief, successful appeal outcomes (although this remains a significant risk owing to the continuing numbers of outstanding appeals) and the impact of schools converting to academies and becoming

eligible for charitable relief. As detailed in previous MTFS reports Councils do not receive 'safety net' payments until in-year business rates shortfall exceed 7.5% of the baseline Business Rates threshold figure. 'Safety net' payments are then only paid for the shortfall above the threshold figure. For Hartlepool the 'safety net' limit for 2013/14 was £1.7m. Therefore, the whole of 2013/14 shortfall in Business Rates needs to be funded locally.

The 2013/14 Business Rates reductions will continue in 2014/15 and future years. However, based on current regulations this should not have an adverse impact on the 2014/15 budget position as the level of Business Rates income included in the 2014/15 budget is less than the actual amount received in 2013/14. However, owing to the financial risk built into the Business Retention system if there are further reductions in Business Rates income during 2014/15 there would be a new, and continuing shortfall, when the 2014/15 outturn is prepared.

As detailed in section 3.11 of the report the 2014/15 outturn also needs to make provision for Business Rate appeals costs of £0.75m.

After reflecting the factors in the previous paragraphs the net outturn for these areas is an over spend of £0.622m, against a combined 'turnover' for Business Rates income and LCTS scheme expenditure of approximately £30 million and a background of the most significant changes in these regimes since they were originally implemented.

6. World War 1 Memorial

This provision is to underwrite the Regeneration Services Committee's proposal that the Council underwrites the cost of the Bombardment Memorial so that work can commence with an expectation that the cost could be covered by commercial sponsorship and through existing resources.

7. Receipt of House Sale income from Housing Hartlepool

The detailed reason for this variance is provided in paragraph 3.4.

8. Receipt of Government Grant hold backs

The detailed reason for this variance is provided in paragraph 3.4.

9. The uncommitted outturn of £0.495m is net of additional risk reserves detailed in table 1 set out below. The Statement of Accounts will show a contribution of £1.115m to General Fund Reserves, which consists of the uncommitted outturn of £0.495m plus £0.620m approved as part of the MTFS to manage future potential reductions in the Public Health grant to provide a longer lead time to manage this position.

Part 2 - Risk Reserves created from final outturn

	Value of reserves created £'000	Reason of Reserve
Chief Executive's Department		
Legal Department	36	Risk reserve to manage income volatility between financial years.
ICT	30	One-off IT costs to enable higher ongoing savings to be achieved in 2015/16 than anticipated when contract was awarded in 2013.
Website/Covalent	34	Provision to fund project costs rephased to 2014/15.
Individual Voter Registration	23	Carry forward of funding to supplement Government funding provided to fund implementation of Individual Voter Registration.
Child and Adult Services Department		
School Improvement / School Attainment	150	To support school improvement/attainment: through a variety of measures: 1. Support for all schools that are not currently OFSTED Grade 1 / 2 to ensure that all a our schools are good or outstanding by December 2015 2. Any additional expertise needed to support the most vulnerable schools e.g. where the LA is utilising Associate Head teachers 3. Continued support for three secondary schools to supplement council-provided funding. 4. Support for Governing Bodies via the modular Governor Training Programme currently operating 5. To support any potential shortfalls in de-delegated budgets throughout the year. 6. To ensure that, in the short term, all services continue to be offered to schools
Pupil Premium	36	Carry forward of ring fenced grant funding for Looked After Children to be allocated in 2014/15
Adult Social Care savings implementation reserve.	147	The 2014/15 savings for Adult Social Care included £250k from combining and re-tendering the current contracts for low level services, day services for older people and support for people with dementia. The tendering process for these services was designed to allow new contracts to be in place by 1 April 2014, but the Council has been unable to award contracts within the planned timeframe. The creation of this reserve will enable existing contracts to be extended for up to six months while the new contractual arrangements are implemented.
Community Pool Reserve	22	Council (8th May 2014) approved the creation of this reserve to contribute towards the 2014/15 Community Pool to support additional VCS organisations with core costs.
Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services		
Coast Protection Reserve	90	Council contribution to partly match fund grant funding of £6.3m to be received, subject to final approval of project by the Environment Agency.
	568	

Current Constitutional requirement	Proposal for 2015/16 Budget
<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Update</p> <p>The Corporate Management Team will present a report to the Finance and Policy Committee to provide an update on the financial position facing the Council for the period covered by the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>End of May</p>	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy Update</p> <p>The Corporate Management Team will present a report to the Finance and Policy Committee to provide an update on the financial position facing the Council for the period covered by the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>30th June 2014 (to reflect timing of May 2014 elections)</p>
<p>Prepare and approve budget framework</p> <p>The Finance and Policy Committee will prepare the initial proposals for the budget, plan or strategy.</p> <p>In relation to the budget this will include determining indicative Council Tax increases, corporate / department savings targets and identifying top line savings proposals</p> <p>End of July</p>	<p>Prepare and approve budget framework</p> <p>The Finance and Policy Committee will prepare the initial proposals for the budget, plan or strategy.</p> <p>In relation to the budget this will include determining indicative Council Tax increases, corporate / department savings targets and identifying top line savings proposals</p> <p>30th June 2014 (reflects timing of May 2014 election and the Government's previous announcement of a two year Local Government Finance Settlement covering 2014/15 and 2015/16)</p>
<p>Individual Policy Committees</p> <p>Develop and approve savings proposals to achieve targets set by the Finance and Policy Committee.</p> <p>Mid November</p>	<p>Individual Policy Committees</p> <p>Develop and approve savings proposals to achieve targets set by the Finance and Policy Committee.</p> <p>Late July/Early August (special Policy Committees will be scheduled and dedicated to consideration of savings proposals)</p>
<p>Finance and Policy Committee</p> <p>Consider and approve detailed savings proposal developed by individual Policy Committee and approve draft budget and policy proposals to be referred for consultation in line with agreed consultation arrangements determined by the Finance and Policy Committee (including statutory consultation)</p> <p>End November</p>	<p>Finance and Policy Committee</p> <p>Consider and approve detailed savings proposal developed by individual Policy Committee and approve draft budget and policy proposals to be referred for consultation in line with agreed consultation arrangements determined by the Finance and Policy Committee (including statutory consultation).</p> <p>Report will enable Finance and Policy Committee to approve final budget proposals to be referred to full Council (includes indicative Council Tax proposals, but excludes statutory Council Tax calculations).</p> <p>24th November 2014</p>

<p>Consultation</p> <p>Budget consultation will be undertaken In December and late January</p>	<p>Consultation</p> <p>Budget consultation will be undertaken In September and October</p>
<p>Finance and Policy Committee</p> <p>The Corporate Management Team will submit a report providing an update on the impact of the Provision Local Government Finance Settlement on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>December (timing determined on basis of date of provisional Local Government Finance Settlement).</p>	<p>Finance and Policy Committee</p> <p>Not needed as two year Local Government Finance Settlement covering 2014/15 and 2015/16 previously provided by the Government. Covered by report to Finance and Policy Committee in November</p> <p>Covered in report to Finance and Policy Committee 24th November 2014</p>
<p>Finance and Policy Committee</p> <p>Consider consultation feedback and approve final budget proposals to be referred to full Council.</p> <p>February (timing determined on basis of date of final Local Government Finance Settlement).</p>	<p>Finance and Policy Committee</p> <p>Covered in report to Finance and Policy Committee 24th November 2014</p>
<p>Council</p> <p>Consider and approve the draft budget and policy proposals, including Hartlepool Council's own Council Tax based on simple majority vote.</p> <p>Early February</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Consider and approve the draft budget and policy proposals based on simple majority vote.</p> <p>11th December 2014</p>

<p>Finance and Policy Committee</p> <p>Approve statutory Council Tax calculations to be referred to full Council</p> <p>2nd February 2015</p>
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<p>Council</p> <p>Approve statutory Council Tax calculations for</p>

COUNCIL

3rd July 2014



Report of: Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2013/14 Final
Outturn and 2015/16 Budget Timetable –
Supplementary Report

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Council on the recommendations approved by Finance and Policy Committee on the 30th June 2014 in relation to the 2013/14 final Outturn and budget timetable for 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The report issued with the agenda papers for the Council meeting included the initial recommendations referred to Finance and Policy Committee for consideration. Following consideration of these issues two recommendations have been revised by Finance and Policy Committee and the revised recommendations are set out below and highlighted as shaded text. For Members convenience the initial recommendations considered by Finance and Policy Committee are also shown (not shaded).

2.2 It is recommended that Council approves the following proposals:

2.3 General Fund 2013/14 Final Outturn

2.4 Note the final outturn position detailed in Appendix A, including the additional risk reserves and the uncommitted final 2013/14 General Fund outturn of £0.495m.

2.5 Approve the proposals to use the uncommitted outturn to implement **Option 2** – which will allocate the housing income received from Housing Hartlepool of £0.215m to purchase additional houses for rent and the residual balance of £0.280m to partly support the additional one-off 2015/16 budget deficit arising from clarification of the Better Care funding regime.

2.6 On the basis of approving recommendation 2.5 to approve the purchase of 5 houses as an addition to capital programme to be funded through a combination of the Housing income and Prudential Borrowing (which will be fully funded from rental income), as detailed in **Confidential Appendix B**.
This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local

Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (paragraph 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.

2.7 To note that if Option 2 is adopted this will require a one-off contribution of £0.220m from a combination of the 2014/15 outturn and review of reserves to fully address the additional budget shortfall in 2015/16, which it is anticipated can be achieved. To also note that as a fall back the costs of the free junior swims initiative in summer 2014 may need to be funded from the 2014/15 outturn, but only in the event that the Domes proceeds are not received.

2.8 Local Welfare Support 2013/14 Final Outturn

2.9 Approve the proposal to allocate the uncommitted final 2013/14 Local Welfare Support outturn of £0.226m as a Family Poverty reserve. To note the Finance and Policy Committee will consider use of these monies as part of the development of the 2015/16 Local Council Tax Support Scheme, which will be referred to a future Council meeting for a decision. The Chief Finance Officer advised the Finance and Policy Committee that this proposal does not impact on the budget position for 2014/15 to 2016/17 and means that the Council will, as reported within the February 2014 MTFs report, need to address the removal of Local Welfare Support funding as part of the 2017/18 budget.

2.10 Ward Member Budgets 2013/14 Outturn

2.11 Approve the proposal to allocate the unused Ward Member budgets for the Hart Ward of £10,500 and the Seaton Ward of £8,300 for use by the current Ward Members for these areas to support projects which meet the existing criteria for using Ward Member budgets. To note the proposals from Councillor P Beck and J Robinson that their element of the Hart Ward Members budget will be allocated towards Environmental Apprenticeships.

2.12 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards – Implications of the Supreme Court Judgement

2.13 Note that an initial review of Child and Adult Services Reserves has been completed to identify resources to fund the estimated costs in 2014/15, of up to £0.448m, arising from changes to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards arising from a recent Supreme Court judgement and approve the allocation of the following amounts to fund these costs:

- Demographic Pressures in Adult Social Care Reserve – £0.331m
- Supporting Social Care Reserves £0.117m

2.14 To note it is hoped the actual 2014/15 costs will be lower, which will enable the unused reserves to be carried forward to partly mitigated the ongoing costs in 2015/16, currently estimated to be £0.269m:

2.15 Budget Timetable 2015/16

- 2.16** Approve the budget timetable detailed in Appendix C and provide authority to the Chief Solicitor to make consequential changes to the Council's Constitution.

3. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 3.1** Finance and Policy Committee Report 30th June 2014 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19.

4. CONTACT OFFICER

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