

SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 15th October 2014

at 10.00am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Brash, Clark, Cranney, Gibbon, Hall, Hargreaves, James, Lauderdale, Lilley, Loynes, Martin-Wells, Morris, Richardson, Simmons and Sirs

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014
 - 4.2 Matters arising.
- 5. ASK THE POLICY CHAIRS**
 - 5.1 Budget Proposals 2015/16 – Presentation by the Leader of the Council
- 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**

7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation on the Housing Strategy for 2015-2020 – *Assistant Director (Regeneration)*

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

- 8.1 Hartlepool Community Trigger – Presentation – *Neighbourhood Safety Team Leader*
8.2 Hartlepool Power Station Update – Presentation – *Station Director*

9. WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

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

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 2.00pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

CONTACT DETAILS FOR WARD COUNCILLORS

Burn Valley Ward

Councillor Jonathan Brash

35 Tunstall Avenue, TS26 8NE Tel 07973619054

Councillor Gerard Hall 11 Eamont Gardens, TS26 9JD Tel 260557

Councillor John Lauderdale

122 Comwall Street, TS25 5RG Tel 275816

Fens and Rossmere Ward

Councillor Alan Clark 2 Tenby Walk, TS26 0TG Tel 07947615301

Councillor Steve Gibbon 44 Honiton Way, TS25 2PU Tel 290352

Councillor Geoff Lilley 68 Fens Crescent, TS25 2QN Tel 291542

Foggy Furze Ward

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher

C/O Civic Centre, TS24 8AY Tel 07947226878

Councillor Kevin Cranney 117 Stockton Road, TS25 1SJ Tel 07764499180

Councillor Kaylee Sirs 17 Charterhouse Street, TS25 5RW

Tel 865998

Manor House Ward

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher

101 Westbrooke Avenue, TS25 5HY Tel 07904402864

Councillor Allan Barclay 31 Leyburn Street, TS26 9AJ Tel 07413690377

Councillor Marjorie James 40 Arncliffe Gardens, TS26 9JF Tel 294865

Rural West Ward

Councillor Brenda Loynes C/O Civic Centre, TS24 8AY Tel 07599189984

Councillor Ray Martin-Wells

C/O Conservative Office, Civic Centre, TS24 8AY

Tel 07598679322

Councillor George Morris 15 West Park, TS26 0DB Tel 266793

Victoria Ward

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves

25 Tunstall Avenue, TS26 8NE Tel 869283

Councillor Carl Richardson 3 Teesdale Avenue, TS26 9QD Tel 07941819224

Councillor Chris Simmons 9 Granville Avenue, TS26 8ND Tel 261124

E-mail addresses follow the format forename.surname@hartlepool.gov.uk

e.g Kevin.cranney@hartlepool.gov.uk

SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES 16th July 2014

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Chair: | Councillor Kevin Cranney | - Foggy Furze |
| Vice Chair: | Councillor Alan Clark | - Fens and Rossmere |
| | Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher | - Foggy Furze |
| | Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher | - Manor House |
| | Councillor Alan Barclay | - Manor House |
| | Councillor Ged Hall | - Burn Valley |
| | Councillor Marjorie James | - Manor House |
| | Councillor John Lauderdale | - Burn Valley |
| | Councillor Geoff Lilley | - Fens and Rossmere |
| | Councillor Brenda Loynes | - Rural West |
| | Councillor Carl Richardson | - Victoria |
| | Councillor Kaylee Sirs | - Foggy Furze |
- Public: D Branfoot, K Davies, W Hall, Frank Harrison, Donna Hotham, Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson, Peter Joyce, Yousuf Khan, J Kelly, P Kelly, Jean Kennedy, Evelyn Leck, Irene Patten, Ray Pocklington and M Storer
- Officers: Clare Clark, Head of Community Safety and Engagement
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Lynda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer
Julie Bower, Senior Landlord/Tenant Officer
Fiona Stanforth, Regeneration Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Steve Gibbon, Ray Martin-Wells, George Morris and Chris Simmons

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2014**

The minutes were approved subject to the inclusion of Councillor Alan Barclay as being among the attendees.

A Councillor referred to the discussions around allotments, commenting that Hartlepool's representative on the North-East Allotment Society did not own an allotment. The person in question confirmed that she was on the Committee of the allotment society but did not represent Hartlepool. She advised that ownership of an allotment was not a requirement to be part of the society.

4. **Matters Arising**

A resident requested that the traffic evaluator on Elwick Road be moved to Park Road – The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator would speak to the Highways Department regarding this. A resident advised that the equipment previously used to monitor traffic in Belmont Avenue was still in place.

A Councillor highlighted a problem with caravans parking illegally across the town – discussions were ongoing between the enforcement and highway teams regards a caravan policy

5 **Ask the Policy Chairs**

Vice-Chair of Children's Services Committee

No questions

Vice-Chair of Neighbourhoods Services Committee

A number of residents referred to the previous week's strike and its effect on waste collection. It was felt that a follow-up service should have been provided, if not by Council staff then by an outside agency. Concerns were raised at the health and safety implications of food waste being left outside in hot weather, particularly for the elderly and infirm who would be unable to take their rubbish to the Burn Road facility. It was also felt that Council's stated refusal to collect black bags left outside the bin was unacceptable as it would have a knock-on effect on future collection. Residents were paying for this service but on this occasion it was not being provided

The Vice-Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee reported that a decision had been taken by officers of the Council that no follow-up collection would be provided on this occasion. She suggested that neighbours use each other's bins if their own was full. The Chair indicated that residents' comments on this issue had been noted and would be relayed to senior management

A resident advised that a large number of black bins, some containing food, had been abandoned in an alley near Burn Valley. Flies and seagulls were being attracted by the food waste but all attempts to have the bins removed had so far failed

A resident indicated she had requested a repair to a neighbour's bin and been told this would not be auctioned until 25th August. She felt it would be easier and cheaper to provide a new bin. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to action this.

A resident referred to problems with caravans parking in back alleys. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator reported that this would form part of the caravan policy currently under discussion.

A resident reported unpleasant smells emanating from the open pipe in the Burn Valley. The Vice-Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee advised that this had been discussed at Committee and would be dealt with

Vice-Chair of Regeneration Services Committee

A resident referred to the public consultation currently taking place on a proposed new development in West Park. They had been told that a new drainage system would not be provided, that drainage would run into the beck and this would not be a problem providing there was agreement from Northumbrian Water. The Vice-Chair of Regeneration Services Committee disputed this saying that drainage would be discussed by Planning Committee when the application was being considered. However he would speak to the Assistant Director for Neighbourhoods to clarify whether there were any issues of concern. Another resident confirmed that there did not appear to be a strategy for dealing with drainage from new housing developments.

Chair of Finance and Policy Committee

No questions

Chair of Adult Services Committee

A resident queried the lack of funding available to allow the elderly and infirm to stay in their own homes. She cited a recent example where an elderly lady had been advised to buy appropriate adaptation equipment herself as social services were unable to. The Chair of Adult Services Committee advised that 4.5 thousand people across Hartlepool had been helped by social services but they needed more than the £40 million currently budgeted for this. The Leader of the Council confirmed that there was one-off money available for adaptations and that particular case had been addressed immediately. Efforts were always made to keep people in their own homes for as long as possible as this was cheaper than being moved to a nursing home.

6. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Oxford Street – wheelchair users had requested drop down kerbs. The Chair asked officers to look at this

Cumbria Walk – black bags full of polystyrene had been left at the bottom of Cumbria Walk

Stockton Road – rubbish apparently left behind by the bin men was being blown around. Also a problem in Bum Valley Gardens, Oxford Street and Studley Road. The Chair asked that specific areas be identified and the environmental team take appropriate action

Stockton Road – cyclists riding on pavements running into pedestrians. Also a problem in York Road. A Cleveland Police representative advised that officers would be briefed and tickets issued where possible. Further issues around cyclists riding at night without lights were also noted and would be appropriately dealt with.

Burn Valley – the Social Club was currently empty and being used by undesirables leading to large amounts of rubbish nearby

Catcote Road – cars were parking on the cycle path. Any individual issues to be reported to Cleveland Police

Waldon Street – a number of issues were raised by a resident, most of which were directly connected to the One Life. She commented that before the One Life had been constructed Waldon Street had been one of the best areas in town but since then it had been neglected. Rubbish was being left at the One Life for weeks at a time, residents were kept awake by work vans and ambulances in the early hours of the morning and fibres from medical supplies were being released into the air. Promises had been made prior to the installation of the One Life that the residents would be protected and it would not have an adverse effect in terms of outlook and general way of life but this was not the case. She also raised concerns with lorries driving up Waldon Street to Cameron's Brewery where children were playing rather than take other routes. The Chair asked that officers undertake a site visit and keep ward councillors informed.

Park Road – bad smells from the drains leading to Raby Road

Park Road/Eldon Grove – the safety railings for the school crossing were in place but had not been painted. A resident suggested the ward councillors might donate their ward budget to finance this. Members clarified that the fence was not the school's responsibility.

Sydenham Road – undesirables had been seen drinking alcohol during the day. Police had spoken to them but failed to move them on. Specific information to be given to the Cleveland Police representative after the

meeting. Similar issues were also highlighted in Kathleen Street and the car park behind Stockton Road.

Rossmere Way – speeding was a consistent problem. The Vice-Chair suggested that a pelican crossing at the entrance to the park might aid in slowing down cars and preventing double parking.

Dundee Road – children constantly playing football outside the bungalows despite regular police intervention. Councillors to investigate

St Patrick's Shops – A resident highlighted ongoing problems with anti-social behaviour specifically youths playing football, climbing into residents back gardens and setting fire to waste left behind by shop owners. Large amounts of food waste were also leading to vermin in residents gardens. She had previously spoken to the police and fire brigade and left a message for the MP but so far no real action had been taken. She was concerned that something serious would happen if action was not taken swiftly. The Chair suggested a multi-agency forum involving the ward councillors, officers, police and fire brigade be set up to deal with this. The Ward Councillors confirmed they would be happy to attend at any time.

Meeting times – A resident queried why Neighbourhood Forum meetings were being held during the day. The Chair advised that the times rotated between morning and afternoon and an evening meeting was being considered. The possibility of holding meetings at venues in the South was also raised but the Chair commented that the problem here was cost as outside venues had to be hired and paid for. Public transport was also an issue.

Mowbray Road / St Patrick's Church - problems with traffic when the warden was not present

Rift House Primary School – ongoing problems with parents and teachers parking outside residential properties obscuring the view for drivers on Masfield Road. A resident asked that a post be erected on the grass verge to prevent cars parking on it.

Dangerous dog – there had been reports that a dog had been killed by another dog. A resident queried whether the animal involved had been destroyed as there could be a danger to the public

Councillor contact details – A Councillor requested that contact details for all South and Central Councillors be provided on a front sheet for inclusion with the minutes of the next meeting as many of the issues discussed could have been dealt with by Councillors in advance of the meeting

7. **Selective Licensing Consultation** *(Assistant Director (Regeneration))*

In May 2014 the Regeneration Services Committee had given approval for consideration of a new Selective Licensing Scheme for private landlords and a subsequent consultation to identify priority areas within Hartlepool. Selective Licensing was designed to improve and raise standards of management within the private rented sector by regulating landlords through a mandatory licensing scheme. Private landlords would be required to obtain a licence for each property and demonstrate compliance with a range of prescribed conditions. Legislation covering Selective Licensing requires robust evidence in relation to an area to satisfy one or both of the prescribed general conditions relating to low housing demand and anti-social behaviour.

The consultation was scheduled to run for 10 weeks beginning 1st July 2014. Details of the proposed streets were included within the consultation document, copies of which were available at the meeting. A number of consultation events were planned for July and August, details of which were provided within the report. Robust evidence was required to implement a Selective Licensing scheme in a specified area otherwise it could be subject to legal challenge by judicial review.

The following issues were raised:

Why would this new scheme be an improvement on the selective licensing scheme currently running? Decent people did not want to live in the areas covered by selective licensing. The Principal Housing Advice Officer confirmed that a pilot scheme had been undertaken in 6 areas of the town but this had been completed in April 2014. Lessons learned through this pilot scheme would go on to inform the current consultation and all comments and submissions would be considered by councillors prior to implementation. Selective licensing was only one of a number of measures which could be used to improve the lives of residents.

Would the cost of the scheme (a maximum of £600 per property) be passed onto the tenant? £600 was the maximum fee proposed per property for a 5-year licence, an average of 10% of the annual income for the property. However councillors may choose to approve a lower fee. It was possible that landlords might pass this fee on to their tenants however they would run the risk of losing their tenants to other landlords offering properties at lower rates. In addition landlords were required to provide utility safety certificates regularly whether their properties were covered by selective licensing or not (yearly for gas safety and 10-yearly for electrical safety)

Must new safety certificates be produced at every change of tenant? The Principal Housing Advice Officer reported that this was not statutory legislation but considered best practice.

Would the scheme be compulsory? The Senior Landlord/Tenant Officer

confirmed that it would be compulsory in designated areas albeit with certain exemptions such as holiday lets and lettings to close family members. A voluntary scheme would also run in areas which had not been designated due to a lack of evidence.

How could officers be sure all landlords and interested parties would be aware of the consultation process and subsequent implementation of the scheme? A copy of the consultation document and questionnaire would be sent to all residents in the identified areas, all landlords and all solicitors. Landlords would also be urged to join a nationally accredited scheme independent of selective licensing.

What about empty properties? These were not licensable.

Tenants evicted for anti-social behaviour should be moved a minimum of 5 miles from their previous address. In addition anti-social behaviour over a prolonged period should lead to enforcement action against their landlord such as the tenant's benefits no longer being automatically paid to the landlord. The Principal Housing Advice Officer commented that landlords should take some responsibility for the behaviour of their tenants particularly as the Council did run a good tenants scheme where references were made available to landlords. If the selective licensing scheme was in place enforcement action would be available against landlords with anti-social tenants.

Why had more not been done previously to stop anti-social tenants moving in and destroying streets? These actions should have been taken years ago as well as reductions in rent and improvements in living standards. The Principal Housing Advice Officer acknowledged these comments saying that the selective licensing scheme was an attempt to improve matters. Approval had also been given for the Council to purchase properties that had been empty for at least 6 months and bring them back into Council ownership

The Chair thanked the Principal Housing Advice Officer and Senior Landlord/Tenant Officer for attending the meeting and answering questions.

Decision

That the content of the report be noted.

8. Ward Member Budgets 2014/15 *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Members were informed of the current position relating to Ward Member Budget in the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum area. In April 2012 members had been allocated £5,500 each by Cabinet to be used for the benefit of the community in their wards. A further £5,000 had been approved by Council in February 2013 and February 2014 (however the

latter approval was top sliced by 20% to allow the continuation of the Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme for a year, leaving £4,000 available to each member. All submissions were subject to delegated approval by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods. Previously any under spends had been automatically carried forward however no decisions had been regarding this so far and members were being advised to ensure their whole allowance was spent by the end of the current financial year. Appendices were attached giving a breakdown of the current spend to date and the current running total for each ward member with remaining budgets.

Decision

That the content of the report be noted

9. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

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

A resident highlighted an ongoing issue whereby people were erroneously claiming to offer loft conversions on behalf of the Council and the Thirteen Group. He asked if a letter could be sent to all residents warning them and asking that they contact Cleveland Police if any such approaches were made to them. The Head of Community Safety and Engagement to contact the Thirteen Group regarding this matter.

The meeting concluded at 3:40pm

CHAIR

SOUTH AND CENTRAL
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
16 JULY 2014

Issues Raised / Action Sheet

Wards & Issue Raised	Action Taken	Responsible Officer
<p>SOUTH & CENTRAL</p> <p>Burn Valley Elwick road Resident request for a Traffic evaluator on Elwick road be moved to park road.</p>	<p>Traffic monitoring equipment is positioned in strategic locations to meet current Government guide lines. If requested additional Traffic surveys can be carried out if necessary.</p>	<p>P Frost</p>
<p>Lower Oxford road area Wheelchair users had requested dropped kerbs in the area</p>	<p>A full audit of the area has taken place and seven locations have been identified for tactile crossing points to be installed, subject to funding.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Cumbria Walk black bags left at the bottom of Cumbria walk</p>	<p>All bags removed and the area cleaned.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Stockton Road Rubbish apparently left behind by bin men being blown around. Also a problem in Burn valley gardens area.</p>	<p>The full area has been mechanically swept and cleansed by our Environmental teams who visit the area after refuse collection.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Burn valley social club</p>	<p>Owner has been contacted by Planning enforcement officers</p>	<p>P Burgon</p>

<p>The social club is currently empty and being used by undesirables leading to large amounts of rubbish nearby</p>	<p>to secure the property and clear any rubbish. The area continues to be monitored by police, fire brigade and planning enforcement officers.</p>	
<p>Waldon Street A number of issues raised by residents most of which were directly connected to the one life centre.</p>	<p>A site meeting took place to discuss outstanding issues regarding rubbish and maintenance of the area. One life centre has improved its maintenance programme leading an overall improvement to the area.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Park Road Resident reported bad smells from drains in the area</p>	<p>All gullies in the area have been inspected and cleaned.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Park road/Eldon grove Pedestrian railings have been installed at the school crossing, but require painting.</p>	<p>The new railings are to be painted to match existing railings.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Fens and Rossmere Rossmere way Resident reported that speeding traffic was a constant problem.</p>	<p>A further meeting is to take place with ward members residents and Traffic/Highways officers to discuss issues on Rossmere way.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Dundee road Resident mentioned that children are constantly playing football outside bungalows.</p>	<p>Police and Anti social behaviour teams have visited the area and spoken to parents and children. Soft play footballs have been handed out to children in the area.</p>	<p>S Atkinson</p>
<p>Manor House Ward</p>		

<p>St Patricks Shopping Parade Resident highlighted a number Anti social behaviour issues at the rear of the shops.</p>	<p>As suggested by the chair a multi agency meeting involving ward councillors and all partner agencies has been arranged and a St Patrick Shops action plan has been put together to tackle all issues identified.</p>	<p>N Stone</p>
<p>Rift house primary school Masfield road Ongoing problems with parking</p>	<p>Sections of grass verge has been removed and replaced with Tarmac for vehicles to park on to help elevate parking issues in the area.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Town Wide Issues Problems with caravans parked illegally across town.</p>	<p>The Policy is currently been updated and further meetings are to take place with Highways, Parking and Enforcement officers.</p>	<p>P Frost</p>

SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

15 October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration)

Subject: CONSULTATION ON THE HOUSING STRATEGY
FOR 2015-2020

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 This report provides the Forum with the details about how the new Housing Strategy for Hartlepool is being developed and consulted on.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In 2003, the Government placed a legal duty on all local authorities to develop housing strategies. The current Strategy expires at the end of March 2015 and it is therefore necessary to prepare a new Strategy incorporating an Action Plan for the next five years.

3.2 The Hartlepool Housing Strategy 2015-2020 will show how the Council and its partners will work together to meet the housing needs and aspirations of Hartlepool Borough Council and its residents.

3.3 The new Strategy will be produced following engagement from the Council's partners which includes Registered Providers, residents, voluntary organisations and the private sector. The Council will work in partnership with all its stakeholders and residents to ensure that the final Strategy is comprehensive and robust.

3.4 The new Strategy will also incorporate the Council's Homelessness Strategy and Empty Homes Strategy which both expire in 2015. This will enable the Council and its partners to monitor and manage its strategic functions through the delivery of a single Housing Strategy for Hartlepool.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation on the new Housing Strategy will be undertaken in various stages.
- 4.2 **Stage 1** - During September 2014, 3 consultation workshops were held at the Civic Centre and these were attended by Members, the Housing Partnership, Council Officers, Registered Providers, Private Landlords, Developers and the voluntary sector. The aim of the workshops was to identify themes and issues affecting housing across all tenures.
- 4.3 The themes for these workshops reflect the priorities that were identified in the current Housing Strategy 2011-2015 and participants were asked to discuss what the current issues are under these main headings, identify where things have worked well for the current Strategy and discuss where we will want to be by 2020.
- Priority 1 - Delivering New Homes, Contributing to Sustainable Communities
 - Priority 2 – Improving Existing Homes, Supporting Sustainable Communities
 - Priority 3 – Meeting Specific Housing Needs
- 4.4 The issues raised across these priority areas will be used as the basis for public consultation and as background for development of the new Housing Strategy.
- 4.5 **Stage 2** – Public consultation is the next stage in the development process. This will take place from mid October 2014 and will end at the beginning of January 2015. Consultation will take place at public meetings and residents in Hartlepool will be asked to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire will be available on paper and will also be on-line on the Council's website. It will give residents the opportunity to prioritise the issues that are important to them.
- 4.6 Publicity encouraging residents to complete the questionnaire and have their say in helping to shape Hartlepool's Housing Strategy will take place via press releases and also using social media such as Facebook and Twitter.
- 4.7 **Stage 3** - The results from the 3 workshops and the on-line public consultation will be used to develop the 1st draft of the Housing Strategy for 2015–2020. It is anticipated that this will be formally consulted on during March and April 2015 with all Members, the Housing Partnership, workshop attendees, Council Officers, residents and external partners.
- 4.8 **Stage 4** – following the consultation stages outlined above the 2nd draft of the Housing Strategy and an Action Plan for delivery will be developed during May 2015 and is expected to be presented to Committee for approval

in June 2015. The final Strategy will reflect the formal feedback received and the views, suggestions and issues that are raised at public events.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has housing responsibilities that provide opportunities to improve the town and its resident's lives and there are risks associated if the Council does not manage housing strategically. Funding and regulatory frameworks reinforce the need to have a robust Housing Strategy. Without a Strategy that has been agreed with the Council's partners, funding and support from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) will not be achievable. Without a clear vision it will be more difficult to attract developers and funding; tackle homelessness; tackle empty properties and improve housing quality. Without a Housing Strategy and a clear approach to strategic housing the Council will be restricted from identifying opportunities and responding quickly to initiatives.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Consultation will comply with all equality and diversity considerations and every effort will be made to consult with all residents in Hartlepool.

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

- 7.1 Consultation on the new Housing Strategy will be undertaken with the reduction of crime and anti social behaviour in mind. The existing Housing Strategy aims to "develop and maintain successful communities where people want to live, by meeting the housing needs of our residents now and in the future".

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The South and Central Neighbourhood Forum are asked to note the contents of the report and to respond to the consultation questionnaire.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

15 October 2014



Report of: Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

Subject: WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Forum of the current position in relation to Ward Member Budgets in the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum area, encompassing Burn Valley, Fens and Rossmere, Foggy Furze, Manor House, Rural West and Victoria wards.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Ward Member budgets and the associated application and approval framework were approved by Members in April 2012. The budgets are not available for individuals, or intended to be expended on services provided by the Local Authority or other public agencies, unless the purpose is to enhance or supplement what is being delivered. Ward Members are expected to consult with each other to ensure that there is no duplication in expenditure and projects supported must be lawful, and cannot undermine the Council or partners' priorities or service delivery.

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

4. APPROVED SCHEMES

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is a breakdown of spend to date in relation to each of the Ward Members budgets in 2014/15. Attached at **Appendix B** is a running total of Ward Councillors' budgets to date for 2014/15.

5. UNAPPROVED SCHEMES

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

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 On 14 February 2013, Council approved a recommendation from Members (4 February 2013) allocating a total of £165,000 for 2013/2014 for Ward Member budgets, equating to £5,000 per Elected Member. As part of this decision, it was also outlined that any underspend remaining from the 2012/2013 allocation would be carried forward by each individual Ward Councillor for their use in the new financial year.
- 7.2 On 19 September 2013, as part of the 2014/15 budget proposals, Finance and Policy Committee recommended allocating £165,000 from the reserves review to continue Ward Member budgets in 2014/15 (i.e. £5,000 per Member). It was subsequently recommended by Finance and Policy Committee on 19 December 2013 that the Ward Member budget allocation for 2014/15 be top sliced by 20% (£1,000 per Ward Member) for the continuation of the Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme, and that any unspent funds from the 2012/13 and 2013/14 allocations be set aside and utilised to continue the Ward Member budget programme post 2014/15. This was agreed by Full Council on 6 February 2014.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct equality and diversity considerations in relation to Ward Member Budgets.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no staff considerations for the Forum’s attention in this case.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 Asset management considerations are not applicable in this instance.

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

- 12.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

13. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 There are no Equality and Diversity Considerations.

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

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The South and Central Neighbourhood Forum are asked to note the contents of the report outlining Ward Member Budget spend to date.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

16. CONTACT OFFICER

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APPENDIX A

Ward Member Budget Spend 2014/15

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Date Approved	Funding Approved
Burn Valley			
Councillor Jonathan Brash	St Matthew's Hall Contribution (Roof Repair Scheme)	18.06.14	£500
Councillor Ged Hall	Hartlepool Youth Ministry (Outdoor Education Project)	13.05.14	£250
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Macmillan Benefits Advice Service)	13.05.14	£400
	Stranton Centre (Cooking Project)	30.05.14	£200
Councillor John Lauderdale	Contribution towards the New Welfare group	9.9.14	£400
	Contribution Orb Youth Project	3.10.14	£200
	Contribution towards the refurbishment costs to install a new roof to St Matthews Community Centre	3.10.14	£200
	Contribution towards Hartlepool Town Pastors late night care scheme.	3.10.14	£200
	Stranton Primary School radio project.	3.10.14	£200
Fens and Rossmere			
Councillor Alan Clark	Brierton Lodge Nursing Home (Garden Scheme)	17.06.14	£300
	Friends of Wild Green Spaces group (planting scheme)	30.09.14	£137
	Belle Vue Community Sports & Youth Centre (Fens Cool project)	22.09.14	£500
	Rossmere School 'Forest School Project' (purchase of equipment)	22.09.14	£400
Councillor Steve Gibbon	Hartlepool People Centre (Core Costs)	17.07.14	£100
	Monday Friendship Group (Christmas Party)	25.07.14	£150
	Friends of Wild Green Spaces group (planting scheme)	30.09.14	£137
	Belle Vue Community Sports & Youth Centre (Fens Cool project)	22.09.14	£500
	Rossmere School 'Forest School Project' (purchase of equipment)	22.09.14	£400
Councillor Geoff Lilley	Monday Friendship Group (Christmas Party)	25.07.14	£150
	Hartlepool People Centre (Core Costs)	17.07.14	£100

	Friends of Wild Green Spaces group (planting scheme)	30.09.14	£137
	Belle Vue Community Sports & Youth Centre (Fens Cool project)	22.09.14	£500
	Rossmere School 'Forest School Project' (purchase of equipment)	22.09.14	£400
Foggy Furze			
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	Belle Vue Centre Breakfast Club	12.06.14	£500
	Headland Heritage Festival	12.06.14	£100
	St Cuthbert's Parish Friendship Group (Social Outing)	12.06.14	£150
	St Luke's Infant Welfare Mothers Club (Christmas Party)	12.06.14	£100
	Hartlepool Voluntary Wheels (Running Costs)	12.06.14	£200
	Hartlepool Peoples Centre (Running Costs)	12.06.14	£150
	Haswell Avenue Allotment Association (Environmental Pond)	12.06.14	£167
	Kev's Klub (Social Outing)	12.06.14	£100
	BloominArt Northeast Group (Discover Arts' Award Programme)	12.06.14	£400
	St Cuthbert's Family Fun Club	12.06.14	£32
	Hartlepool Survival Group (Summer Outdoor Activities)	12.06.14	£167
	Frensham Drive Tree Works	16.09.14	£1,740
Councillor Kevin Cranney	Belle Vue Centre Breakfast Club	12.06.14	£500
	Headland Heritage Festival	12.06.14	£100
	St Cuthbert's Parish Friendship Group (Social Outing)	12.06.14	£150
	St Luke's Infant Welfare Mothers Club (Christmas Party)	12.06.14	£100
	Hartlepool Voluntary Wheels (Running Costs)	12.06.14	£200
	Hartlepool Peoples Centre (Running Costs)	12.06.14	£150
	Haswell Avenue Allotment Association (Environmental Pond)	12.06.14	£167
	BloominArt Northeast Group (Discover Arts' Award Programme)	12.06.14	£400
	St Cuthbert's Family Fun Club	12.06.14	£32
	Hartlepool Survival Group (Summer Outdoor Activities)	12.06.14	£167
	Boys Brigade Summer Camp	23.06.14	£500
	Family Funday Contribution	01.07.14	£750
St Cuthbert's Area Resident Association (Halloween party)	30.09.14	£495	
Councillor Kaylee Sirs	Belle Vue Centre Breakfast Club	12.06.14	£500
	Headland Heritage Festival	12.06.14	£100

	St Cuthbert's Parish Friendship Group (Social Outing)	12.06.14	£150
	St Luke's Infant Welfare Mothers Club (Christmas Party)	12.06.14	£100
	Hartlepool Voluntary Wheels (Running Costs)	12.06.14	£200
	Hartlepool Peoples Centre (Running Costs)	12.06.14	£150
	Haswell Avenue Allotment Association (Environmental Pond)	12.06.14	£167
	Hartlepool Youth Ministry (Outdoor Education Project)	13.05.14	£225
	BloominArt Northeast Group (Discover Arts' Award Programme)	12.06.14	£400
	St Cuthbert's Family Fun Club	12.06.14	£32
	Hartlepool Survival Group (Summer Outdoor Activities)	12.06.14	£167
	Family Funday Contribution	01.07.14	£750
Manor House			
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	The Rifty Youth Project Fun Day	03.07.14	£200
	Golden Flats Junior FC (equipment)	22.09.14	£150
	Hartlepool Catholic Club (over 40's) FC (Pitch fees for 2014/15 season)	22.09.14	£122
Councillor Allan Barclay	Owton Manor Primary School (Garden Project)	24.04.14	£200
	The Rifty Youth Project Fun Day	03.07.14	£200
	Golden Flats Junior FC (equipment)	22.09.14	£150
Councillor Marjorie James	Hartlepool Catholic Club (over 40's) FC (Pitch fees for 2014/15 season)	22.09.14	£122
	Owton Manor Primary School (Garden Project)	24.04.14	£200
	The Rifty Youth Project Fun Day	03.07.14	£200
	Golden Flats Junior FC (equipment)	22.09.14	£150
Councillor Ray Martin-Wells	Hartlepool Catholic Club (over 40's) FC (Pitch fees for 2014/15 season)	22.09.14	£122
	Owton Manor Primary School (Garden Project)	24.04.14	£200
Rural West			
Councillor Brenda Loynes	Elwick Parish Council Computer Course	16.09.14	£133
	Wild Green Spaces Country Fair	16.09.14	£50
Councillor George Morris	Elwick Parish Council Computer Course	16.09.14	£133
	Wild Green Spaces Country Fair	16.09.14	£50
Councillor Ray Martin-Wells	Elwick Parish Council Computer Course	16.09.14	£133
	Wild Green Spaces Country Fair	16.09.14	£50
Victoria			
All Ward Councillors	PROP (Cooking Project)	24.04.14	£500
	Hartlepool Youth Ministry (Outdoor Education Project)	24.04.14	£225

	Lynnfield Ladies (Room Hire)	24.04.14	£250
	Lynnfield Centre (Cooking Project)	24.04.14	£500
	ME Support Group (Donation)	24.04.14	£110
	Asylum Seeker and Refugee Group (Advice Worker)	05.08.14	£500
	Hartlepool Survival School Contribution	05.08.14	£200
	3rd Hartlepool Boys Brigade and Girls Association (Camping Facilities)	05.08.14	£900

APPENDIX B

Ward Member Budget Overview 2014/15

Ward Councillor	Funding Available 14/15	Funding Approved 14/15	Total Funding Remaining
Burn Valley			
Councillor Jonathan Brash	£4,000	£500	£3,500
Councillor Ged Hall	£4,000	£850	£3,150
Councillor John Lauderdale	£4,000	£1200	£2,800
Fens and Rossmere			
Councillor Alan Clark	£4,000	£1837	£2163
Councillor Steve Gibbon	£4,000	£1287	£2713
Councillor Geoff Lilley	£4,000	£1287	£2713
Foggy Furze			
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	£4,000	£3,806	£194
Councillor Kevin Cranney	£4,000	£3,711	£289
Councillor Kaylee Sirs	£4,000	£2,941	£1,059
Manor House			
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	£4,000	£472	£3,528
Councillor Allan Barclay	£4,000	£672	£3,328
Councillor Marjorie James	£4,000	£672	£3,328
Rural West			
Councillor George Morris	£4,000	£183	£3,817
Councillor Brenda Loynes	£4,000	£183	£3,817
Councillor Ray Martin-Wells	£4,000	£183	£3,817
Victoria			
Councillor Pamela Hargreaves	£4,000	£1,061	£2,939
Councillor Carl Richardson	£4,000	£1,061	£2,939
Councillor Chris Simmons	£4,000	£1,061	£2,939
TOTAL	£72,000	£21,906	£50,094

Please note that as outlined in Section 6.2, 20% of the total Ward Member Budget allocation was ringfenced for the delivery of the Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme in 2014/15; this leaves £4,000 per Ward Member available for expenditure this financial year.