



Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

7 September, 2015

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

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend the COUNCIL meeting to be held on THURSDAY, 17 September 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

G Alexander
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL AGENDA



17 September 2015

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 approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 6 August 2015 as the correct record;
- (5) To answer questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting of Council;
- (6) To deal with any business required by statute to be done;
- (7) To receive any announcements from the Chair, or the Head of Paid Service;
- (8) 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;
- (9) To consider reports from the Council's Committees and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
 1. Final Report of the Education Commission and the Establishment of an Education Improvement Board – *Report of Children's Services Committee*
 2. Proposed Closure of Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court – *Report of Finance and Policy Committee*
 3. Audit and Governance Committee 2015/16 Work Programme – *Report of Audit and Governance Committee*
- (10) To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;

- (11) To consider reports from the Policy Committees:
- (a) proposals in relation to the Council's approved budget and policy framework; and
 - 1. Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document–
Report of Regeneration Services Committee
 - (b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework;
- (12) To consider motions in the order in which notice has been received; and
- (13) To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary;
- (14) To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 11;
- (15) 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 held on the 26 June 2015 and the Police and Crime Panel held on 3rd February 2015



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

6 August 2015

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

PRESENT:-

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Fleet) presiding:

COUNCILLORS:

Ainslie	C Akers-Belcher	S Akers-Belcher
Barclay	Beck	Belcher
Cook	Cranney	Griffin
Hall	Jackson	James
Lauderdale	Lawton	Lindridge
Loynes	Martin-Wells	Dr Morris
Richardson	Riddle	Robinson
Simmons	Sirs	Springer
Tempest	Thomas	Thompson

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive
 Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
 Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
 Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer
 Sally Robinson, Director of Child and Adult Services
 Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
 Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health
 Julian Heward, Public Relations Officer
 Amanda Whitaker, Angela Armstrong, Democratic Services Team

Prior to the commencement of business, the Ceremonial Mayor referred to the ill health of the Council's former Chief Solicitor, Tony Brown. Council agreed that best wishes be sent to Mr Brown and his family on behalf of the Council.

The Ceremonial Mayor understood that Councillor Loynes had indicated that she would like to speak at the meeting. Councillor Loynes addressed the meeting and expressed her appreciation of the support and flowers she had received from Council during her recent period ill health.

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Atkinson, Brash, Clark and Hind.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None

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

None

35. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council held on the 25 June 2015, having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

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

None

37. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

None

38. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ceremonial Mayor announced that she would be holding a coffee morning the following day at Hartlepool Enterprise Centre in Wharton Terrace and invited everyone to attend with all proceeds to be donated to her nominated charities.

39. 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

40. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

None

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

1. Establishment of a Council Working Group – Report of Monitoring Officer

Pursuant to minute 187 of the Council meeting held on 18th May 2015, the Monitoring Officer reminded Members that it had been proposed that there be an extension to the Working Group established to develop the Local Health and Social Care Plan. It had been suggested that a range of topics could be 'examined' through the forum with issues which would be strategic in nature through an organised schedule of meetings. Subsequently, Council had agreed on 25 June 2015, in exceptional circumstances, to adopt a 'Terms of Reference' in conjunction with the development of the Local Health and Social Care plan with the Local Clinical Commissioning Group and other stakeholders. The report presented by the Monitoring Officer included considerations which were pertinent to the consideration of the potential establishment of a Council Working Group and associated implications of such a Working Group. As part of the development of the report, the Head of Paid Services had been consulted. It was the view of the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer that if Council determined to establish a standing Working Group of Council on an ongoing basis, in addition to the existing arrangements within the Council Constitution, there would be resource implications involved.

Motion moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor Simmons:-

"That given the robust model of governance operated by the Council, there is no democratic need for a Council Working Group"

A recorded vote was requested.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5 of the Constitution, a recorded vote was taken on the Motion.

Those in favour:

Councillors Ainslie, C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Beck, Belcher, Cook, Cranney, Fleet, Griffin, Hall, Jackson, James, Lauderdale, Lawton, Lindridge, Loynes, Martin-Wells, Morris, Richardson, Robinson, Simmons, Sirs, Tempest and Thomas

Those against:

Councillors Riddle, Springer and Thompson

Those abstaining:

None.

42. REPORT FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEES

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

1. Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015-16 – Report of Finance and Policy Committee

The Chair of Finance and Policy Committee presented a report which provided the background to the provision of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan, a copy of which was appended to the report. The report detailed the planning and consultation undertaken to develop the plan which included consideration by the Youth Justice Board's Regional Partnership Manager, the local Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board, service users, staff and key partners. In addition, incorporated into the Plan were recommendations from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, the Audit and Governance and Children's Services Committees. The key strategic objectives that were proposed for 2015-16 were highlighted in the report.

It was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor Richardson:-

"That the progress made against the local Youth Justice Plan (2014-2015) be noted and the 2015-2016 plan ratified prior to the Plan being submitted to the National Youth Justice Board."

The above was agreed by show of hands.

It was confirmed, in the absence of dissent, that this was the unanimous decision of the Council.

2. New Dwellings Outside of Development Limits Supplementary Planning Document (15) – Report of Regeneration Services Committee

The Chair of Regeneration Services Committee presented a report which provided the background to the development of the New Dwellings Outside of Development Limits Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), a copy of which was appended to the report. The draft SPD had been subject to an 8 week consultation period. A total of 9 representations had been received which had been included in the Consultation Statement appended to the document. The SPD was in accordance with the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework. It was consequently proposed that the SPD be endorsed and adopted by Council for use as material consideration in the decision making process with regard to assessing proposals for residential development in the countryside.

It was moved by Councillor Cranney and seconded by Councillor Ainslie:-

"That Council adopt the New Dwellings Outside of Development Limits Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)."

In response to concerns expressed regarding the implications of the SPD on

development on 'green land' including the south west extension, the Chief Solicitor provided assurance that the SPD would not interfere, and was based on conformity, with Local Plan Policies and National Planning Guidance and gave greater context as well as guidance in determining planning applications.

Concerns were expressed regarding the implications of the announcement made by the Member in terms of his future role as a member of the Planning Committee. The Chief Solicitor provided further clarification and advised that it was a matter for the Councillor to determine whether he was prejudiced in consideration of individual planning applications.

The Motion was agreed by show of hands.

It was confirmed, in the absence of dissent, that this was the unanimous decision of the Council.

3. Hartlepool Housing Strategy 2015-2020 – Report of Finance and Policy Committee

The Chair of Finance and Policy Committee presented a report which provided detailed background to the development of the Housing Strategy. The Strategy had been produced following engagement with the Council's partners and included Registered Providers, residents, voluntary organisations and the private sector. Five stages of consultation had been undertaken and these were outlined in the report together with details of the five priority outcomes incorporated in the Strategy.:

It was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor Cook:-

"That Council approve the adoption and publication of the draft Housing Strategy 2015-2020 and the adoption and publication of the associated Action Plan"

The Motion was agreed by show of hands.

It was confirmed, in the absence of dissent, that this was the unanimous decision of the Council.

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

1. Council Housing Stock Development July 2015 – Report of Finance and Policy Committee

The Chair of Finance and Policy Committee advised Council on the scheme which would enable the Council to acquire 14 bungalows on the Alexander Square development (former Perth/Hurworth Street). The detailed business case considered by the Finance and Policy Committee concentrated on the financial viability of this scheme.

The Finance and Policy Committee had been advised that on 21st July 2015 the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) had informed the Council that the

bid for HCA funding of £329,000 had been successful. The report to the Finance and Policy Committee had detailed two options for funding the Council's contribution to this scheme, which had been based on different mixes of Prudential Borrowing and Section 106 funding. The Committee had recommended funding option B which used £735,000 of Prudential Borrowing, compared to £876,000 under option A.

Council was advised that the level of Prudential Borrowing could be reduced by a further £15,000 owing to the recent agreement to claw back City Challenge grant on the sale of a property in Church Street. This reduced borrowing to 57% of the total project cost, which equated to approximately £51,400 per property. Council was requested to consider the recommendations in the report, including the additional proposal to reduce Prudential Borrowing by £15,000 from the grant claw back.

The following recommendation was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor Cook:-

The proposal to purchase 14 bungalows on the Alexander Square development on condition that:

- i) the Department for Communities and Local Government approve the arrangements for either increasing the HRA exemption, or approve the arrangements for the Council re-establishing the HRA. To note that any minor additional administrative costs of operating an HRA can be funded within the existing business case;
- ii) approves the funding Option B consisting of Prudential Borrowing of £720,000 (i.e. £54,400 per property), which equates to 57% of the total project funding, Section 106 funding of £196,000 and City Challenge Grant clawback of £15,000;
- iii) To note the successful outcome of the bid for £329,000 HCA Grant under the National Affordable Homes Programme and to note the total capital budget for this scheme will be £1,260,000;
- iv) To note that if the approvals detailed at recommendation (i) is not successful, the scheme will not proceed.

The above was agreed by show of hands. The Ceremonial Mayor confirmed, in the absence of dissent, that this was the unanimous decision of the Council.

43. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None

44. COMMITTEE/OUTSIDE BODY VACANCIES

Committee Vacancy

The Chief Executive reported that following the appointments to Committees and Forums made at the meetings on 26 May 2015 and 25 June 2015, a vacancy on the Audit and Governance Committee remained. Under normal proportionality the seat would be allocated to an Independent member though no nomination had been forthcoming. Under applicable legislation, where no nomination had come forward within a period of three weeks from the initial request (as reported to members on 25 June), it was open to Council to make such appointment as it thinks fit. The wishes of Council were therefore requested to be made known as to whether the Committee should continue to carry a vacancy or that nominations be invited.

No nominations to the Committee vacancy were made at the meeting

Outside Body Vacancies

(i) Hartlepool Credit Union – At the meeting of Council held on 25 June, it had been reported that 2 positions (from 4) remained vacant.

Councillors Springer and Thompson had been appointed at the Council meeting on 26 May. Subsequently an e mail had been received from Councillor Thompson advising that on reflection and due to his commitments, he was not able to take up the position on the Hartlepool Credit Union. In his e mail Councillor Thompson had referred to the excellent work of the town's credit union and the importance of having representation on the Board.

(ii) Teesside Pension Board – 1 position – Following a request from Council on 26 May 2015 feedback had been conveyed to the Pension Board that the Council would be prepared to provide a nomination should all Local Authority members be represented on the Board. The response received had been reported to Council on 25th June as set out in the report. Members' instructions as to the filling of Outside Body vacancies are requested.

No nominations to the vacancies were made at the meeting.

45. SPECIAL URGENCY

Council was informed that there had been one special urgency decision taken in the period May - July 2015. The decision had been taken by the Finance and Policy Committee at its meeting on 1 June 2015 and had related to the report submitted to the last meeting of Council on the impact of a recent Government funding announcement in relation to the 'Local Growth Fund' and the Committee's proposal to provide loans to Cleveland College of Art and Design to enable the development of the new college facilities to proceed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

46. DEVELOPMENT OF HARTLEPOOL LOCAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PLAN

The Chief Executive reminded Members that Council on the 25 June 2015 had approved the Terms of Reference for the Hartlepool Local Health and Social Care Plan and had agreed that the Northern Clinical Senate would be approached to nominate an appropriate individual to take up the position of Independent Chair. As Chair of the Northern Clinical Senate, Professor Andrew Cant had been formally approached on the 9 July 2015 to nominate a representative from the Senate to take up the position of Independent Chair. The response received from Professor Cant on the 16 July 2015, had highlighted concerns regarding a conflict of interest for Senate members in taking up the role as Chair, given the active involvement of some members in supporting the development of health services in Teesside and/or their substantive employed by local NHS provider organisations. However, Professor Cant had been fully supportive of the Working Group in the development of the Local Health and Social Care Plan and had expressed a commitment to support the Council in the identification of an independent Chair. To this aim, Professor Cant had identified a list of names of appropriate, capable and interested individuals from outside of the Clinical Senate for the Council's consideration. In taking forward the development of the Plan, details of the proposed schedule of meetings was outlined in the report with dates and times to be finalised following identification of the independent Chair in August.

The Chief Executive advised Members that on the 30 July 2015, Professor Andrew Cant had highly commended Professor David Colin-Thomé (OBE) as an individual with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to Chair the Health and Social Care Plan Working Group. The Chief Executive announced at the Council meeting that Professor Colin-Thomé had now confirmed that he was happy to take up the position of Chair and the process of organising an introductory meeting had commenced to take forward arrangements for the Working Group.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

47. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive advised Council of the requirement for the Director of Public Health to write an Annual Report on the health status of the town and the Local Authority duty to publish as specified in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Members were advised that the Director of Public Health Annual report 2014/15 had focused on the issues relating to health and work. The report had concluded that there was a positive relationship between health and work and reflected the work of Professor Sir Michael Marmot, who concluded in The Marmot Report 2010, that we should seek to 'create fair employment and good work for all'.

Members were advised that the report was the subject of a Members' Seminar and has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Following presentation of the report, appreciation was expressed to the Director of Public Health and all of her team who had contributed to the report.

RESOLVED - That the Director of Public Health Annual Report be received and approved for publication.

48. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HARTLEPOOL MAGISTRATES' COURT AND COUNTY COURT

The Chief Executive reported that on 16 July, 2015, the Ministry of Justice had announced a proposal to close 91 Courts and Tribunals in England and Wales, including Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and the County Court. The proposals were similar to the closure programme announced in December, 2010, which resulted in the closure of 141 Courts. The current proposals would result in the work from Hartlepool transferred to the Teesside Magistrates' Court and County Court in Middlesbrough. Further, the Durham Elvet House Tribunal would be integrated with the other tribunals within sites in County Durham. Whilst the Middlesbrough Tribunal Hearing Centre would be integrated within the Teesside Magistrates' Court and the Quayside House Newcastle Tribunal would be integrated with the North Shields (Kings Court) Tribunal. Other proposed closures in our region include the Consett Magistrates' Court and Morpeth County Court. Although the programme of proposed closures was aimed at addressing Court buildings that were not fully utilised and the greater use of technology through video and telephone conferencing, it was also suggested that other public buildings could be used, particularly in rural locations, where security arrangements were considered to be low. It was recognised that Members would be concerned as to the implications of closure of both the Magistrates' Court and County Court and the impact upon access to justice. On the instruction of the Leader, the Chief Executive had written to a variety of organisations involved in the criminal and civil justice system affected by these proposals and had enclosed the 'questionnaire' which accompanied this consultation exercise, which requires responses by 8 October, 2015.

It was recommended that a more detailed report together with responses received be submitted to the meeting of Finance and Policy Committee on 28 August and that Council receives a report from the Committee at its meeting on 17 September, to allow for consideration of this item, formal debate and a response to be made in conjunction with the above timetable. It was also recommended that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership receive a report on this matter.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

49. NORTHERN POWERHOUSE/DEVOLUTION

Members were reminded that the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council had attended a meeting on 15th July 2015 with other Leaders and Chief Executives from across the Tees Valley with Greg Clark (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) and James Wharton (Parliamentary

Under-Secretary of State, Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse). The meeting had been an initial and exploratory discussion on the potential for devolution from central government to the locality.

Members were advised that the meeting had been a useful starting point for determining what the various options were and to gain a better understanding of how these might assist in delivering ambitions for the area. A press release from Department Communities and Local Government, appended to the report, outlined the current position.

The Chief Executive highlighted that devolution could offer significant benefits for the town and the sub region but that this was subject to ensuring that it could work effectively and reflect this Council's, and other councils, unique strengths and views. This would require a new and agreed governance arrangement to enable powers to be devolved down from Whitehall to a sub regional level. Discussions would be taking place over the summer to establish the nature and level of the potential devolution of powers from Central Government and to clarify how a governance model would operate. Council was assured that no decision would be taken about this without a Full Council debate and decision.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

50. CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Chief Executive reported that at its meeting on 24 July 2015, Cleveland Fire Authority had considered responses, submitted in respect of its governance review, which had entailed a preferred option of moving the membership of the Fire Authority from the present 23 to 12 Members. This would be underpinned by an Executive Committee and an Audit & Governance Committee. There were additional 'options' of a membership between 13 – 16 Members.

Members were reminded that this Council had responded to that consultation indicating that the composition of the Fire Authority 'should not be less than 16 Members'. This response had been in unison with the approach of two other constituent authorities, with all responses being supportive of a reduction in the present composition. The Authority had resolved unanimously, to adopt a figure of 16 but that this be effective from the start of the next municipal year and therefore coinciding with the Annual Meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority presently scheduled for 10 June 2016. In addition Members of the Fire Authority had called for a further report dealing with the governance of the Authority in respect of this changed composition.

RESOLVED – That the report detailing the outcome of the consultation exercise be noted.

51. COMMITTEE/OUTSIDE BODY VACANCIES

The Chief Executive reported that she had been informed of the following Committee membership and Outside Body representative changes.

Licensing Committee – Councillor Robinson to replace Councillor Beck.

Hartlepool and District Sports Council – Councillor Jackson to replace Councillor Beck.

RESOLVED – That the changes to Committee and Outside Body representation, as set out in the report, be approved

52. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Sue Little to Chair of Finance and Policy Committee

“At a recent council meeting, councillors approved a sum of money (£196,000) towards the cost of the neighbour services projects in house!

In the submission of the agenda, a modest request from HDVA to further their survival and continuance was rejected.

HDVA is a lifeline in Hartlepool, no less than 136 organisations have benefitted from their expertise and knowledge over the years.

However, 17 members contributed to HDVA in 2013/14, a considerable sum was donated from councillors across the spectrum.

Can the chairman tell me about the dramatic U-turn over a year?

Could it be that the members have influenced by extraneous forces to reject out of hand the plea by this organisation?”

Councillor C Akers-Belcher advised that he had declared a prejudicial interest in the issue to which the question related, at the Finance and Policy Committee, and had requested therefore that a written response be circulated. The Chief Executive supported the suggestion made by the Chair and advised that Mrs Little had also requested a written response as she was on holiday and therefore unable to attend the Council meeting.

2. Question from Evelyn Leck to Chair of Adult Services Committee

Question

““Can the Council explain why ‘Sanctuary’ have been commissioned, to deliver a contract that works with prolific ‘alcohol’ users and it has been determined, that the Melbourne Hotel is an appropriate venue to deliver such a service?”

The Chair of Adult Services Committee advised that housing related support for adults with alcohol misuse issues had been provided very successfully for a number of years by Sanctuary from accommodation in Grange Road. When the contract for the service came to an end, a tendering exercise had been undertaken, in line with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules and Sanctuary had been successful in securing the new contract.

The service specification for the new service had been developed by Adult Services and Public Health and had a requirement in relation to en suite

accommodation. The current accommodation at Grange Road was not suitable for the provision going forward and Sanctuary, as the service provider, had identified alternative accommodation at the Melbourne Hotel. The tendering process did not specify where the service was to be provided; the successful provider is responsible for identifying appropriate premises.

It was highlighted that Sanctuary as a service provider worked in partnership with the Council's housing section and alcohol services within Public Health Department and that there had been a good success rate for supporting people to overcome their alcohol dependency in the current service. People identified to access the service had to demonstrate a desire to tackle the issues they were facing and there was a referral process from statutory bodies. Sanctuary were aware that planning permission for change of use could be required and were currently consulting with the public and elected members where they were able.

Members debated issues arising from the question and highlighted implications arising from a previous purchase using public monies, through the NDC Trust. Views were expressed that the proposed use was not appropriate in the proposed neighbourhood.

It was moved by Councillor C Akers-Belcher and seconded by Councillor Cranney:-

That the Council formally enter into dialogue with Sanctuary to explore the potential for a more appropriate venue to deliver this service

3. From Sue Little to Chair of Finance and Policy Committee

"In the national media and recent Budget speech in the House of Commons. The "Northern Powerhouse" was launched by David Cameron and James Wharton, a Stockton MP.

The stumbling block is that the Treasury's insistence to develop elected mayors to channel the funds and promote responsible government at local level. This could release a considerable amount of money to the North East, including infrastructure, creating jobs and boosting skills and investment.

Can the leader comment about the thinking relating to elected mayors in Hartlepool to attract the new developments from the Government over several years?"

The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee referred to earlier consideration of the item included in the Chief Executive's business report relating to Northern Powerhouse/Devolution. He replied that the principle of Elected Mayors was not supported. He advised that it was too early to determine how any devolved powers would or could be governed as negotiations were continuing and further information from Government was awaited.

53. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Questions to the Chairs about recent decisions of Council Committees and Forums without notice under Council Procedure Rule 12.1

None

- b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 12.2

None

- c) Questions on notice to the Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority

None

- d) Minutes of the meetings held by the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Panel

The minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 27 March 2015 were noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 p.m.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR



Report of: Children's Services Committee

Subject: FINAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EDUCATION
IMPROVEMENT BOARD

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the final report of the Education Commission and to agree the establishment of an Education Improvement Board.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At Children's Services Committee in February 2014 approval was given for the establishment of an Education Commission. The remit of the Commission was to address both the strategic priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan 2013-2016 and further priorities that have been identified through analysis of Hartlepool's performance trends across all key stages.

The key questions posed to the Commission were:

- How do we best direct our resources to ensure that every school in Hartlepool is good or outstanding by 2015-16 and, within that, how do we strengthen leadership and governance and improve the quality of teaching and learning?
- How do we ensure that the educational transition periods in children and young people's lives are well managed to ensure continuity of learning?
- How do we work with schools and colleges to diversify the curriculum across Hartlepool in order to provide coherent pathways from primary to secondary schools and into high quality post-16 provision?
- How do we improve the literacy and communication skills of children and young people through a Borough-wide literacy and oracy programme across early years, primary, secondary schools and FE colleges?
- How do we improve participation and achievement rates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in modern foreign languages?
- How do we improve the quality of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) so that children and young people have the advice and

guidance that improves their self-esteem, raises their expectations and helps them to make better life choices?

- What is our vision for alternative education provision, taking into account behaviour and attendance, so that we re-engage young people with difficult and challenging behaviour?
- How do we ensure that we integrate assessment, planning and resource allocation so that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) make good progress and good transitions into adulthood?
- How do we accelerate the educational progress of all our vulnerable learners so that they achieve at the highest level and progress to high quality education, training and employment?
- How do we better match the current provision within our schools with the expectations of employers?

2.2 The aim of the Commission was to work with partners and professionals in key areas to develop an Education Improvement Strategy which not only considers what the core purpose of education is, but looks at the wider agenda in ensuring our young people develop the competencies and capabilities to live a fulfilled life and make a positive contribution to their community.

2.3 The Commission consisted of leaders from primary, secondary and special schools, academies, colleges, elected members, the local authority, public health in Hartlepool and key partners from the wider Tees Valley area including local employers. The Chair of the Commission was Professor Steve Higgins (Durham University).

2.4 The Commission met between April 2014 and November 2014. During this time the Commission gathered information about the priority areas within education and the wider children's services and considered a wide range of published evidence, organised workshops where colleagues and experts in the relevant fields were invited to speak, and held a conference inviting all key stakeholders to attend to record and share their views.

2.5 During March 2015 to July 2015, the Commission met to agree and formalise the key recommendations utilising the evidence collated during the review and feedback received from key stakeholders. The final report of the Commission has now been completed outlining a clear set of recommendations to be implemented over the coming years. A copy of the report can be found at **Appendix 1.**

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 An event to launch the Education Commission's report and recommendations is planned for 6 October 2015. Part of the launch event will involve consultation regarding membership and governance of the Education Improvement Board. The following will be invited to attend the launch event

and have the opportunity to consult on the establishment of the Education Improvement Board.

- All headteachers of schools, academies and colleges in Hartlepool
- Principal of Hartlepool FE College
- Principal of Hartlepool Sixth Form College
- Education leaders of HE institutions in the region
- Elected members
- Young people representatives
- Council officers
- Governor representatives
- Employers

3.2 It is proposed that the role of the Education Improvement Board will be:

- to develop a 'Charter' with key stakeholders outlining our promise to every child and young person in the town, based on inspiration, aspiration and ambition;
- to create and shape an action plan based on the recommendations in the Education Commission's report;
- to identify and commit the necessary resources required to carry out the relevant actions and activities;
- to monitor the progress of the plan.

This will require involvement from all key partners, including:

- School representatives;
- Academy representatives;
- HE/FE College representatives;
- Young people representatives;
- Council officers;
- Elected members;
- Governor representatives;
- Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) representative;
- Regional representatives;
- Employer representatives.

Governance arrangements will be developed and agreed at the first Board meeting, following feedback from the launch event.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It is essential that all key stakeholders are involved in the development and delivery of the action plan to ensure that the key recommendations are fully adopted and achieved. The future success of improving the life opportunities for all Hartlepool children and young people relies on partnership and collaborative working. The Commission's key aim is that the children and

young people of Hartlepool and their future is at the heart of what we do. If this collegiate approach is not realised, then the risk of failing to achieve the key recommendations is greatly increased.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 In order to implement the recommendations in the Commission's report and establish a meaningful action plan that all stakeholders can commit to, financial support will be required.
- 5.2 It is proposed that dedicated schools grant funding previously earmarked by Schools Forum for school improvement be used to fund the recommendations of the Board. Detailed proposals are being developed to support the implementation of the action plan.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no implications.

7. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 As part of the evidence gathering and expert witness involvement, the Commission acknowledged that a targeted and integrated approach is required to support those families, children and young people living in poverty. Particular concerns were raised in relation to early language development and helping families to support their child's learning. This forms part of the recommendations in the final report.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Commission's recommendations relate to every child and young person in Hartlepool regardless of background, faith or ethnicity. The focus is to ensure that all children receive the same opportunities, support and encouragement to grow into successful, fulfilled and responsible citizens as members of their local communities.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 All staff in Child and Adult Services and identified teams from other departments will be involved in ensuring that the delivery of the action plan and the adoption of the recommendations pervades all work streams and planning for future work with children and young people.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 There are no implications.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 It is recommended that Council:

- note the final report of the Education Commission and the associated recommendations;
- approve the final report and agree to the establishment of an Education Improvement Board.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children's Services Committee papers – 11th February 2014
Children's Services Committee papers – 15th September 2015
Education Commission Report – Appendix 1

13. CONTACT OFFICER

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COUNCIL

17 September 2015



Report of: Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HARTLEPOOL MAGISTRATES' COURT AND COUNTY COURT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Council to consider the report to Finance and Policy Committee of 28 August 2015 and recommendations made thereon, and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods (in consultation with the Leader of the Council) to respond to the Ministry of Justice by 8 October 2015. It is also recommended that a copy of this response is sent to all elected members and interested stakeholders including the local Member of Parliament; the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, and the Chairman of the Bench for the Local Justice Area of Hartlepool.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On July 16 2015 the Ministry of Justice issued a consultation document concerning proposals for the closure and integration of a number of courts and tribunals in England and Wales. These proposals included Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court. In total the proposals for closure will affect 91 courts and tribunals in England and Wales.
- 2.2 Following receipt of the consultation the Council embarked upon a comprehensive local consultation to seek the views of a variety of Partner organisations, and other bodies, as to the effect that such a proposal would have on the Borough. These responses are attached within the Finance and Policy Committee Report which is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 At the Finance and Policy Committee on 28 August members received the attached report and a letter was also tabled from the Chairman of the Bench of the Local Justice Area of Hartlepool. On the evidence presented Members were extremely concerned that the proposals would not serve local justice and would lead to an erosion of access to justice, and that there needed to be a strong message to the Ministry of Justice that as a Council we are vehemently opposed to the proposals. The recommendations of the Finance and Policy Committee were endorsed at the meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership held on the 4th September 2015.

3. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE CASE FOR CHANGE

3.1 As outlined in the Finance and Policy Committee Report of 28 August there are three underlying principles mentioned by the Ministry of Justice as being justification for the proposed closure and /or integration of courts and tribunals referenced within the consultation document. These principles are:

- **Value for money** – which it is anticipated will be achieved by reducing the current and future running costs of the estate and maximising capital receipts from disposals to allow for reinvestment in the estate.
- **Access to justice** – which it is anticipated will be maintained by ensuring that any court to be considered for closure is within a reasonable distance of a retained court by public transport
- **Enabling efficiency longer term** – which it is anticipated will be achieved by hearing the same amount of cases within a rationalised estate; maintaining capacity within estates; and keeping larger easily upgradable buildings.

4. REPRESENTATIONS OPPOSING CLOSURE

4.1 The Ministry of Justice consultation document indicates that if the closures go ahead, 95% of citizens will be able to reach their required court within an hour by car. However Hartlepool has one of the highest levels of deprivation nationally (amongst the top 10% nationally, and ranked 33 out of 354 areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010), and low levels of car ownership, and this together with the infrequency of bus services and timings would appear to contradict the assertion made by the Ministry of Justice and would severely impact upon the residents in the Borough. Indeed the issue of cost involved in attending Court appearances, and the broad ranging nature of court proceedings, including Family and Domestic related appearances, suggests that the projection of 95% is not only the situation in Hartlepool but in many areas affected by closure.

4.2 The proposals will result in additional costs to residents with money on transport costs and childcare costs that wouldn't normally be expended. This coupled with increases in court fees; reductions in eligibility for legal aid which in itself is limiting accessibility to the justice system, and increased costs to clients, suggest that through their cumulative impact these measures will have a profound effect on residents as well as the erosion of access to justice within our area.

4.3 The proposals will also result in additional costs to wider public spending. Evidence from the Youth Offending Service following closure of the Hartlepool Youth Court suggests that there has been a large increase in demand on the Youth Offending Service attending court, with listings being spread over a number of days and adjournments being not uncommon when for example there is no solicitor from Hartlepool present, or a parent has not attended with young person who has arrived at court themselves. There have also been delays due to solicitors being unavailable at court where there are unplanned hearings, and some young people are spending longer periods of time in police custody at Hartlepool due to having to wait for transport across to Middlesbrough. The Youth Offending Service has also on occasion, paid for transport costs to ensure attendance at court.

4.4 The consultation document does not make the case for the preferred option. The document indicates that both the Hartlepool and Teesside Courts are underused (using 2014/15 data) in that Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court was

utilised to 47% of its capacity. However the consultation document is absent in relation to the Middlesbrough Court figures covering the same period. Irrespective of this, there is still a substantive need for a court providing the range of proceedings through a Magistrates and County Court which is needed in the Borough. It is recognised by the Ministry of Justice that the Hartlepool Courts are well maintained and compliant with equality legislation and also has 10 cells – the bulk of which allow for secure access to 3 of the 5 court rooms. In addition the court has a prison video link and excellent facilities for vulnerable victims and witnesses to give evidence via video link.

- 4.5 A merger of the Teesside and Hartlepool Local Justice Areas, would require at the very least some modification of existing facilities to provide a court structure to deal with custody remands and bail hearings. Further, even with the proposed amalgamation of the Teesside and Hartlepool Coronial areas there is a substantive recommendation that Inquests will still be held in Hartlepool which should continue within the current Hartlepool Court complex. Following a recent Council scrutiny investigation into 'Hate Crime' there is a strong feeling that specialist facilities, which are available in the current Hartlepool Court structure would lend itself to a locally based system encouraging reporting of such crime, the local resolution of such offences, and providing comfort and reassurance to victims of these crimes.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is the considered opinion of local consultees that if these proposals come to fruition they would seriously erode access to justice and seriously undermine local confidence in the justice system. As indicated by two of the consultees:

'It is integral that communities feel part of the justice system and that they can see the effects of that working in their areas. When services are moved away from the local areas that they serve communities can feel disengaged in the whole process.'

And:

'The Ministry of Justice analysis appears to under estimate the impact for court users of limited means, for whom the costs of travel (which the MOJ appear to suggest are low) may be a significant barrier to accessing court facilities outside of Hartlepool.'

- 5.2 There will be clear detriment to Hartlepool residents attending courts (and tribunals) in Middlesbrough. It is also considered that the Ministry of Justice conclusions that 95% of court users will be able to access courts in one hour is fatuous. This is particularly so given the levels of child and family poverty in Hartlepool; the fact that Hartlepool is one of the most deprived Boroughs nationally being ranked 33rd out of 354 areas on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010), with a large percentage of the population on low wages. For example two thirds of women in part-time jobs in Hartlepool are earning less than the living wage, standing at 65.9% of workers this is the highest figure in the North East. Undoubtedly a programme of closure will severely impact upon residents and local solicitors practices and those involved in the criminal justice system, Civil courts and other related work.
- 5.3 Members are requested to debate this issue in order to provide further detail for the proposed correspondence to be sent from this Council to the Ministry of Justice in relation to the consultation exercise. It is also prudent that the Council seeks a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Justice in order to consider these

proposals as a matter of some urgency. Members views are also sought as to the composition of such a proposed delegation to meet with Government representatives or such other action as the Council deems appropriate.

- 5.4 As indicated a response to the consultation is required in any event before 8 October and it is recommended that the submitted response is shared with all elected members and other interested parties.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That Council note the Ministry of Justice proposals to close Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court.
- 6.2 That Council debate the proposals to enable a response to be made to the Ministry of Justice before the stated deadline of 8 October.
- 6.3 That the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods finalise a response to the Ministry of Justice in consultation with the Leader of the Council and that Members be made aware of that response.

7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Should the Ministry of Justice proposals go ahead as planned there is a real risk that access to justice for the Hartlepool Community would be seriously undermined, together with a loss of confidence in the ability of the justice system to deliver outcomes for the local community.

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

28th AUGUST 2015



Report of: Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HARTLEPOOL MAGISTRATES' COURT AND COUNTY COURT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To consider Ministry of Justice proposals to close Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court.

2.2 To make recommendations to Council following the referral from their meeting on 6 August.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 On July 16 the Ministry of Justice announced a proposal to close 91 Courts and Tribunals in England and Wales, including Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court. The proposals also includes the integration of a further 31 Courts and Tribunals. The proposals for closure affects 57 Magistrates Courts, 19 County Courts and 2 Crown Courts, whilst the integration will involve 2 Magistrates Courts, 11 County Courts, 2 Crown Courts, 15 Tribunal hearing centres and one Combined Court. In all 257 Magistrates Courts rooms would close representing 23% of the current figure. A further 21 Crown Court rooms closing would represent 4% of the total figure.

3.2 These proposals are similar to the closure programme announced in December, 2010, which saw the closure of 141 Courts. The current proposals would see the work from Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court transferred to the Teesside Magistrates Court and County Court in Middlesbrough. Further, the Durham Elevet House Tribunal would be integrated within other tribunal sites in County Durham. Whilst the

Middlesbrough Tribunal Hearing Centre would be integrated within the Teesside Magistrates Court, and the Quayside House Newcastle Tribunal would be integrated with the North Shields (King Court) Tribunal. Other proposed closures in our region include the Consett Magistrates Court and Morpeth County Court.

- 3.3 Although this programme of proposed closures is aimed at addressing Court buildings that are not fully utilised and the greater use of technology through video and telephone conferencing, it is also suggested that other public buildings could be used, particularly in rural locations, where security arrangements are considered to be low. The Ministry of Justice consultation on the proposals closes on 8 October.
- 3.4 At their meeting on 6 August, Council were informed that the through the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council had written to a number of organisations involved in the criminal and civil justice system seeking their views on the proposed closure with the intention of providing a detailed report to the Finance and Policy Committee on 28 August, and a subsequent report to Council on 17 September, thus enabling a formal Council response to be provided to the Ministry of Justice within the requisite timescales. The Safer Hartlepool Partnership will also receive a report on this matter for their information.

4. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE CASE FOR CHANGE

- 4.1 As highlighted in the Ministry of Justice consultation documentation (Attached as Appendix A) the underlying rationale for the proposed closure /integration of a number of courts and tribunals nationally is that the current Courts and Tribunal Service estate does not meet the strategic requirements of the organisation, with the current size and associated cost of the estate being unsustainable in the current financial context.
- 4.2 There are currently 460 courts and tribunal hearing centres in England and Wales and the proposals relate to the closure of 115 buildings where work will be transferred/integrated with another court or tribunal. In considering which courts/tribunal centres should close and be integrated into other centres the Ministry of Justice has been guided by the following principles:
- **Value for money** – which it is anticipated will be achieved by reducing the current and future running costs of the estate and maximising capital receipts from disposals to allow for reinvestment in the estate.
 - **Access to justice** – which it is anticipated will be maintained by ensuring that any court to be considered for closure is within a reasonable distance of a retained court by public transport
 - **Enabling efficiency longer term** – which it is anticipated will be achieved by hearing the same amount of cases within a rationalised estate; maintaining capacity within estates; and keeping larger easily upgradable buildings.

- 4.3 At the heart of the programme for reform are the use of modern technology and the principle of proportionality. It is felt that straightforward transactional matters (such as probate or pleading guilty and paying a fine) can be dealt with using digital technology. Equally it is felt that straightforward cases do not need face to face hearings and that judges will be able to reserve court hearings for more sensitive or complex cases.

- 4.4 It is also envisaged that modern technology could result in wider reductions in costs to the justice system as a whole by removing the need for the transportation of prisoners for bail hearings, or the police taking full days off their priority work to sit in a court room. Some existing examples highlighted in the consultation include Police Officers giving evidence over a live video link, and users in some jurisdictions having cases progressed or considered through telephone hearings or on papers, so that they do not need to attend a hearing in person. Where attendance at a hearing is needed other civic or public buildings could be used for hearings where security requirements are low.

- 4.5 The proposals for closure that would impact on the Hartlepool community include the local Magistrates' Court and County Court ; Middlesbrough Tribunal Hearing Centre (to be transferred to Teesside Magistrates); Quayside House Newcastle Tribunal (to be transferred to North Shields Kings Court).

5. PROPOSALS TO CLOSE HARTLEPOOL MAGISTRATES COURT AND COUNTY COURT

- 5.1 Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court is one of two Magistrates' Courts and one of two County Courts operating in Cleveland, the other Magistrates court being Teesside Magistrates Court and the other County court being Middlesbrough County Court which is part of Teesside Combined Court. Of historical note, the former Guisborough Magistrates' Court and Stockton County Court were subject to closure under earlier reforms, with work passing to the Teesside Courts.

- 5.2 Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court were purpose built in 1979 as a Magistrates Court and was later adapted to accommodate Hartlepool County Court. It comprises 5 court rooms where criminal, civil and family hearings are held; and 2 county court district judges hearing rooms. There are also 10 cells in the building with secure access to 3 out of the 5 courtrooms. The court has a prison video link and facilities for vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence via video link to one courtroom. The court room has separate waiting facilities for prosecution and defence witnesses and there are interview rooms available for private consultation.

- 5.3 Teesside Magistrates' Court and Teesside Combined Court Centre are also said to offer good facilities for Courts and Tribunal Service users. However the courts at Teesside and Hartlepool are both under used with the

consultation highlighting that during 2014/15 Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court was utilised at approximately 47% of its capacity.

- 5.4 Given the underuse of Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court it is proposed to close the 'Hartlepool Courts' and transfer relevant business to the courts at Teesside, with the Teesside Combined Court also absorbing tribunal work following the proposed closure of the County Court. The proposed closure of the Quayside Court at Newcastle will also see employment tribunal work transfer to North Shields Kings Court.
- 5.5 The Impact Assessment undertaken in relation to the proposals accepts that these proposals may give rise to users experiencing longer travelling times, and higher costs due to the need to travel further. The road and rail, and bus links between Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, and the approximate cost of a rail ticket (£4.50) and a bus ticket (£7.70) are not judged to impact adversely on access to justice.
- 5.6 To illustrate the impact of changes that would result should the court close, a travel model has been adopted which looks at the current catchment area of the court and the population within it, and the travel time from the centre of the catchment area to the existing and proposed court by both car and public transport based on the existing court workload. Travel time data pre and post closure is illustrated below:

Magistrates' workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	100%	By Car	0-30min	97%
	30-60min	0%		30-60min	3%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	90%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	9%		30-60min	7%
	60-120min	0%		60-120min	91%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	1%		no data	2%

Family workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	100%	By Car	0-30min	97%
	30-60min	0%		30-60min	3%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%

By Public Transport	0-30min	90%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	9%		30-60min	7%
	60-120min	0%		60-120min	91%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	1%		no data	2%

County workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	100%	By Car	0-30min	79%
	30-60min	0%		30-60min	21%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	67%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	31%		30-60min	5%
	60-120min	1%		60-120min	92%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	1%		no data	3%

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 As outlined in the background to this report to enable a considered response to the Ministry of Justice proposals, correspondence was sent to relevant partners operating within the criminal and civil justice system seeking their views on the proposals to close Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court. It is also acknowledged that organisations such as the Law Society are also concerned as to these proposals on the basis of 'promoting and protecting access to justice for all'.
- 6.2 Responses to the consultation were received from across Council departments; Cleveland Police; the Leader of Sunderland Council; Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner; the Chairman of the Bench for the Local Justice Area of Hartlepool; a local solicitors practice, and voluntary sector organisations delivering victim services and benefits and debt advice (Harbour and West Advice and Resource Centre). The responses received are attached at **Appendix A** - informal responses to the consultation have not been included).
- 6.3 A summary of the responses received is outlined below in the same format being used by the Ministry of Justice in their consultation:

Q1) Do you agree with proposals / what overall comments would you like to make on the proposals?

There is a full understanding of the financial pressures and the need to streamline services along with the opportunities presented by the development of new technologies in the administration of justice to relieve these pressures. But the Council and partners remain extremely concerned that the proposal to close Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court will limit access to justice, and undermine local confidence in the justice system. As one colleague commented 'It is integral that communities feel part of the justice system and that they can see the effects of that working in their areas. When services are moved away from the local areas that they serve communities can feel disengaged in the whole process.'

Q2) Will the proposals have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

The Council remains concerned about the impact of the proposals on their own services and resources, and the services and resources of other agencies, and businesses serving the Hartlepool community. Time spent travelling to court, costs of fuel, and possible wasted journeys where hearings are adjourned were all raised as concerns by staff from across the Council who are currently using local courts. Continuing budget cuts has meant that staff are working in much smaller teams and the time spent travelling to court with several members of the team needing to be in attendance will result in fewer staff on the ground, and a reduced level of service to the community.

From a Police perspective the need to travel to Middlesbrough would also result in already low numbers on the streets being further depleted, and the limited availability of Police vehicles if used for court attendance would leave a shortage in Hartlepool. There would also be a knock on effect if defendants did not attend court when required due to distance and cost with any resultant warrants issued increasing workload for the Police.

Local Solicitors predict increased charges to clients as a result of the additional travelling required, and local Victims Services and Childrens Services Teams raise concerns about the additional pressures placed on their time in ensuring families and victims remain engaged with the court process.

Q3) Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunal Service should take into account when making a decision?

In general it is felt that the Impact Assessment used by the Ministry of Justice which is based on the monetised, and non monetised costs of greater travelling distances, is limited and fails to take account of the following which would impact upon access to justice, the delivery of justice outcomes, and public confidence in the justice system.

Appendix 1

- ***Lengthy delays in getting cases to court which could take longer as a result of transferring the workload from Hartlepool to Middlesbrough.*** Hartlepool Magistrates currently covers a population of 92,000, if the court was transferred to Middlesbrough this would increase the population covered by Teesside Magistrates to 376,663. This gives rise to questions over whether a centralised court will necessarily mean a more efficient court. There are already concerns in relation to delays at Teesside Magistrates which would be exacerbated by the proposals to close the Hartlepool Courts. Local experience tells us for example that the Specialist Domestic Violence Court at Middlesbrough is already extremely busy to the point that not all cases are being held in an appropriate specialist court.

Recent budget cuts have had a direct impact on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour as the number of Police Officers and other services reduce. This will in turn increase the workload of the courts.

- ***The quality/lack of facilities in relation to courts where business would be transferred has not been fully considered.*** Teesside Magistrates' Court has only limited seating capacity in the witness room, and there is no meeting room to meet with legal representatives which means that solicitors and clients cannot speak in confidence. Recent experiences of Council officers and Victims Services are of Solicitor and client struggling to hear each other over the noise – the impact on the quality of the court user experience and potential adverse impact on justice outcomes needs further consideration.
- ***The need to have access to a Magistrates Court for urgent matters such as issuing warrants for enforcement; RIPA applications; Closure Orders; Domestic Violence Protection Orders; and dealing with breaches of Court Orders has not been considered.*** Failure to have such a facility would impact on the ability of a number of local enforcement agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour within the Hartlepool community and bring perpetrators to justice. Ultimately giving rise to increases in crime and anti-social behaviour, and therefore greater costs on local services.
- ***The financial impact on court users has not been fully considered.*** The cost of public transport should not be underestimated for those individuals and families living in poverty. Hartlepool has high levels of deprivation with a large proportion of the population on low wages and in receipt of benefits - with further cuts in benefits proposed. As such a large section of the Hartlepool population could be adversely affected by the proposals. Add to this childcare expenses and our most vulnerable families will struggle to access justice. As an example Childrens Services currently work with a number of families facing eviction that can currently access the court to challenge it, but if this transfers to Middlesbrough it is unlikely families will travel with the consequence of more evictions.

- ***The impact assessment fails to take into account the social and health impacts of people using the service.*** Hartlepool has high levels of deprivation; a growing elderly population; and a large proportion of the population with health needs. Many clients are vulnerable and often incapable of travel outside of town. The proposals will deter vulnerable individuals from attending courts/tribunals.. The move to digitisation also fails to take into account the need for Courts to be accessible to individuals wishing to appeal against a decision who are not computer literate. Given the levels of deprivation in Hartlepool and health needs the Hartlepool community will be disproportionately affected by the Ministry of Justice proposals.
- ***There is no real consideration given to the impact of the proposals on victims, along with the potential withdrawal of criminal cases and potential increase and escalation of criminal behaviour.*** The following statement from the Councils Victim Services officer provides an insight into the victims experience should the proposal take place:

'Going to court as a victim is already a traumatic experience and one that will be made worse by adding a longer journey to what could be an unfamiliar place. Court expenses are paid retrospectively and some victims would not be able to pay the travel costs upfront. The added journey time can also impact on child care that may be needed - . Friends and family may not be able to afford to accompany victims and this will have a detrimental effect on them, this support is vital for witnesses to be able to have the strength to give their evidence.

Unless victims have access to a car they could be faced with the extremely distressing situation of being on the same bus or train as the accused. This would be bad for any victim but imagine the fear of a vulnerable witness or domestic violence victim? There are security guards that offer a level of protection at court against intimidation but this would not apply to public transport.

Trials are often adjourned now and victims have to go two, sometimes three times before the case goes ahead and I am concerned that this will be worse if we have one magistrates court covering the whole of Cleveland. People build themselves up into a frenzy with the worry of giving evidence, often not sleeping or eating and the impact of this can lead them to seeking medical help.

Victims can often not start to recover from the effects of crime till after the trial is over and added waiting times for a case to be heard will have a negative effect on people and the worry is that they will not bother reporting the incidents to the Police in the first place.

I have recently been to Middlesbrough Magistrates and there was not enough seats in the witness room and it was chaotic to say the least. Solicitors couldn't talk to their clients in confidence and struggled to be heard over the noise. This happened when other Magistrates were still operating.

- ***The Impact on the concept and practice of local justice has not been considered.*** The transfer of Hartlepool Magistrates court work to Middlesbrough would dilute the concept and practice of local justice – given the expanded jurisdiction of the Teesside Magistrates' Court and sheer volume of cases it is unlikely that Hartlepool Magistrates would sit on Hartlepool cases leading to a loss of local awareness of community issues and knowledge of the local area and geography in decision making.

The impact on local relationships and communications between Hartlepool Magistrates and victim support services which have been developed over the years will also be negatively impacted.

Q4) Do you have any comments on the evidence used or conclusions reached in the MOJ impact assessment

As in Q 3 above - the limitations of the Ministry of Justice Impact Assessment.

In relation to the evidence used in the Impact Assessment the actual data provided in the 'travel model' is based on the 'perfect journey'. In reality, even travelling by car, 97% of people will not get to Middlesbrough in 0-30 minutes. The assessment does not take into account constant roadworks, the sheer volume of traffic at peak times, and the road traffic accidents, or time finding a parking space.

Public transport is likely to take longer whether this is by train or bus (1-2 hours). For those not living in the centre of Hartlepool two buses would be required. Courts often list cases at 10am but all parties are required to attend at 9.30am. Some court users particularly those with children will struggle to drop children off at school and then travel out of town to court for 9.30.

The report states that Hartlepool County Court operates a counter system from 2pm to 5pm (a three hour slot). However current actual hours are from 10am to 2pm (a four hour slot).

Whilst the Ministry of Justice report highlights that Hartlepool courts were underused during 2014/15 by 47% there is no similar analysis by way of a comparison presented in the report in relation to the workloads of the Middlesbrough Courts.

Q5) Are there alternatives to travelling to physical buildings that would be of benefit to some users

It is acknowledged that the use of digital technology provides an opportunity in terms of the development of the courts and tribunal service.

The Ministry of Justice consultation document also highlights the good facilities offered at the Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court building and their compliance with the Equality Act including 5 court rooms where criminal and family hearings are held; and 2 county court district judges hearing rooms. There are also 10 cells in the building with secure access to 3 out of the 5 courtrooms. The court has a prison video link and facilities for vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence via video link to one courtroom. The court room also has separate waiting facilities for prosecution and defence witnesses and there are interview rooms available for private consultation.

Should the Hartlepool Magistrates' Court close the Court Service must ensure that these facilities remain available in Hartlepool and are linked to the Middlesbrough Courts. This could assist in resolving many of the concerns highlighted in relation to for example non-attendance of victims and witnesses and retaining Police Officers to spend more time on the streets.

In addition to digital technology it would also be possible for some other functions to be retained locally in the interests of accessing justice swiftly. For example if Teesside and Hartlepool Local Justice Areas were merged this would lend itself to the modification of existing facilities which could provide a satellite court offering custody courts and breach hearings, and a digital court in a leased office. There are also proposals for the potential amalgamation of the Hartlepool and Teesside coronial areas, but which recommend the continuation of Inquests being held in Hartlepool (as per the Business Case) and which are currently held within the Hartlepool Court complex.

A recent Council Scrutiny investigation into Hate Crime received evidence from the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to the constrictions in the use of specialist courts rooms, with the nearest fully accessible court room for both disabled witnesses and defendants located in Preston. Members felt strongly that specialist facilities more locally based should be available for all victims and that this would encourage reporting of hate crime offences. Given the lack of appropriate courts locally and the existing facilities in Hartlepool could consideration be given to Hartlepool Courts acting as a specialist court of this nature.

Q6) Please provide any additional comments you may have

Hartlepool Borough Council would like to have further discussions with the Ministry of Justice in relation to the proposed closures, as soon as practicable prior to any final decision being made.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Should the Ministry of Justice proposals go ahead as planned there is a real risk that access to justice for the Hartlepool Community would be seriously undermined, together with a loss of confidence in the ability of the justice system to deliver outcomes for the local community.
- 7.2 To mitigate this risk the Council should enter into a discussion with the Ministry of Justice about their proposals and explore potential alternatives.

8. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County (HMCTS) buildings are currently held on a 999 year lease until 3004 by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service.
- 8.2 The lease requires HMCTS to keep the property in repair and pay a service charge to Hartlepool Borough Council to cover the costs associated with maintaining the common parts and external fabric of the property.
- 8.3 As there is no provision within the lease for a break clause HMCTS are responsible under the terms of the lease for the continued payment of costs associated with its maintenance and upkeep until the expiry date of the lease.
- 8.4 Within the terms of the lease HMCTS have the option to assign the lease however the Council need to grant consent for any variation to the user covenant should this be required. Alternatively the Council may consider options to accept a surrender of the lease subject to negotiations to mitigate any financial losses to the Council.

9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The closure of Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court would not result in any financial losses to the Council as HMCTS are responsible for the payment of any ongoing costs associated with maintenance and repair. If requested the Council may consider the option to accept a surrender of the lease. However this would be the subject to negotiations to mitigate any loss or liability to the Council.
- 9.2 Hartlepool Magistrates and County Court have adequate facilities that are compliant with the Equality Act 2010. It may be possible that HMCTS consider that part of the building may be used as a satellite court with limited functions. One proposal highlighted in the consultation suggests that the building could house a mediation/citizens advice service.

10. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The Court buildings in Hartlepool are currently held by HMCTS on a long term 999 year lease. Early indications are that the closure programme will be completed by April 2017. Discussions will need to take place with HMCTS/MOJ regarding the proposed timescales if the proposals are to go ahead, and options for the future use of the building.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 As highlighted under 2.1 of this report the proposals will have a significant impact on staff due to time spent traveling to court who are already experiencing difficulties due to reduced resources. Teams are smaller and several members of a team may need to attend the same court hearing leaving no staff in Hartlepool to deal with issues.

12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 The Ministry of Justice proposals will adversely affect those that are already vulnerable within the locality who will struggle to get to court and fail to access justice and ensure that justice is delivered locally.
- 12.2 Hartlepool has high levels of deprivation; a growing elderly population; and a large proportion of the population with health needs. Many clients are vulnerable and often incapable of travel outside of town. The proposals will deter vulnerable individuals from attending courts/tribunals and without their attendance there is an increased risk of losing an appeal. The move to digitisation also fails to take into account the need for Courts to be accessible to individuals wishing to appeal against a decision who are not computer literate.
- 12.3 Given the levels of deprivation in Hartlepool and health needs the Hartlepool community will be disproportionately affected by the Ministry of Justice proposals.

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

- 13.1 The Ministry of Justice proposals could result in fewer victims attending Court to give evidence leading to a reduction in successful convictions and a rise in crime and anti-social behaviour. The proposals would also undermine local confidence in the justice system.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 That the Finance and Policy Committee note the Ministry of Justice proposals to close Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court.
- 14.2 That the Finance and Policy Committee refers the contents of this report and its recommendations to Council for consideration and debate at the meeting to be held on 17 September to allow for a response to be made to the Ministry of Justice before the stated deadline.

- 14.3 That the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods finalise that response to the Ministry of Justice in consultation with the Leader of the Council and that Members be made aware of that response.
- 14.4 That if the Ministry of Justice proposals to close Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court go ahead, that Officers commence negotiations regarding the termination of the lease in the interests of securing the best deal for the Council.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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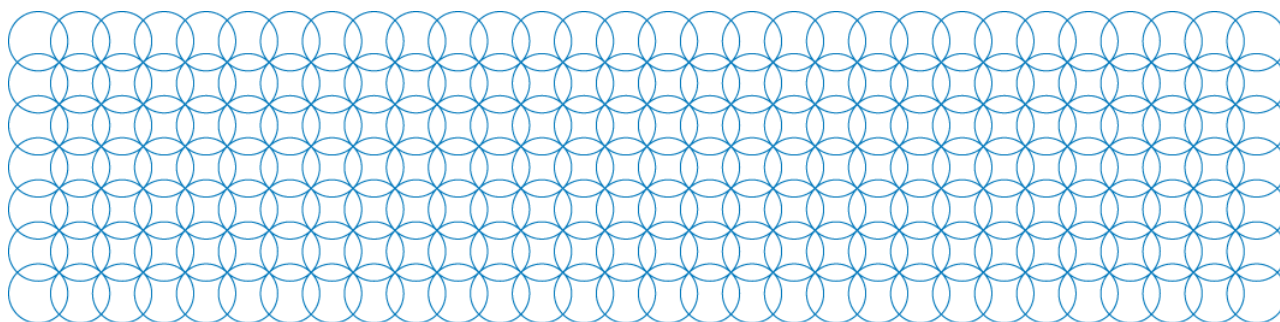
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Appendix A

Proposal on the provision of court and tribunal services in the North East region

This consultation begins on 16 July 2015 This
consultation ends on 8 October 2015



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Proposal on the provision of court and tribunal services in the North East region

A consultation produced by the Ministry of Justice. It is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at www.gov.uk/moj

About this consultation

To: The consultation is aimed at court users, magistracy, judiciary, and anyone else with an interest in the provision of local justice arrangements in the North East region.

Duration: From 16/07/2015 to 08/10/2015

Enquiries (including requests for the paper in an alternative format) to:

HMCTS Consultation
Ministry of Justice
Post point 1.13
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 0161 240 5021

Fax: 0870 761 7768

Email: estatesconsultation@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

How to respond:

Please send your response by 08/10/2015 to:

HMCTS Consultation
Ministry of Justice
Post point 1.13
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 0161 240 5021

Fax: 0870 761 7768

Email: estatesconsultation@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Additional ways to feed in your views:

If you cannot respond to this paper by means of e-mail or letter, please contact the Ministry of Justice using the details provided above.

Response paper:

A response to this consultation exercise will be published in due course at: www.gov.uk/moj

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Foreword

HM Courts and Tribunals Service is committed to working with the judiciary to reform our services so they better meet the needs of the public in the modern age. Considerable investment will enable us to transform how justice is delivered, creating a modern, efficient service. Taking this opportunity, however, will require challenging decisions about the current system. One such decision relates to the courts and tribunals estate.

I am responsible for managing the operations of HM Courts & Tribunals Service in the North East region, and I have reviewed the court and tribunal estate against the estates principles set out in the national consultation. I have identified buildings where I believe our ability to deliver an efficient service has been compromised by poor facilities, where usage is low and where the building does not provide appropriate value for the public money spent on it.

I have carefully considered the impact of the proposed changes – both locally and across the North East. This consultation is an opportunity for the public to use their knowledge of their local areas to review and help us with our proposals.

Of course, staff would be affected by these proposed changes. Although the impact will be limited, I will make sure this is managed properly. Any transition to new arrangements will take place in a fair and transparent manner in consultation with the Departmental Trade Union.

I understand that these proposals could result in some people having longer journeys to the courts and tribunals. I am committed to working with rural communities to provide alternative ways for the public to access the justice system. These could include the use of civic or other public buildings for occasional hearings, video links or telephone or paper hearings to avoid travel altogether. It is vital we understand the demand for alternative provision as we plan services for the future.

I am keen to hear people's views on the different ways they would like to interact with their courts and tribunals, particularly from those in rural communities. It is important we understand the demand for these different methods as we plan provision for the future.

Thank you for considering this consultation.

**Mark
Swales
Delivery
Director**

HM Courts & Tribunals Service North East

Introduction

This consultation for the North East is part of a national consultation on the future of the court and tribunal estate in England and Wales. The national consultation document provides important information about the reform of courts and tribunals and how we have decided which buildings to consult on. It also includes a full list of the courts and tribunals we are consulting on and our other plans to integrate courts into existing buildings within a local area.

You should make sure you read the national consultation document alongside this.

The national consultation sets out:

- the requirement for changes to the estate;
- the utilisation levels across the estate;
- the accompanying Impact Assessment; and
- implications for local justice areas and listing changes.

Responses to questions in both the national consultation and this consultation are welcome but need not be duplicated.

HM Courts & Tribunals Service

HM Courts & Tribunals Service is an agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). It is responsible for the administration of the criminal, civil and family courts and tribunals in England and Wales¹ and non-devolved tribunals in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It operates as a partnership between the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice and the Senior President of Tribunals.

In March 2014, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales and the Senior President of Tribunals announced details of a programme of reform for the courts and tribunals. This will improve the court and tribunal estate, deliver greater use of technology, modernise practices and processes, and improve services for our users.

At the heart of this programme are the use of technology and the principle of proportionality. Straightforward, transactional matters (such as the administration of probate or pleading guilty and paying a fine) can be dealt with using digital technology to make the processes as straightforward as filing a tax return, or renewing car tax online. Straightforward cases do not necessarily need face to face hearings; judges will be able to

reserve the full proceedings of a court hearing for the more sensitive or complex cases. Modern technology can be used not just to make the justice system more accessible but also to reduce the costs of the whole justice system by not requiring extensive

¹ Some tribunals which are part of HMCTS in England are devolved to the Welsh Government in Wales.

transportation of prisoners for bail hearings, or the police to take full days off their priority work to sit in a court room.

Ahead of full implementation of the reform programme, we are seeking views on the closure of courts and tribunals which we believe do not meet our ideas of how best to deliver justice in the future.

Access to justice

We recognise that the public should not have to make excessively long or difficult journeys to attend hearings at courts and tribunals. We also know, however, that in an increasingly digital age, the public expect to be able to engage with any service through a variety of channels, and many prefer to do that digitally. They do not always want or need to attend hearings in person. Delivering effective access to justice does not necessarily mean providing access to a building. This challenges the assumption that there needs to be a court or tribunal in every local area.

We already have well established alternative ways that users can access the justice system. There are examples of this: enabling police officers to give evidence over a live link, processes to enable victims, witnesses and defendants to attend hearings over video link, and users in some jurisdictions having cases progressed or considered through telephone hearings or on papers, meaning that they do not need to attend a hearing in person at all. Where attendance at a hearing is needed other civic or public buildings could be used for hearings where security requirements are low.

These types of alternative provision could be particularly useful in rural communities and/or areas with limited public transport, for example, Northumbria. We are very keen to hear views on alternative provision, for example video link in civic or other public buildings.

Deciding which courts to include in the proposals

In order to achieve a radical transformation of the justice system, any investment must be targeted and sequenced across all three key areas of ICT, estates and business processes to create the efficiencies that will allow HM Courts & Tribunals Service to modernise its current practices and to adopt more streamlined ways of working. We are therefore, as a first priority, addressing the current surplus capacity within the HM Courts & Tribunals Service estate. This will enable us to use the remaining estate more intelligently and flexibly, to reduce our running costs, to focus our investment on improving the estate we need for the future and to increase the multifunctional court space – allowing different court and tribunal jurisdictions to share locations. The intention is that capital receipts from the sale of any surplus assets would be reinvested as part of the funding for the reform programme.

To ensure we deliver business effectively and meet our future strategic requirements, HM Courts & Tribunals Service has applied a set of principles against which the proposals in this consultation were developed.

The principles are:

Ensuring Access to Justice

- To ensure continued access to justice when assessing the impact of possible closures on both professional and lay court and tribunal users, taking into account journey times for users, the challenges of rural access and any mitigating action, including having facilities at local civic centres and other buildings to ensure local access, modern ICT and more flexible listing, when journeys will be significantly increased.
- To take into account the needs of users and in particular, victims, witnesses and those who are vulnerable.
- To support the requirements of other agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service, Social Services, Police Forces and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS).

Delivering Value for Money

- To reduce the current and future cost of running the estate.
- To maximise the capital receipts from surplus estate for reinvestment in HM Courts & Tribunal Service.

Enabling Efficiency in the longer term

- To reduce the reliance on buildings with poor facilities and to remove from the estate buildings that are difficult and expensive either to improve or to upgrade.
- To move towards an estate with buildings which are larger and facilitate the more efficient and flexible listing of court and tribunal business whilst also giving users more certainty when their cases will be heard.
- To increase the ability to use the estate flexibly across the criminal jurisdiction and separately across the Civil, Family and Tribunal (CFT) jurisdictions.
- To move towards an estate that provides dedicated hearing centres, seeking opportunities to concentrate back office function where they can be carried out most efficiently.
- To improve the efficient use of the estate by seeking to improve whole system efficiency, taking advantage of modernised communication methods (wi-fi and video links) and adopting business processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
- To increase the efficient use of the estate wherever possible irrespective of current administrative boundaries.

Responding to the consultation

We are keen to obtain views on the proposals to change the provision of court and tribunal estate and how we can make sure the public can still access the justice system. We have committed to consider each response. The responses will help us make sure that the courts and tribunals are based where the work is and that communities can access the justice system and that cases are heard in buildings with suitable facilities.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office. It will run for 12 weeks.

This consultation and the consultation stage Impact Assessment are also available at www.justice.gov.uk.

The proposals

This consultation proposes the closure of the following courts² and tribunals:

- Consett Magistrates' Court

- Halifax County Court and Family Court
- Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates' Court and Family Court
- Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court
- Morpeth County Court
- Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court
- Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court
- Wakefield Magistrates' Court

The consultation is aimed at court users, judiciary, court staff, and anyone else with an interest in the provision of justice in the North East Region.

Travel times

We have modelled potential travel times to court to illustrate the changes that would result should the court close. The model is based on the current catchment area of the court and the population within it, calculated to the smallest geographical area available with current national statistics (known as a Lower Super Output Area or LSOA). The model calculates the travel time from the centre of each LSOA to the current court separately by car and public transport and then calculates the proportion of the population could travel to court in set time bands. The model then calculates new journey times based on the location of the court where the work would be heard should the court close. These travel times are displayed in a table format within each site proposal.

Copies of this consultation paper will be sent to stakeholders in the affected locations, and is also available on the justice website at www.justice.gov.uk

² Reference in this document to magistrates' courts, county courts, crown courts and combined courts refers to buildings (a singular structure providing the physical hearing rooms for criminal, civil, family and tribunal cases) which house that activity in a particular location. Strictly, legislation provides that there is a single crown court, county court and family court.

Integrations

An integration is when HM Courts & Tribunals Service move work to allow jurisdictions to operate from less locations in a local area. This allows the closure of a building or buildings while retaining jurisdictions locally.

In addition to the proposed closures in this consultation the following integrations will be taking place or have already been recently completed in the North East region:

Doncaster County Court to be integrated within Doncaster Magistrates' Court

Work on this integration will commence in the summer of 2015 and will reduce the HM Courts & Tribunals Service estate in Doncaster from four buildings to two (the current Magistrates' Court and Crown Court buildings) which are located on the opposite side of the same road in the centre of Doncaster. The integration will see the relocation of all Doncaster County Court, Civil and Family work to the Magistrates' Court building. In addition the Justices Clerk for Humber and South Yorkshire, her clerkship Judicial Support Unit (JSU) and the office currently housing the Regional Delivery Director would relocate to the Crown Court building from the Magistrates' Court. This would enable county court staff including the centralised divorce team for Humber and South Yorkshire to be accommodated in the Magistrates' Court building. No enabling works are required to accommodate this move. The integration will enable more flexibility in the listing of cases and allow a more efficient use of staff and judicial time. The impact on customers will be minimal as all venues are situated in the centre of Doncaster.

Doncaster Tribunal (Portland Place) to be integrated within Doncaster Crown Court.

Work on this integration will commence in the summer of 2015 and will reduce the HM Courts & Tribunals Service estate in Doncaster from four buildings to two (the current Magistrates' Court and Crown Court buildings) which are located on the opposite side of the same road in the centre of Doncaster. The Crown Court building currently houses the Coroner and occasional crown court hearings (on the first floor) the very large jury assembly suite on the ground floor would be relocated to existing office space which will enable the creation of two tribunal hearing rooms and associated facilities in the current jury assembly area and other available space on the ground floor. Disabled access (platform lift) for the Social Service and Child Support (SSCS) judiciary would be provided from the judicial car park. This site also provides a permanent presence for the Coroners Court in Doncaster. The integration will enable more flexibility in the listing of cases and allow a more efficient use of staff and judicial time. The impact on customers will be minimal as all venues are situated in the centre of Doncaster.

**Durham Elvet House Tribunal to be integrated
within other locations within the County
Durham estate, including Durham County and
Family Court**

This integration will enable the workload to be moved to other larger centres within the same geographical area and this will allow staff to be more responsive and flexible with the listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more efficiently and effectively.

East Parade Sheffield Tribunal to be integrated within Sheffield Combined Court

This will enable the workload to be moved to a larger centre and will allow the staff to be more responsive and flexible with the listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more efficiently and effectively. This integration will not impact on the current sittings at Sheffield Combined Court.

Harrogate County Court to be integrated within Harrogate Magistrates' Court

This integration is already underway and is due to complete by the end of 2015. The integration will move all magistrates', civil, family and occasional tribunals work in to a single building in Harrogate. The integration will enable more flexible and improved utilisation of the modern fit for purpose magistrates' court building and allow more efficient use of staff and judicial time. The impact on customers will be minimal as the two current venues are situated next to each other in the centre of Harrogate.

Middlesbrough Tribunal Hearing Centre to be integrated within Teesside Magistrates' Court

This will enable the workload to be moved to a larger centre within five minutes walking distance of the existing hearing venue. It will allow the staff to be more responsive and flexible with the listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more efficiently and effectively.

Quayside House Newcastle Tribunal to be integrated within North Shields (Kings Court) Tribunal

In March 2015 HM Courts & Tribunals Service exercised a lease break on Quayside House in Newcastle, an expensive commercial leasehold property providing accommodation for the employment tribunal in Newcastle. With declining workload and poor utilisation of Quayside House an extension of the lease could not be justified as value for public money. We are currently working with judiciary, staff and employment tribunal users to ensure a smooth transition of work to the modern fit for purpose multi-jurisdictional centre in Kings Court, North Shields, approximately eight miles away, by September 2015.

Wilberforce Court (Hull Employment Tribunal Centre) to be integrated within Hull and Holderness Magistrates' Court and Kingston Upon Hull Combined Court

This integration will provide a more flexible and efficient use of time and resources, enabling cases to be managed more effectively in order to meet customer and workflow demands.

Consett

Magistrates' Court

Proposal

Consett Magistrates' Court is one of five magistrates' courts operating in the County Durham local justice area, the others being Peterlee, Newton Aycliffe and Darlington Magistrates' Courts and the Durham Civil and Family Court. The magistrates' court is open every day but is under used. The court deals with criminal court business which is a mix of custody and non-custody work in the adult and youth courts. There are also county court sittings arranged at Consett on a regular basis; sitting three to four times a month every Wednesday.

It is proposed that the custody work from Consett Magistrates' Court is transferred to Peterlee Magistrates' Court. The non-custody work and family work will be transferred to Durham County and Family Court, although this venue does not have any cells so consideration would be given when listing criminal cases. In some instances, work may be moved to Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court if specific facilities are required.

No enabling works will be required to accommodate the transfer of work as there is sufficient capacity at the three receiving sites to meet the current and anticipated demand in the County Durham local justice area.

Should the court close it would enable the work to be moved within a single local justice area. It would also enable the other courts to be responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved more efficient service can be delivered with courts being utilised more efficiently and effectively.

Accommodation

Consett Magistrates' Court was built in 1973. The facilities are sub-standard and out of date for staff, judiciary and all court users. There are baby changing facilities, disabled access and toilet facilities, two interview rooms, hearing enhancement facilities and refreshments are available. There are a total of five cells which are all operational.

The building is compliant with the Equality Act 2010, however the property is old and in need of repair. There is significant work which is still outstanding including extensive work to the brickwork, roof and windows. At present patch repairs are carried out as and when required. The building is also within an area that has undergone significant redevelopment in recent years and it now looks out of place with local development plans in terms of both condition and location.

Peterlee Magistrates' Court offers good quality facilities for HM Courts & Tribunals Service users. The facilities include baby changing facilities, disabled access and toilet facilities, six interview rooms, hearing enhancement facilities and refreshments are available. There are a total of eight cells which are all operational. Two of the courtrooms have secure docks which can be accessed from all of the cells.

Durham County and Family Court also offers good quality facilities for users. The facilities include baby changing facilities, disabled access and toilets and five interview rooms.

Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court has three courtrooms and court rooms one and two both have secure docks. There are 12 cells and these are all accessible from all three court rooms. There is also a prison to court video link set up in one of the court rooms. Other facilities include baby changing facilities, disabled access and toilet facilities, five interview rooms, hearing enhancement facilities and a cafeteria.

Workload

Consett Magistrates' Court is open every weekday and has a total of three courtrooms which are under used. During the 2014/15 financial year, the court was utilised for approximately 25% of its capacity. One of the court rooms does not have any sittings on a Monday or a Thursday. County Court work is heard on a Wednesday three to four times a month.

Peterlee Magistrates' Court, Newton Aycliffe and Durham County and Family Court all have sufficient capacity to accommodate the hearings from Consett Magistrates' Court.

Both Peterlee Magistrates' Court and Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court are under used. Peterlee Magistrates' Court has three courtrooms and only uses two of these on a weekly basis. Newton Aycliffe has three hearing rooms and only uses two of these on a weekly basis with the exception of a Wednesday when criminal work is listed.

Durham County and Family Court has two courtrooms and two district judges' hearing rooms. The district judges' hearing rooms are well used however the courtrooms are under used and only sit family work every Tuesday in one of the courtrooms and on a Thursday in both of the courtrooms.

Location

Consett Magistrates' Court is situated 26 miles from Peterlee. The nearest train service runs from Stocksfield approximately seven miles from Consett. The travel time by train from Stocksfield to Seaham which is five miles from Peterlee is approximately one hour. The approximate cost of a return ticket is £12.40. Travel time by car is approximately 50 minutes.

Consett Magistrates' Court is situated approximately 14 miles from Durham Civil and Family Court. The nearest train service is from Stocksfield which is approximately seven miles from Consett to Durham central station and the journey takes approximately 50 minutes. The approximate cost of a return fare is £12.10. The approximate journey time by car is 20 minutes.

There is a bus service that runs from Consett bus station to Durham bus station which takes approximately 40 minutes and is an hourly service. A return ticket is £4.00. There is also a bus service that runs from Durham bus station to Peterlee bus station every 20 minutes and this takes approximately 20 minutes and a return ticket is £3.00.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Magistrates' workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	69%	By Car	0-30min	30%
	30-60min	28%		30-60min	60%

	60-120min	3%		60 - 120min	10%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	25%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	31%		30-60min	12%
	60-120min	18%		60-120min	69%
	>120min	23%		>120min	16%
	no data	3%		no data	3%

Family workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	67%	By Car	0-30min	29%
	30-60min	30%		30-60min	61%
	60-120min	3%		60 - 120min	10%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	25%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	30%		30-60min	12%
	60-120min	19%		60-120min	70%
	>120min	22%		>120min	16%
	no data	4%		no data	2%

Staff Implications

There are approximately three members of staff working at Consett Magistrates' Court.

Other information

Consett Magistrates' Court is a freehold property.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Consett Magistrates' Court were approximately £174,000.

The Crown Prosecution Service, National Probation Service and Citizens Advice Bureau for witnesses all have one room each within the building, and alternative arrangements would need to be made should the decision to close the court be taken.

Halifax County Court and Family Court Proposal

Halifax County Court and Family Court is one of five county courts operating in West Yorkshire, the others being at Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield and Bradford. The court deals with civil matters, bankruptcy, High Court, divorce and children matters.

It is proposed that the Halifax County and Family Court closes and its work is transferred to Bradford County Court at Bradford Combined Court Centre. The facilities at Halifax are sub-standard and out of date for staff, judiciary and all court users. Some enabling works would have to be carried out to accommodate the staff and judiciary including an additional multi-purpose hearing room.

Bradford Combined Court offers good quality facilities in a modern, purpose built building for users.

Should the court close it would enable the workload to be moved to a larger court centre and will enable the court to be responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved and more efficient service can be delivered with courts being used more efficiently and effectively.

The population of West Yorkshire would also be able to access justice at county courts in Leeds, Huddersfield and Wakefield.

Accommodation

Halifax County Court and Family Court was built in 1872 and is a Grade II listed building. The facilities are sub-standard and out of date for staff, judiciary and all court users. In addition to the one courtroom and district judges' hearing room there are also two waiting rooms and two interview rooms available for private consultations. There are no video link facilities at the county court. There are no private waiting facilities which can cause some difficulties with managing vulnerable witnesses where rooms are used for domestic violence or some family cases. The county court operates a counter system Monday to Friday 10am until 2pm.

Some members of the public may experience difficulties accessing the courtrooms on the first floor. The building is not fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010 due to its listed status. It is old and no longer fit for modern day court business. The structure, roof and windows are in need of repair and due to the listed status patch repairs are currently being carried out.

The facilities at Bradford Combined Court, constructed in 1992, include 18 interview rooms for private consultations, disabled access and toilet facilities, a prayer and quiet room, baby changing facilities and a children's room, a hearing loop system, wireless internet access, a cafeteria for customers and video conferencing and prison video link facilities. The county court would require some enabling work involving the creation of a multi-purpose courtroom which would allow for more flexibility within one building with more up to date facilities. Bradford County Court has three district judges' hearing rooms and three civil and family courtrooms. These are all fully utilised. There are four district

judges' that sit in the county court daily and the other two rooms are used by either a family judge or a circuit judge on a regular basis. There will be minor enabling works required to create an additional multi-purpose hearing room in the county court with an associated chambers to accommodate the work from Halifax County Court.

Workload

Halifax County Court and Family Court hosts one courtroom and two district judges' hearing rooms. One of the hearing rooms is only accessible via the courtroom from the public side of the building so it cannot be used if the court is sitting. The court can therefore only have two lists running on any given day, and during the 2014/15 financial year, utilisation was approximately 22% of its capacity.

Location

Halifax County Court is situated nine miles from Bradford. There is a frequent train and bus service between Halifax and Bradford. The travel time by train is approximately 15 minutes and by bus it is approximately 40 minutes. The approximate cost of a return train ticket is £3.90. A West Yorkshire return ticket by bus is approximately £4.70.

The journey time in a car is approximately 25 minutes.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	92%	By Car	0-30min	73%
	30-60min	8%		30-60min	25%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	2%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	58%	By Public Transport	0-30min	5%
	30-60min	39%		30-60min	78%
	60-120min	3%		60-120min	17%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%

Staff implications

There are approximately 14 members of staff working at Halifax County Court and Family Court.

Other information

Halifax County Court and Family Court is a freehold property.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Halifax County Court and Family Court were approximately £115,000.

Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates’

Court and Family Court Proposal

Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates’ Court and Family Court is one of five magistrates’ courts operating in West Yorkshire; the others being at Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield and Bradford. The court deals with criminal court business in the adult and youth courts as well as private law family work.

It is proposed that Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates’ Court and Family Court is closed and its work transferred to Bradford Magistrates’ Court. Some enabling works would be needed at Bradford Magistrates’ Court to accommodate the staff and judiciary.

The facilities at Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates’ Court and Family Court are sub-standard and out of date for staff, judiciary and all court users. Some members of the public may experience access issues in part of the building as there are some building constraints due to its listed status. The property is old and no longer fit for modern day court business. Bradford Magistrates’ Court offers good quality facilities for users.

Should the court close it would enable the work to be moved to a larger court centre and will enable the court to be responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved more efficient service can be delivered with courts being utilised more efficiently and effectively.

Should this proposal go ahead the Judicial Business Group (JBG) would undertake local stakeholder engagement to consider the need for the merger of Local Justice Areas.

Accommodation

Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates’ Court and Family Court was built in 1898 and is a Grade II listed building. The facilities are sub-standard and out of date for staff, judiciary and all court users.

The court has a total of seven court rooms, one courtroom without a dock which is used as a youth court for monitoring offences, one court room without a dock used for family hearings, and one court room is not used and has been converted into a youth café. The court has ten cells, nine of which are operational.

Some members of the public may experience access issues in parts of the building, including in the well of the court, the witness box and in the public seating areas in courts.

The court has separate waiting facilities for prosecution witnesses but no separate facilities for defence witnesses. There are prison video link facilities for intimidated and vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence via video link in one courtroom.

There are some building constraints as the court is not fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010. The property is old and no longer fit for modern day court business due to its listed status including access issues and non-compliant courtrooms.

Bradford Magistrates’ Court offers good quality facilities for HM Courts & Tribunals Service users. These facilities include baby changing facilities, four interview rooms,

hearing enhancement facilities; refreshments are available from the cafeteria on site, video conferencing and prison video link facilities. The cells have been recently updated in April providing a total of 25 cells which will be compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

Workload

The court has seven court rooms which were utilised for approximately 33% of its capacity during the 2014/15 financial year. In addition to one of the courtrooms being used as a youth café, two of the courtrooms are not in use on Mondays, one on Tuesdays, three on Thursdays and two on Fridays. Bradford Magistrates' Court has ten courtrooms. One of the courtrooms is not used and three of the other courtrooms are only used for half a day. There is sufficient capacity to accommodate the hearings at Bradford from Halifax Magistrates' Court

Location

Halifax Magistrates' Court is situated nine miles from Bradford. There are frequent train and bus services between Halifax and Bradford. The travel time by train is approximately 15 minutes and by bus approximately 40 minutes. The approximate cost of a return train ticket is £3.90 and by bus a West Yorkshire ticket return is approximately £4.70.

The journey time in a car is approximately 25 minutes.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Magistrates' and Family workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	89%	By Car	0-30min	73%
	30-60min	9%		30-60min	25%
	60-120min	2%		60 - 120min	2%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	57%	By Public Transport	0-30min	4%
	30-60min	38%		30-60min	75%
	60-120min	3%		60-120min	20%
	>120min	1%		>120min	0%
	no data	1%		no data	1%

Staff implications

There are approximately 19 members of staff working at Halifax Magistrates' Court.

Other information

Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates' Court and Family Court is a freehold property.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Halifax (Calderdale) Magistrates' Court and Family Court were approximately £380,000.

The Witness Service and the Crown Prosecution Service occupy part of the building, and alternative arrangements would need to be made should the decision to close the court be taken.

Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court Proposal

Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court is one of two magistrates' courts and one of two county courts operating in Cleveland, the other magistrates' court being Teesside Magistrates' Court and the other county court being Middlesbrough County Court which is part of Teesside Combined Court.

It is proposed that Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court closes and that its work is transferred to Teesside Magistrates' Court and Middlesbrough County Court. There are no enabling works required to accommodate the work from Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court.

Should the court close it would enable the workload to be moved to larger court centres and would allow the court to be more responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved and a more efficient service could then be delivered with courts being used more efficiently and effectively.

Should this proposal go ahead the Judicial Business Group (JBG) would undertake local stakeholder engagement to consider the need for the merger of Local Justice Areas.

Accommodation

Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court was purpose built in 1979 as a magistrates' court and was later adapted to accommodate Hartlepool County Court.

There are five courtrooms. In addition, there are two county court district judges' hearing rooms. There are ten cells in the building with secure access to three of the five courtrooms.

The court has a prison video link and facilities for vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence via video link to one courtroom. The court has separate waiting facilities for prosecution and defence witnesses. There are interview rooms available for private consultation. Hartlepool County Court operates a counter system from 2pm until 5pm Monday to Friday. The court is compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and there are no security issues.

Both Teesside Magistrates' Court and Teesside Combined Court Centre offer good facilities for HM Courts & Tribunals Service users. In order to accommodate the Social Security and Child Support Tribunal (SSCS) work from Hartlepool County Court and Middlesbrough Tribunals, reconfiguration of the hearing space at Teesside Magistrates' Court will be required to accommodate a further waiting room by removing the old fines counter and creating a disabled access door.

The facilities at Teesside Magistrates' Court include baby changing facilities, disabled access and toilet facilities and eight interview rooms. There is also hearing enhancement facilities, a cafeteria, video conference and prison video link equipment.

The facilities at Teesside Combined Court include baby changing facilities, disabled access and toilet facilities, five consultation rooms in the district judges' area and a further six on the first floor, hearing enhancement facilities, a cafeteria and video conferencing facilities. There is a counter system in the county court which operates Monday to Friday from 10am until 2pm.

Workload

Hartlepool Magistrates' Court is under used. There are five courtrooms and two of these are used for crime work. Family work is listed in one of the courtrooms every Tuesday. One of the courtrooms is used for tribunal hearings on an ad hoc basis and the remaining courtroom is not used as the facilities are out of date.

There are 16 courtrooms at Teesside Magistrates' Court and these are not fully used so there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the hearings from Hartlepool Magistrates' Court. One courtroom is currently used for training purposes and three of the courtrooms are used for tribunal hearings on an ad hoc basis.

In Hartlepool County Court there are two district judges' hearing rooms. Both district judges' hearing rooms are not used on a Monday or a Thursday. The court rooms allocated to the county court in Teesside Combined Court are not fully used so there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the hearings from Hartlepool County Court.

During the 2014/15 financial year, Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court was utilised at approximately 47% of its capacity.

Location

Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court is situated approximately 14 miles from Middlesbrough and there are excellent road, rail and bus links. There are frequent bus and train services to Middlesbrough with journey times by train of approximately 30 minutes and by bus approximately 45 minutes. The approximate cost of a return rail ticket is £4.50 and a return bus ticket costs £7.70 (bus north east all zone tickets).

The journey time by car is approximately 25 minutes.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Magistrates' workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	100%	By Car	0-30min	97%
	30-60min	0%		30-60min	3%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	90%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	9%		30-60min	7%
	60-120min	0%		60-120min	91%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	1%		no data	2%

Family workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	100%	By Car	0-30min	97%
	30-60min	0%		30-60min	3%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	90%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	9%		30-60min	7%
	60-120min	0%		60-120min	91%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	1%		no data	2%

County workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	100%	By Car	0-30min	79%
	30-60min	0%		30-60min	21%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	67%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	31%		30-60min	5%
	60-120min	1%		60-120min	92%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	1%		no data	3%

Staff implications

There are approximately eight members of staff working at Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and seven full-time members of staff working at Hartlepool County Court.

Other information

Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court is a leasehold property and has a 99 year lease until 2075.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Hartlepool Magistrates' Court and County Court were approximately £345,000.

Morpeth County Court Proposal

Morpeth County Court is one of six county courts operating in Northumbria, the others being at Gateshead, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, and Sunderland. The courthouse is situated in Morpeth and covers the North and South East parts of Northumberland. There are regular sittings at both Morpeth County Court and Berwick upon Tweed Courthouse. All administration is based in Morpeth County Court.

It is proposed that Morpeth County Court closes and its work is transferred to Newcastle County Court with the exception of regular hearings at Berwick upon Tweed Courthouse which will continue to be administered from Newcastle County Court. Morpeth County Court is reasonably fit for purpose however due to a break in the lease in 2017 the proposed move would enable the work to be moved to a larger court centre and would allow the court to be responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved and efficient service can be delivered with courts being utilised more efficiently and effectively.

Newcastle County Court is located within Newcastle Combined Court and offers good quality facilities in a modern, purpose built building for users. The change will have no impact on existing sittings at Newcastle County Court.

The population of Northumberland would also be able to access North Shields County Court, with local hearings continuing at Berwick upon Tweed courthouse and if required at South East Northumberland Magistrates' Court (Bedlington), which is situated five miles from Morpeth.

Accommodation

Morpeth County Court occupies the upper floors of a building owned by the Department for Work and Pensions, who occupy the ground floor. The building is adequate but under used.

The accommodation comprises of one civil courtroom and one district judges' hearing room. There are two interview rooms available for private consultations. There is a counter system which operates by prior appointment only. Although the car parking is not fully secure, there is a dedicated entrance for staff and the judiciary.

Newcastle Combined Court, which opened in 1990, is a much larger centre fit for modern day HM Courts & Tribunals business. Facilities include; interview rooms for private consultations, disabled access, parking, toilet and baby changing facilities, a hearing loop system, wireless internet access and a cafeteria for customers. There is sufficient appropriate accommodation for the judiciary, public and staff at Newcastle to accommodate the move from Morpeth County Court. There is a bailiff counter operating Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm. The court counter is open 10am until 4pm Monday to Friday by prior appointment only.

The county court also offers a service called the Personal Service Unit (PSU) which is an

independent service offering support to people going through the court process without legal representation. They do not provide legal advice but they do provide practical guidance and/or emotional support. The service is free, independent and confidential and is offered to anyone who asks. The office is open between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Workload

There are two hearing rooms at Morpeth County Court, and these were used for approximately 44% of their capacity during the 2014/15 financial year. The court operates on a four weekly rota. The district judges' hearing rooms are only used three weeks out of four on a Friday. The civil courtroom is used every day during the four week period except Wednesday and Thursday afternoon during the first two weeks. Newcastle County Court is a larger court centre with more flexibility to accommodate the hearings from Morpeth County court.

Location

Morpeth County Court is situated approximately 17 miles from Newcastle. There is a frequent train and bus service between Morpeth and Newcastle. The travel time by train is approximately 20 minutes and by bus is approximately 35 minutes. The approximate cost of a return ticket is £6.60 by train and is £7.00 by bus. The journey time by car is approximately 30 minutes.

The main towns in Northumberland are all served by a frequent bus service to Newcastle. Journey times to South East Northumberland are between 30 minutes and one hour.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	72%	By Car	0-30min	23%
	30-60min	18%		30-60min	60%
	60-120min	10%		60 - 120min	17%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	15%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	41%		30-60min	12%
	60-120min	25%		60-120min	70%
	>120min	17%		>120min	14%
	no data	2%		no data	4%

Staff implications

There are approximately seven members of staff working at Morpeth County Court.

Other information

The building is occupied under a Memorandum of Term of Occupation (MOTO) with the Department of Work and Pensions.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Morpeth County Court were approximately £255,000.

Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court Proposal

Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court is one of four magistrates' courts and one of four county courts operating in South Yorkshire; the others being at Doncaster, Sheffield and Barnsley. The court deals with criminal work in the adult and youth courts as well as civil and family work.

It is proposed that Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court is closed, its criminal work transferred to Sheffield Magistrates' Court and the county court work transferred to Sheffield County Court. This would enable the workload to be moved to larger court centres and will allow the court to be responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved and more efficient service can be delivered with courts being used more efficiently and effectively.

Although there is sufficient capacity to meet the current and anticipated workload demand from Rotherham, some enabling works are required at Sheffield Combined Court to accommodate an additional district judges' hearing room.

Both Sheffield Magistrates' Court and Sheffield Combined Court Centre offer good quality facilities for HM Courts & Tribunals Service users.

Should this proposal go ahead the Judicial Business Group (JBG) would undertake local stakeholder engagement to consider the need for the merger of Local Justice Areas.

Accommodation

Rotherham Magistrates' Court was built in 1994. The court has ten courtrooms. In addition, there are two county court district judges' chambers. There are 11 cells in the building with secure access to eight of the ten courtrooms.

The court has no prison video link but has facilities for vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence via video link to two courtrooms. The court has separate waiting facilities for prosecution witnesses but no separate waiting facilities for defence witnesses. There are interview rooms available for private consultation. Rotherham County Court and Family Court operates a counter system from 10am until 2pm.

The court is compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and there are no security issues. Both

Sheffield Magistrates' Court and Sheffield Combined Court Centre offer good quality facilities for HM Courts & Tribunals Service users.

The facilities at Sheffield Combined Court include interview rooms for private consultations, disabled access, toilet facilities, baby changing facilities, a hearing loop system, wireless internet access and a cafeteria. The county court also accommodates a Personal Service Unit (PSU) which is an independent charity where assistance is provided to court users to complete court forms. The service is free and available to everyone who asks.

Sheffield County Court offers a counter system which operates from Monday to Friday 10am until 2pm by prior appointment only. Sheffield Magistrates' Court has 15 cells which are all operational. There are a total of 16 courtrooms. The facilities include baby changing facilities, disabled access and toilets, private interview rooms, portable induction hearing loops, video conferencing, video link facilities and a cafeteria located on the ground floor.

Sheffield Magistrates' Court also accommodates a support group - Addiction Team - who are located on the lower ground floor.

Workload

There are ten courtrooms and two district judges' hearing rooms at Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court. The two district judges' hearing rooms are not fit for purpose due to their size and are not currently used for hearings. The court rooms that adjoin the district judges' hearing rooms are used for county court hearings. However, one of these courtrooms is only used on Tuesdays for trials and possession lists, and on Wednesdays it is used for the coroner's court. Two of the courtrooms are not used unless there is a requirement to list a tribunal hearing once or twice during the month.

During the 2014/15 financial year, utilisation at the court was approximately 32% of its capacity.

Sheffield Magistrates' Court has 16 court rooms and five of the courtrooms are currently under used. All court rooms are fit for purpose and there is sufficient capacity to move criminal work into Sheffield Magistrates' Court from Rotherham.

Sheffield County Court at Sheffield Combined Court Centre will require some enabling works to accommodate an additional hearing room; this will provide flexibility within the court building with more up to date facilities.

Location

Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court is situated nine miles from Sheffield and there are excellent road, rail and bus links.

There are frequent bus and train services to Sheffield with journey times by train of approximately 20 minutes and by bus of approximately 30 minutes. The approximate cost of a return rail ticket £3.80. A return First Day Ticket by bus costs approximately £3.90. The journey time by car is approximately 20 minutes.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Magistrates' workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	99%	By Car	0-30min	78%
	30-60min	1%		30-60min	22%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public	0-30min	41%	By Public	0-30min	5%

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
Transport	30-60min	54%	Transport	30-60min	59%
	60-120min	5%		60-120min	36%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%

Family workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	99%	By Car	0-30min	78%
	30-60min	1%		30-60min	22%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	41%	By Public Transport	0-30min	5%
	30-60min	54%		30-60min	59%
	60-120min	5%		60-120min	36%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%

County workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	99%	By Car	0-30min	79%
	30-60min	1%		30-60min	21%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
	0-30min	40%		0-30min	6%
	30-60min	52%		30-60min	59%

By Public Transport	60-120min	8%	By Public Transport	60-120min	35%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%

Staff implications

There are approximately 18 members of staff working at Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court.

Other information

Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court is freehold and forms part of a civic complex.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Rotherham Magistrates', County Court and Family Court were approximately £640,000.

The Crown Prosecution Service, National Probation Service, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) have rooms allocated within the building. Alternative arrangements would need to be made should the decision to close the court be taken.

Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court Proposal

Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court is one of four magistrates' and three county courts operating in Humberside, the other magistrates' courts being at Beverley, Grimsby and Hull and the other county courts being at Hull and Grimsby. The court deals with criminal business in the adult and youth courts as well as civil business, district registry, bankruptcy, adoptions, and family work.

It is proposed that Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court closes and its work is transferred to Grimsby Magistrates' and Grimsby Combined Court. Overall utilisation is low, specifically in relation to courtrooms used by the magistrates' business. Should the court close it would enable the workload to be moved to larger court centres and would allow the court to be more responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved and more efficient service can then be delivered with courts being used more efficiently and effectively.

There will be some enabling works required at the combined court to create additional family hearing capacity.

The main courthouse at Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court is compliant with the Equality Act 2010. However, the administrative centre which forms part of the accommodation is not.

Grimsby Magistrates' Court and Grimsby Combined Court Centre offer good quality facilities for HM Courts & Tribunals service users.

Should this proposal go ahead the Judicial Business Group (JBG) would undertake local stakeholder engagement to consider the need for the merger of Local Justice Areas.

Accommodation

Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court was purpose built as a magistrates' court and later adapted to accommodate Scunthorpe County Court. Two properties now make up Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court. One of these buildings is the administration centre known as Scunthorpe Charter Hall.

The court comprises three courtrooms and one hearing room. There is also one county court district judge's chambers. There are 14 cells in the building with secure access to three of the four courtrooms. The cells belong to Scunthorpe Police Station.

The court has prison to court video link and has facilities for vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence via video link to two courtrooms. Scunthorpe County Court and Family Court operates a counter system open from 10am until 2pm Monday to Friday.

The court does not have separate waiting facilities for prosecution and defence witnesses. There are interview rooms available for private consultation.

The main courthouse is compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and there are no security

issues. However Scunthorpe Charter Hall is not compliant with the Equality Act 2010

The facilities at both Grimsby Combined Court and Grimsby Magistrates' Court are good and include interview rooms for private consultations, five at the combined court and two at the magistrates' court, disabled access, parking and toilet facilities, baby changing facilities, a hearing loop system and wireless internet access. Grimsby Combined Court operates a counter system Monday to Friday open from 10am until 2pm. There is also free public parking at/or nearby Grimsby Magistrates' Court. A further hearing room will be created to consolidate all family and civil work within Grimsby Combined Court in the old disused cafeteria area. This area already has public toilet facilities.

Workload

There are four courtrooms at Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court, which were utilised at approximately 30% of their capacity during the 2014/15 financial year.

One of the courtrooms deals with some criminal lists and video link cases on Wednesday afternoons only. Therefore the court room is not used for the remainder of the week. Another court room is used for family work on Monday mornings and Friday mornings only and is not used for the remainder of the week.

The district judges' hearing room is used more effectively with the exception of Thursdays every third week.

Grimsby Magistrates' Court currently has the capacity to accommodate hearings from Scunthorpe Magistrates' Court. Grimsby Combined Court will have the capacity to accommodate hearings from Scunthorpe County Court and Family Court once the enabling works to create an additional courtroom have been undertaken.

Location

Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court is situated 28 miles from Grimsby and there are excellent road and rail links.

There is a frequent train service to Grimsby with journey times by train of approximately 35 minutes. The approximate cost of a return rail ticket is £15.60 and the cost of a bus day ticket is £8.50. The approximate time of a bus journey is 50 minutes

The journey time by car is approximately 40 minutes.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Magistrates' and Family workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	76%	By Car	0-30min	2%
	30-60min	24%		30-60min	74%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	1%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	23%
By Public	0-30min	45%	By Public	0-30min	0%

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
Transport	30-60min	20%	Transport	30-60min	0%
	60-120min	25%		60-120min	55%
	>120min	6%		>120min	13%
	no data	4%		no data	32%

County workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	74%	By Car	0-30min	2%
	30-60min	26%		30-60min	75%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	1%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	22%
By Public Transport	0-30min	44%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	20%		30-60min	0%
	60-120min	26%		60-120min	54%
	>120min	7%		>120min	16%
	no data	3%		no data	30%

Staff implications

There are approximately 16 members of staff working at Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court.

Other information

The main Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court building is leasehold and the landlords are the Humberside Police with a 999 year old lease. Scunthorpe Charter Hall Administration Centre is Freehold.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Scunthorpe Magistrates', County Court and Family Court were approximately £268,000.

The National Probation Service and Citizens Advice Bureau occupy the building on a daily basis, and the Youth Offending Team once a week. Alternative arrangements would need to be made should the decision to close the court be taken.

Wakefield Magistrates' Court Proposal

Wakefield Magistrates' Court is one of five magistrates' courts operating in West Yorkshire the others being in Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford and Halifax. The court deals with criminal court business in the adult and youth courts. From mid-January 2013, public law and private law work in the Family Court moved to the new Wakefield Civil Justice Centre.

It is proposed that Wakefield Magistrates' Court closes and the criminal work moves to Leeds Magistrates' Court where there is ample accommodation for staff and hearings. There are 21 courtrooms at Leeds Magistrates' Court, with only ten to 12 being used on a daily basis at present. There will be no enabling works required to accommodate the workload from Wakefield.

The facilities at Wakefield Magistrates' Court are sub-standard and out of date for staff, judiciary and all court users. The building is not compliant with the Equality Act 2010 due to its listed status and the courtroom accommodation, in particular, is in need of modernisation. The building has five courtrooms and is currently well used, however there is sufficient capacity at Leeds and Wakefield Magistrates' Court offers poor standards of accommodation.

Leeds Magistrates' Court offers excellent quality facilities in a modern purpose built building for HM Courts & Tribunals Service users.

In the 2010 Court Estate Reform Programme proposals, it was agreed that Pontefract Magistrates' Court would close and the work would move to Wakefield Magistrates' Court. This took place in March 2013 and Wakefield Magistrates' Court now houses some of the staff and work from Pontefract. A small number of the staff were accommodated at Leeds Magistrates' Court. As part of this arrangement, the family work from both Pontefract and Wakefield Magistrates' Courts was to be dealt with within the new Wakefield Civil Justice Centre which opened in January 2013. More recently with the introduction of the single Family Court in April 2014, all issue of family proceedings are now dealt with at Leeds County Court. Wakefield Civil Justice Centre is still used as a hearing centre for the Family Court.

The closure of Wakefield Magistrates' Court was not considered as part of the estate reform proposals in 2010 as at that time the workload from both Wakefield and Pontefract could not be accommodated in Leeds Magistrates' Court. Since 2010 reductions in magistrates' court criminal work at both Pontefract and Wakefield and the relocation of the family court work, now allows for Wakefield Magistrates' Court to be considered as part of these proposals.

Should this proposal go ahead the Judicial Business Group (JBG) would undertake local stakeholder engagement to consider the need for the merger of Local Justice Areas.

Accommodation

Wakefield Magistrates' Court was built in 1777 and is a listed building. The accommodation comprises of five courtrooms, four formal courtrooms and one informal courtroom. The facilities are sub-standard and out of date for staff, judiciary and all court users. The building is not compliant with the Equality Act 2010 due to its listed status and the courtroom accommodation in particular, is in need of modernisation. The property is

old and is no longer fit for use. There are constant maintenance issues with equipment in particular relating to the fire alarm system and courtroom security. The system is old and in need of repair. The structure, roof and windows are also in need of repair and due to the listed status patch repairs are currently being carried out.

Access to the building is difficult for some people with a disability and there is no access to the four courtrooms on the first floor for people with some disabilities. The only courtroom on the ground floor is usually used for family and youth courts. The cell facilities are in poor condition and have limited capacity.

The court has separate waiting facilities for prosecution witnesses but no separate facilities for defence witnesses. Wakefield Magistrates' Court has prison video link facilities and facilities for vulnerable witnesses to give their evidence via video link in one courtroom. The court has interview rooms available for private consultation.

Leeds Magistrates' Court offers excellent quality facilities in a modern purpose built building for users. The facilities at Leeds Magistrates' Court include interview rooms for private consultations, video link facilities, disabled access and toilet facilities, baby changing facilities, hearing enhancement facilities, parking for disabled customers and refreshment facilities for all court users.

Workload

Wakefield Magistrates' Court has five courtrooms and was utilised at approximately 56% of its capacity during the 2014/15 financial year.

Leeds Magistrates' Court has 21 courtrooms however only half of these are fully used with three of the courtrooms used currently as meeting venues. There is capacity to accommodate hearings from Wakefield Magistrates' Court to ensure flexibility in a larger centre with better facilities.

Location

Wakefield Magistrates' Court is situated 12.5 miles from Leeds. There is a frequent train and bus service between Wakefield and Leeds. The travel time by train is approximately 20 minutes and by bus approximately 35 minutes.

Pontefract is situated 17 miles from Leeds. There is a frequent train via Wakefield between Pontefract and Leeds via Wakefield with a journey time of approximately 50 minutes. There is a frequent direct bus service to Leeds from Pontefract with a journey time of approximately 50 minutes.

The cost of a return train ticket from Pontefract to Leeds is £3.90. A West Yorkshire ticket can be purchased for return travel by bus and costs £4.70. The cost of a return train ticket from Wakefield to Leeds is £5.90. A West Yorkshire ticket can be purchased for return travel by bus and costs £4.70.

The journey time by car is approximately 25 minutes from Wakefield and 35 minutes from Pontefract.

Travel time data for this court pre and post closure is shown below:

Magistrates' and Family workload:

Before	Time	%	After	Time	%
By Car	0-30min	99%	By Car	0-30min	86%
	30-60min	1%		30-60min	14%
	60-120min	0%		60 - 120min	0%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%
By Public Transport	0-30min	35%	By Public Transport	0-30min	0%
	30-60min	51%		30-60min	53%
	60-120min	14%		60-120min	47%
	>120min	0%		>120min	0%
	no data	0%		no data	0%

Staff implications

There are approximately 28 members of staff working at Wakefield Magistrates' Court.

Other information

Wakefield Magistrates' Court is a freehold property.

During the 2014/15 financial year, operating costs at Wakefield Magistrates' Court were approximately £268,000.

Witness Service, National Probation Service and the Youth Offending Team occupy part of the building, and alternative arrangements would need to be made should the decision to close the court be taken.

Questionnaire

We would welcome responses to the following questions.

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals?

Question 2: Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

Question 3: Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts & Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

Question 4: Our assessment of the likely impacts and supporting analysis is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying this consultation. Do you have any comments on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

Question 5: Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

Question 6: Please provide any additional comments that you have.

Thank you for participating in this consultation exercise.

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

Full name	
Job title or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise (e.g. member of the public etc.)	
Date	
Company name/organisation (if applicable):	
Address	
Postcode	
If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	(please tick box) <input type="checkbox"/>
Address to which the acknowledgement should be sent, if different from above	

If you are a representative of a group, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.

Contact details/How to respond

Please send your response by 8 October 2015 to:

HMCTS Consultation
Ministry of Justice
Post point 1.13
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 0161 240 5021

Fax: 0870 761 7768

Email: estatesconsultation@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Complaints or comments

If you have any complaints or comments about the consultation process you should contact the Ministry of Justice at the above address.

Extra copies

Further paper copies of this consultation can be obtained from this address and it is also available on-line at www.gov.uk/moj.

Alternative format versions of this publication can be requested [please see details above].

Publication of response

The response to this consultation exercise will be available on-line at www.gov.uk/moj.

Representative groups

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent when they respond.

Confidentiality

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Ministry.

The Ministry will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment for proposals likely to affect businesses, charities, voluntary sector or the public sector – see guidance on: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/impact-assessment-template-for-government-policies>)

Consultation principles

The principles that Government departments and other public bodies should adopt for engaging stakeholders when developing policy and legislation are set out in the consultation principles.

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Consultation-Principles.pdf>

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Alternative format versions of this report are available on request from the Ministry of Justice [please see above for contact details].



Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Cleveland Police Headquarters
Ladgate Lane
Middlesbrough
TS8 9EH

Email: pcc@cleveland.pnn.police.uk
 Website: <http://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk>

Police and Crime Commissioner:
 Chief of Staff (Chief Executive &
 Monitoring Officer):
 Chief Constable:

Barry Coppinger
 Simon Dennis BA, Solicitor
 Jacqui Cheer QPM

Tel: 01642 301653

Tel: 01642 301653

Tel: 01642 301217

7 August 2015

Gill Alexander
 Chief Executive
 Hartlepool Borough Council
 Civic Centre
 Hartlepool
 TS24 8AY



R+M

Dear Gill

Closure of Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

Thank you for your letter of 24 July 2015 to Police & Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger. In his absence on leave, the Commissioner has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In short, the PCC shares the analysis set out in your letter.

Both the Commissioner and Cleveland Police recognise the need to achieve efficiencies in the management of the Ministry of Justice estate and also the advantages presented by the increasing use of technology in the context of both civil and criminal justice.

The Commissioner's overarching concerns are those of

- access to justice by court users; and
- justice being seen to be done in the locality

He therefore shares Hartlepool Borough Council's perspective in that the closure of the local court facilities will impact negatively on access to local justice.

In particular, the MoJ analysis appears to underestimate the impact for court users of limited means, for whom the costs of travel (which the MoJ appear to suggest are low) may be a significant barrier to accessing court facilities outside of Hartlepool.



The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation.

The Commissioner will offer the following answers to the specific questions set out in the consultation; the formal consultation closes in October and the OPCC may amplify the responses in time for submission to the MoJ.

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals.

Both the Commissioner and Cleveland Police recognise the need to achieve efficiencies in the management of the MoJ estate and also the advantages presented by the increasing use of technology in the context of both civil and criminal justice.

The Commissioner's overarching concerns are those of

- access to justice by court users; and*
- justice being seen to be done in the locality.*

He therefore shares Hartlepool Borough Council's serious concerns in that the closure of the local court facilities will impact negatively on access to local justice.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

The proposals will impact directly upon

- Cleveland Police;*
- Victims of crime;*
- Other court users involved in the criminal justice process;*

for whom the PCC shares an overarching remit. Save for the incidental points made in the MoJ consultation document about the facilities offered at the Teesside Magistrates and Combined Court centres, there appear to be no positive advantages to the proposals in respect of the above stakeholders.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

The MoJ analysis appears to underestimate the impact for court users of limited means, for whom the costs of travel (which the MoJ appear to suggest are low) may be a significant barrier to accessing court facilities outside of Hartlepool.

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

The PCC would wish to make the same point as at (3) above – the impact assessment, in common with the substantive consultation document, does not

R. BELL & SON

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PARTNERS:

TERENCE CREED, B.A., LL.M., Member of The Law Society's Children Panel

DIANE BROUGH Member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Member of Solicitors for the Elderly

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR:

CHRISTINE WALLER

DURHAM HOUSE,
32A VICTORIA ROAD,
HARTLEPOOL,
TS26 8DD

OUR REF TC/CW/JW/
YOUR REF KS

06 August 2015

Please reply to/ask for:-
Mrs C Waller

FOR THE ATTENTION OF GILL ALEXANDER



Dear Sirs

Re: CLOSURE OF HARTLEPOOL MAGISTRATES COURT AND COUNTY COURT

We refer to your letter of 24th July 2015 and note its contents. With regard to the Questionnaire you provided, we would reply as follows:

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals?

We do not agree with the proposals for closure for the reasons set out below.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

The proposals for closure will have direct impact upon ourselves. By travelling out of town to attend Court, will result in our costs to our clients being increased due to additional travelling. We also anticipate that a larger centralised Court does not necessarily mean a more efficient Court as it becomes difficult to speak to the same person for continuity or to track correspondence which has been forwarded to a Court, due to its size and the volume of work it is dealing with. Consolidating Courts in one larger building seems to be seen as more efficient but in practice, they are too big, correspondence/documentation cannot always be retrieved and dealt with for urgent hearings and the sheer bulk of the work can cause delay in it being dealt with or even lost in the system.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Court and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

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There would be a particular impact upon our clients who generally have to privately fund their cases and it will involve not only additional travelling costs for them by having to attend a Court out of town but additional legal costs incurred by their legal representatives having to do so. Clients already struggle in providing childcare during school holidays but a journey to a Court out of town also lengthens the period of time when childcare will be necessary. Courts often list cases at 10am but all parties are required to attend at 9.30am and clients struggle to drop children off at school at approximately 8.45am and then travel out of town to a Court for 9.30am. It is stated in the proposal that a bus journey is likely to take 45 minutes and at the moment, 90% of clients are likely to take under 30 minutes to arrive at Court but following implementation of the proposals, such a journey would ensure 91% would take between 60 and 120 minutes to attend Court. Consequently, it would not be considered more efficient for clients and it appears to restrict their access to Justice particularly following the significant limitation/ almost non-existence of Legal Aid for the majority of them.

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

See travel time details above at Question 3. The Report also states the Hartlepool County Court operates a counter system from 2pm to 5pm (a 3 hour slot) but, in fact, it is actually 10am to 2pm (being a 4 hour slot).

5. Are these alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

If it is proposed that the building which houses the Magistrates and County Court is not being fully used, then could it not be used to accommodate Mediation, Citizens Advice Bureau or a Contact Centre, the latter of which has always been in such demand but not readily available in this town. The use of technology appears on the surface to be a suitable alternative to travelling to Court but it is highly unlikely that lay persons would have access to such facility.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

As above.

Yours faithfully
R BELL & SON

Chief Executive's Department
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL TS24 8AY

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals
No
2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.
No
3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.
4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.
5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.
6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

I AGREE THAT LAW COURTS SHOULD STAY IN
HARTLEPOOL. GREAT YOU ARE TRYING, BUT THIS GOVERNMENT
WILL NOT RECOGNISE NORTH EAST BEING LABOUR STRONGHOLD
AFRAID WE ARE THE NEW "EAST END OF LONDON FROM
VICTORIAN TIMES AND THAT IS WHERE THEY WANT US
SEE THEM LAUGHING NOW AT YOUR BRAVE EFFORTS

[Signature]

HARTLEPOOL
Y472
18 AUG 2015
COUNTY COURT/
MAGISTRATES COURT

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals **NO**
2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details. **NO**
3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details. **HARTLEPOOL RESIDENTS ARE UPSET AT ALL THE SERVICES MOVED FROM THE TOWN**
4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful. **N/A**
5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.
6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

HARTLEPOOL
Y472

10 AUG 2015

COUNTY COURT/
MAGISTRATES COURT

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

I do not agree with the proposals. Justice should be easily accessible to all and to say that in a modern age we should be making more use of digital technology to enable people to access Courts and Tribunals, pay fines etc, does not take into account the impact this will have on the more vulnerable individual in society.

It is a fundamental right of our legal system for the accused to be able to face their accusers in open Court. Up until now there are very few cases where this right is denied. By using video links the accused are denied their right. In my opinion the Ministry of Justice has already undermined our legal system by the breaking up of the Probation Service and this proposal breaks it up even further.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

Not unless I need to access Justice Services however I work for an organisation that provides Independent Domestic Violence Advocates to Hartlepool Specialist Domestic Violence Court.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

The main concern I have is the impact on Courts in surrounding areas. How does the proposal address this issue? Our organisation provides an IDVA to Teesside Magistrates Court and I believe that the Specialist Domestic Violence Court there is already extremely busy to the point that not all cases are being held in the appropriate Court. I have great concerns that with the extra cases coming from Hartlepool more cases will be heard in Courts that have no specialisation.

There is also the impact on accused and witnesses having to travel further afield to access Court. Not only is it time consuming but there is the additional travel costs. The statement outlines these costs as between £4.50 and £7.70 which is a large sum of money to people on benefits. I am aware

that witness can reclaim the money spent on travel but they need to have the money in the first place to get to Court.

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

The impact assessment states the following "Should the court close it would enable the workload to be moved to larger court centres and would allow the court to be more responsive and flexible with the throughput and listing of cases meeting customer and workflow demands more effectively. An improved and a more efficient service could then be delivered with courts being used more efficiently and effectively." Where is the evidence that closing Hartlepool Courts would enable these efficiencies? How would they become more efficient? Making a statement without evidence should not be included in an impact assessment.

5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

As I have already stated in the opening question your proposal undermines the rights of the accused by allowing witnesses not to be present in Court. I accept that when witnesses may be put at risk video links should be used but this should be the only time.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

None

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals
harbour feels that this is the wrong decision for the town as once again it feels like Hartlepool is turning into a suburb of a larger area,
2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details. Yes these proposals will have a direct effect on harbour and the clients we support. Financial as clients will need to fund travel to other courts, childcare as most of our clients are women and where as a visit to Hartlepool court may still take up a few hours the additional time of attending a court in another area could prove difficult if people have to relies on public transport. We as a charity will face additional costs and resourcing issues due to the impact of using the IDVA service outside of Hartlepool. We had built up a positive working relationship with the courts that commented on as good practise as working well and not facing the issues that the Middlesbrough court had about making the same process followed in Hartlepool work in Middlesbrough.
3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details. Clients may withdraw criminal proceeding's which in its self as cost implications for the work done previously on the case and the possible escalation in repeat visits to the property
4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful. We think that there has been enough consideration to the practical aspects of this on the actual clients who may be affected. I note that they have said the cost of travel but if people are on low wages or benefits and the proposed further cuts in these than it feels that this would end people feeling we have a justice system in this country.
5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand

requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible. If this was going to be a suggestion as a possible solution I would question why the pilot for use of technology has been funded in Middlesbrough when for me the best place to have tried this out should have been Hartlepool to gauge peoples acceptance and use of this facility from outside the area where the court would be.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

No, Harbour believe this decision will have a detrimental effect on the victims in Hartlepool. We believe that withdrawals will increase as a result of the court being closed. Transport, finances and childcare could all be impacted when looking at victims personal circumstances.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

We believe that the Hartlepool IDVA has excellent links with Hartlepool court and communications are extremely positive. There is a possibility that the close working links could be affected by the closure. Harbour also feel that the use of our local resources would be stretched by the time taken and expense of travelling to another court. As we have IDVA'S covering Middlesbrough and Durham courts, the increase of cases could impact on their roles also.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

Will the closure impact on lengths of time waiting for hearings and trials?

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

Video links or alternative buildings could be a possibility for hearings.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

We have been raising our concerns for some time within the SDVC meeting with regards to the impact on Hartlepool clients if the court closes.

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

Whilst I appreciate the requirement for financial savings to be made, I am naturally concerned about the provision of services being removed from Hartlepool as this will impact upon victims and witnesses as well as Cleveland Police.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

Moving Magistrates court to Middlesbrough will impact hugely on policing in Hartlepool. Staff are required, almost daily to attend court and the current court building is next to the police station. Officers having to travel to Middlesbrough to attend court would result in the already low numbers available being further depleted. Provision of vehicles is extremely limited and this proposal would require vehicles being utilised for court attendance, leaving a shortage within Hartlepool. Fuel costs for the force would also increase with a 30 mile round trip for every attendance.

I can foresee a likelihood of more defendants not attending court when required due to distance and cost involved. This would in turn result in increased workload for police when warrants are issued, when resources are at their lowest level and still decreasing.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

Whilst the document indicates that there is capacity at Teesside Magistrates courts for the workload from Hartlepool, I am concerned that cases would take longer to actually get to court. There is no information in the document regarding current timescales and what they would be following any closure.

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

In relation to Hartlepool there will be an increase in travel time and cost and this will not be offset by any benefits as suggested may be the case in the impact assessment.

I think the effect of the extra cost for victims/witnesses cannot be underestimated (minimum of around £5 per day) and may result in non attendance and subsequent loss of cases.

- 5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.**

Use of video conferencing for police witnesses working in Hartlepool would be hugely beneficial. This technology is utilised on a daily basis for internal force wide meetings and would reduce the extra cost implications for the force and result in police officers spending less time off the streets.

If a similar system could be implemented for victims and witnesses, this would be much more acceptable and reduce the risk of non attendance due to finance/distance.

- 6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.**

Closure of the magistrates court in Hartlepool is likely to result in subsequent closure of the custody facility also, as the rationale for its existence has been to service the courts. This would also remove police officers from the streets of Hartlepool as every arrest would need to be transported to Middlesbrough.

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals – NO, would mean excessive travel for not only myself, travelling regularly from Durham but to tenants having to make way to Middlesbrough
2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details. – as above
3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details. – location & accessibility means it will become very unrealistic that defendants will be able to make this journey, parking costs also will be an issue, not ideal at all
4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.
5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.
6. Please provide any additional comments you may have. – as stated above moving the Court to a central location may be ideal financially but for a town like Hartlepool, Peterlee etc it makes it difficult for the regular users of Court services to access and in my case a round trip of almost 60 miles simply to attend a court hearing

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals
Do not agree. Significant impact upon police resources.
2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.
Police resources reduced considerably , this will place greater burden around fewer people.
3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.
Impact of less police officers
4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

No Comment
5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.
Is there a technical solution that would be accepted by the CJ system ?
6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

Do not agree because of resource implications and concerns regarding accessibility for officers & residents

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

Yes

Resource implications will include:

Increased time and travel costs: We estimate that a return journey would take at least 90 minutes possibly longer if there are traffic issues or problems finding suitable parking in a busy town centre. We are concerned about wasted journeys where hearings are adjourned etc e.g. if parties do not attend and officers may have to sit through other cases before their case is heard. Parking is expensive. On occasion several staff need to attend. The impact on other staff will be significant as we are a small division within the Council

Accessibility to Magistrates for urgent matters eg issuing warrants for enforcement matters, RIPA authorisations, Hygiene Emergency Prohibition action, Closure Orders etc.

We anticipate that there will be an increased delay in getting Court dates. In our experience we already have to wait a considerable time to get a Court date

We may experience difficulties getting witnesses to attend Court & may incur costs e.g. we may use members of the public as witnesses in Licensing Appeals and may not be able to recover the costs incurred

Court needs to be accessible to people who wish to Appeal against Enforcement Notices etc

In our experience it is currently difficult to get a meeting room at Middlesbrough Magistrates Court to speak with legal representatives. The position is likely to be worse with increased use of the Court

Access to photocopiers etc is limited and expensive. We are currently able to get material copied at Civic Centre in adjoining building to Hartlepool Magistrates Court & this would no longer be possible.

When we need to exhibit physical evidence the use of videos etc is not possible / practical. The evidence needs to be presented to the Court for inspection. In complex cases officers are required to transport significant volumes of material eg case files, physical evidence etc and this has implications for the number of officers required to attend, parking access etc.

Some people may not have access to a computer or may not be computer literate in order to use on line services to appeal against notices etc so will need to attend court in person. (Hartlepool has a high level of deprivation)

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

No comment

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

No Comment

5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

Is there a technical solution that would be accepted by the CJ system ?

For us technical solutions are not going to work. Officers will need to attend Court to get warrant signed, exhibit physical evidence etc.

Availability of suitable alternative public buildings/accommodation is very limited. There may be security issues.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

Access to photocopiers etc is limited and expensive. We are currently able to get material copied at Civic Centre in adjoining building to Hartlepool Magistrates Court & this would no longer be possible.

When we need to exhibit physical evidence the use of videos etc is not possible / practical. The evidence needs to be presented to the Court for inspection. In complex cases officers are required to transport significant volumes of material eg case files, physical evidence etc and this has implications for the number of officers required to attend, parking access etc.

Some people may not have access to a computer or may not be computer literate in order to use on line services to appeal against notices etc so will need to attend court in person. (Hartlepool has a high level of deprivation)

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

No comment

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

No Comment

5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

Is there a technical solution that would be accepted by the CJ system ?

For us technical solutions are not going to work. Officers will need to attend Court to get warrant signed, exhibit physical evidence etc.

Availability of suitable alternative public buildings/accommodation is very limited. There may be security issues.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

I do not agree with the proposals, it would be yet another service taken away from Hartlepool. The time data provided is obviously based on the perfect journey. In reality even travelling by car 97% of people will not get to Middlesbrough in 0-30 mins. I don't think this has taken account of the constant roadworks, sheer volume of traffic at peak times and the road traffic accidents. The A19 and all other routes to Middlesbrough are the maximum of 2 lanes.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

Whilst the proposals will not have a direct impact on us as an organisation, it will impact directly on our clients, many of whom are vulnerable and often incapable of travel outside of their own town. It will deter people from attending tribunals. Without their attendance there is an increased risk of losing the appeal.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

In the consultation the facilities at Hartlepool are well described. There doesn't seem to be any major refurbishment needed, it is fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and no security issues. It is ideally located, so the tribunal need to take into account the economic impact on the residents using the court and tribunal services.

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

Several years ago Tribunals for Hartlepool were moved to Middlesbrough. It had a negative impact on the residents of Hartlepool, as they faced increased financial costs in both travel and time. For organisations attending to accompany clients, listings were not made in a logical manner, thus increasing costs to the organisations.

Has this consultation used the evidence that must have been gathered during this period, as the decision was made to re-list tribunals in Hartlepool.

Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

Using local public buildings often comes with its own difficulties, i.e. availability, security, cost etc. I understand these were some of the reasons initially removing the tribunal service from Hartlepool. Which is why the law court was used to re-instate the tribunal service in Hartlepool.

5. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

The costs of re-commissioning as well as decommissioning should be taken into consideration. Whilst we understand the intention is to centralise services, mainly for cost benefit, having lived through several centralisations and then re-localisations, as it is realised that the centralisation only works for those living close to the centralised services, there will be a need and indeed a cost involved in re-commissioning/re-establishing services locally.

Therefore whilst this may appear to make savings initially, in the long run it will end up costing double.

Going to court as a victim is already a scary experience and it is going to be made considerably worse adding a longer journey to what could be an unfamiliar place. Currently, court expenses are paid retrospectively and some victims would not be able to pay the travel costs upfront. The added journey time can also impact on child care that may be needed.

Friends and family may not be able to afford to accompany victims and this will have a detrimental effect on them, support is vital for witnesses to be able to have the strength to give their evidence.

Unless victims have access to a car they could be faced with the extremely distressing situation of being on the same bus or train as the accused. This would be bad for any victim but imagine the fear of a vulnerable witness or DV victim ? There are security guards that offer a level of protection at court against intimidation but this would not apply to public transport.

Trials are often adjourned now and victims have to go two, sometimes three times before the case goes ahead and I am concerned that this will be worse if we have one magistrates covering the whole of Cleveland. People build themselves up to a frenzy with the worry of giving evidence, often not sleeping or eating and the impact of this can lead to them having to seek medical help.

Victims can often not even start to recover from the effects of the crime till after the trial is over and added waiting times for a case to be heard will have a negative effect on people and the worry is that they will not bother reporting the incidents to the Police in the first place.

I have recently been to Middlesbrough magistrates and there was not enough seats in the witness room and it was chaotic to say the least. Solicitors couldn't talk to their clients in confidence and struggled to be heard over the noise. This happened when other magistrates were still operating.

Response from Children's Services Division

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

We understand savings need to be made across services and think that there may be better ways to use technology and remote access. A proportion of our work regarding family court takes place at Teesside currently and we already have some difficulties ensuring families are present and engaged. The moving of the Hartlepool court will continue to reinforce this pattern of difficulties engaging our most vulnerable families. It will therefore lead to our most vulnerable families being at a disadvantage when accessing the justice system.

The Youth Court recently transferred to Teesside. This has added pressure on our teams due to staff needing to support young people to be transported and supported outside of Hartlepool which takes significantly more time.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

We work with families and a number of these will have dealings with the Hartlepool court therefore as stated above it will impact on our most vulnerable families – most struggle to access services and many will struggle to access outside. In particular the FCSH work with a number of families facing eviction. They can currently access the Hartlepool Court to challenge the eviction. However if the court transfers to Teesside it is unlikely that families will travel and we may see more evictions for our most vulnerable families.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

Increased staff resource needed to support families to access court if transferred.

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

Nothing else to add

5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

The courts are an intimidating place for families and often workers. There is a lot of wasted time and money in the current system in relation to all parties involved and other alternatives may provide a more efficient system. Engaging remotely or using other venues maybe preferable to users as well as saving time and money (as long as these plans are developed and technology and alternative venues are fit for purpose.) This may also engage our most vulnerable families.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

Teesside may not seem too much of a distance for those of us who are regular travellers. However for our most vulnerable families who may have mental health problems, health problems or other needs Teesside feels like a world away and significant support will be needed to support our most vulnerable families to access the justice system.

From: Cllr Paul Watson [mailto:Cllr.Paul.Watson@sunderland.gov.uk]

Sent: 07 August 2015 08:50

To: Gill Alexander

Subject: RE: Closure of Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court - Consultation Document -
Deadline Friday 7 August

Importance: High

SENT ON BEHALF OF CLLR PAUL WATSON, LEADER

Dear Gill

Please find below Cllr Watson's reply.

Kind Regards

Sue

Questionnaire
Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

1. Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

We understand that in this time of austerity that there is a need to cut costs and streamline services to make them as effective as possible but this should not be at the detriment of outcomes for our local communities.

2. Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

The changes will not have a direct impact on Sunderland, however we can sympathise with colleagues and the communities from Hartlepool as the impacts of the travelling to Middlesbrough Court for every hearing could be onerous.

3. Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

It is integral that our communities feel a part of the justice system and that they can see the effects of that working in their areas. When services are moved away from the local areas that they serve communities can feel disengaged from the process.

4. The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

Page 2 of 3

As with all decisions of this nature we would support the use of an integrated impact assessment to understand not only the financial impact but the social and health impacts of the clients using the service.

5. Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

The use of technology is integral for service development in the future, however safeguards around its use must be in place to help maintain its integrity and assurance in its use.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have.

Susan Clark
Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Council
Sunderland City Council

Tel. 0191 561 1322
www.sunderland.gov.uk

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

This questionnaire is being completed by Nicholas Stone – Neighbourhood Safety Team Leader on behalf of Hartlepool's Anti-social Behaviour Unit. This Unit consists of Anti-social Behaviour Officers employed by Hartlepool Borough Council who investigate complaints regarding anti-social behaviour and a Victim Services Officer employed by Victim Support who works with and supports victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals?

No. The closure of Hartlepool Magistrates' and County Courts will both decrease, and make it more difficult for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour residing in Hartlepool to access justice.

- Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

Yes. By requiring all victims of crime and anti-social behaviour to attend court hearings in Middlesbrough rather than in Hartlepool it is very likely that this will decrease the number of victims who attend court.

It is often very difficult to persuade victims to report crime or anti-social behaviour, to give evidence and then to attend court and testify about their experiences.

This often requires extensive support work with victims to explain the criminal justice system and court processes, and to support them to enable them to be able to attend court and testify.

The vast majority of victims almost always have no experience of attending and testifying at court. Victims often find the prospect very daunting with them often being fearful of going to court.

By requiring victims to travel outside of their local town, away from their home, community and support networks this is likely to increase victims fear of attending court, and so decrease the number being willing to attend court.

In addition the changes could also result in confrontational situations where victims travelling to attend court on public transport may end up travelling on the same transport as defendants or their families. i.e. as they are each going to the same court at the same time, from the same location. The mere thought of this possibly occurring could in itself also deter victims who are unable to attend court without using public transport from attending court.

In addition the changes mean that victims are also less likely to be accompanied and supported at court by their friends and family due to the increased time and costs that this would incur.

In addition, it should be understood that Hartlepool Borough is an area with historically high levels of deprivation, unemployment, under employment and a low wage economy.

While the report acknowledges the good public transport links between Middlesbrough and Hartlepool and the cost of these, it fails to recognise that many Hartlepool households would be simply unable to afford these transport costs and so would be simply unable to afford to attend court outside of Hartlepool.

In addition where victims work hourly rates the extra loss of income through further increased travel times places a further charge on low wage victims which again decreases their ability to attend court. (This all also assumes that victims will be able to obtain this additional travel time off from work in the first place from their employers.)

Finally there will be an impact upon Hartlepool Borough Council Officers having to attend court in Middlesbrough.

Hartlepool Borough Council has experienced mainstream budget cuts of 39% with a further 30-40% predicted over the next 3 years. This has, and will continue to result in significant changes to council services and staffing levels.

This has required both Council Services and Officers to increasingly prioritise workloads and time spent on providing services.

By requiring Council Officers to spend increased time and resources travelling to, and from court by having to attend court outside Hartlepool in Middlesbrough away from the Civic Centre (rather than at Hartlepool Magistrates' and County Court located right next to the Civic Centre) this will result in decreased time and resources that Officers will be able to spend on other work for the public.

- Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

None.

- The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

No comment.

- Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible. Is there a technical solution that would be accepted by the CJ system ?

Hartlepool Magistrates' Court has video link and video conferencing facilities to enable for defendants to be seen at Holme House Prison and to allow for testimony under special measures for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses.

Should the Hartlepool Magistrates' Court close the Court Service must ensure that these facilities remain available in Hartlepool and are linked to the Middlesbrough Courts. This could assist in resolving many of the concerns previously discussed above.

- Please provide any additional comments you may have.

There is a risk that the changes result in decreased confidence in the criminal justice system, public services and democracy as residents see yet another local service being taken away from Hartlepool and centralised outside of the town for financial reasons against the wishes of the general public and their elected representatives.

Questionnaire

Proposed Closure Hartlepool Magistrates Court and County Court

Do you agree with the proposals? What overall comments would you like to make on the proposals

Do not agree. Significant impact upon police resources.

Will the proposals for the provision of court and tribunal services have a direct impact on you? If yes, please provide further details.

Police resources reduced considerably, this will place greater burden around fewer people.

Are there other particular impacts of the proposals that HM Courts and Tribunals Service should take into account when making a decision? Please provide details.

Impact of less police officers

The Ministry of Justice assessment of the likely impacts of the proposals is set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. Do you have any comment on the evidence used or conclusions reached? Please provide any additional evidence that you believe could be helpful.

No Comment

Are there alternatives to travelling to a physical building that would be a benefit to some users? These could include using technology to engage remotely or the use of other, civic or public buildings for hearings as demand requires. Please explain your answer, with specific examples and evidence of the potential demand for the service where possible.

Is there a technical solution that would be accepted by the CJ system?

Please provide any additional comments you may have.

COUNCIL

17 September 2015



Report of: Audit and Governance Committee

Subject: AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 2015/16
WORK PROGRAMME

1. Background

- 1.1 Full Council, on the 25 June 2015, agreed that ‘the functions and responsibilities for Health Scrutiny be delegated to Audit and Governance Committee and that the work programme for the municipal year 2015/16 be agreed by the Committee and reported annually to Council.’
- 1.2 In accordance with the wishes of full Council, details of the Audit and Governance Committee’s work programme for 2015/16 are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Investigation Title	Topic Identified in Response to Concerns Regarding:	Agreed Aim of Investigation
Crime and Policing Levels in Hartlepool	<p>i) The disproportionate increase in crime in Hartlepool compared to other areas; and</p> <p>ii) The impact of reductions in the number of Neighbourhood and Police Community Support Officers in Hartlepool.*</p> <p>*Referral from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership</p>	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the impact of the allocation of reduced Police and Community Support Officers on increasing crime rates in Hartlepool; and - Evaluate how police and partners can more effectively pool resources to meet demand.
End of Life / Palliative Care in the Community	The delivery in Hartlepool of end of life and palliative care in the community.	To review end of life / palliative care services provided for Hartlepool patients and their families / carers.

The Committee is asked to note the Audit and Governance Committee's work programme for 2015/16 and in invitation extended to all those who may wish to participate in the conduct of the investigations.

COUNCIL
17th September 2015



Report of: Regeneration Services Committee

Subject: SEATON CAREW MASTERPLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

- 1.1 Key Decision- Part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to request that the Council adopt the Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (See **Appendix 1**) was endorsed by the Regeneration Services Committee on the 27th August 2015 and approved for submission to Council for adoption.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to support the policies of the Hartlepool Local Plan and to provide further, more detailed, guidance setting out the parameters of the development principles in order to achieve the proper development and regeneration of Seaton Carew.
- 3.3 The SPD helps guide potential investors by providing the broad planning and design principles for the area as well as representing the thoughts and aspirations of the community.
- 3.4 A public consultation on the draft Seaton Carew Masterplan SPD was approved by the Regeneration Services Committee on the 12th March 2015. The consultation was held for 8 weeks between 23rd March 2015 and 15th May 2015.

3.5 A total of 378 questionnaire responses were received from businesses and residents. There were also a number of detailed responses from statutory consultees. Details of the comments received and Hartlepool Borough Council's response can be found in the attached Consultation Statement (See **Appendix 2**).

3.6 The main changes and amendments to the SPD as a result of the consultation included:

- Reflecting concern about the adverse impact caused by the Longscar Building.
- Strengthening the section on Conservation to respond to the need to preserve and enhance the Conservation Area to allow it to be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.
- Reflecting the need for and benefits of "Constructive Conservation"
- Including references to biodiversity enhancement and habitat creation.
- Recognising the importance of Bathing Water Quality to Seaton Carew.
- Inserting references to Sewerage, flooding, water quality and land contamination.
- The Masterplan has been revised to ensure that the plans contribute to the openness of The Front and respect and enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- The Planning Obligations have been updated to include heritage and improvements to the ecological conditions of the plan area.

4. HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESEMENT

4.1 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations), has been completed. The HRA can be found within **Appendix 3**.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The adoption of the Seaton Carew Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document will assist in addressing and controlling development that would otherwise not be in line with the Council's desired regeneration principles and which would otherwise cause harm or not preserve or enhance the Conservation Area.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 There are no financial considerations as a result of this specific report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 If the Council adopts the SPD then it will sit within the Local Development Framework and will be a material Planning consideration to be taken into account in the determination of planning applications. It will also represent and reflect the Council's objectives in respect of the Masterplan area, including The Front in the context of the Council's current proposals to acquire the Longscar Building.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 8.1 There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations in relation to the Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning document. The aim is to regenerate Seaton Carew for the benefit of all.

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

- 10.1 The SPD contributes towards community safety by ensuring a high quality of development in Seaton Carew that will reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There is no staff considerations attached to this report.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no asset management considerations attached to this report.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 The Council is requested to adopt the Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) needs to be adopted to form part of the Local Development Framework and provides further, more detailed, in order to achieve the proper development and regeneration of Seaton Carew.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 Regeneration Services Committee Report – Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document – 28th August 2015.

16. CONTACT OFFICER

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Tel: 01429 523301

Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document

1. Introduction and Context
 2. Aims and Priorities
 3. Complementary Projects
 4. Location
 5. Historical Context
 6. Natural Environment
 7. Seaside Resort Policy Background
 8. Hartlepool Local Development Framework
 9. Planning Obligations
 10. Masterplan Area (SPD)
 11. Analysis
 12. History of the Conservation Area
 13. Public Consultation
 14. Issues
 15. Opportunities
 16. Land Ownership
 17. Development and Design Principles- The Front
 18. Development and Design Principles-Seaton Carew Bus Station
 19. Development and Design Principles-Former Fairground Site
 20. Development and Design Principles-Seaton Carew Park
 21. Coronation Drive
 22. Bathing Water and Water Quality
 23. Biodiversity Enhancement and Habitat Creation
 24. Seaton Carew Masterplan Proposals
- Appendix 1: Seaton Carew Masterplan
- Appendix 2: Coronation Drive Playbuilder Masterplan
- Appendix 3: Sewerage, flooding, water quality and land contamination
- Appendix 4: Seaton Celebrates Consultation Results

1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Seaton Carew is a popular tourist destination, and its natural and historical assets are valued by residents and visitors alike. Seaton Carew's primary assets of the sea, beach and promenade provide a free, easily accessible attraction for everyone. There is a need to prioritise investment and regeneration in Seaton Carew to support existing businesses and complement and build upon its assets.
- 1.2 The regeneration and continued development of Seaton Carew as a visitor destination is a Council priority and a planned regeneration approach has been agreed by the Council to deliver those priorities. The Hartlepool Vision¹ sets out the Council's aspiration for the area.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to support the policies of the Hartlepool Local Plan and to provide further, more detailed, guidance setting out the parameters and development principles to achieve the most appropriate development and sustainable regeneration of Seaton Carew.
- 1.4 The Seaton Carew Masterplan is a Supplementary Planning Document which forms part of the Hartlepool Local Plan and is a material consideration when determining planning applications in this area.
- 1.5 The Seaton Carew Masterplan SPD helps guide potential investors by providing the broad planning and design principles for the area as well as representing the thoughts and aspirations of the community. It identifies those areas that can be developed, what type of development is acceptable and when it should happen.

¹ www.destinationhartlepool.co.uk

2. **Aims and priorities:**

2.1 The three aims of the Seaton Carew Masterplan are;

- To develop a clean, family friendly environment;
- To enhance public amenities, space and facilities for visitors and residents; and
- To support the economic vibrancy of the area.

2.2 Seaton Carew is a key tourism asset within the Borough of Hartlepool. Regeneration of the sea front area called 'The Front' and other areas within Seaton Carew is required to continue the economic revival of Hartlepool.

2.3 Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) has significant land holdings in the area. These assets have been used to secure funding in order to deliver the following key priorities based on the following themes:

Built and natural environment

- Forming a new focal point for Seaton Carew's visitor offer;
- Creating high quality public spaces and play provision that will broaden the visitor appeal of Seaton Carew;
- Ensuring that development complements the heritage of Seaton Carew through the implementation of strong urban design principles from the outset including the principles of sustainable construction;
- Ensuring that any housing delivered meets the design standards set out in the Local Plan or relevant SPD, providing appropriate levels of affordable housing for local people;
- Protecting and enhancing the heritage assets of Seaton Carew, and in particular the Seaton Carew Conservation Area through conservation-led regeneration built on heritage and tradition;
- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment;

Economy

- Strengthening employment, skills and training by creating opportunities in the town for local people through appropriate development:

Tourism and visitor facilities

- Strengthening Seaton Carew's image as a destination and promoting the town's visitor offer;
- Seeking to achieve the principles of the Bathing Water Directive and maintain and improve Bathing Water Quality;
- Ensuring adequate provision/improvement of public/community facilities and buildings within Seaton Carew;

Connectivity and transport

- Encouraging sustainable transport to Seaton Carew;
- Improving the visual approaches into Seaton Carew;
- Improving permeability and accessibility;

- Improving the amenity and functionality of The Front for both residents and visitors.

3. Complementary Projects

- 3.1 There are a number of major projects which have recently been developed in and around Seaton Carew. This complementary development has contributed to the delivery of the Masterplan:
- 3.2 *Seaton Carew Sports Domes* – A flagship £7m leisure facility recently developed at the southern end of Seaton Carew is a private sector sports complex that provides facilities for five aside, mini golf, golf driving range, putting course, gym and conference facility within the Mayfair Centre.

Photograph 1: *Seaton Carew Sports Domes*



- 3.3 *Play Builder* – £136k has been invested in Seaton Carew delivering new play facilities for young people. There are plans to deliver further phases of play facilities along the Promenade between Seaton Carew and Newburn Bridge as and when resources become available. (See **Appendix 2**).
- 3.4 *Sea Defence Improvements* – A key stretch of the existing sea defences in the heart of Seaton Carew has been upgraded and improved to provide enhanced coastal flood protection. This £2.2m investment delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council is a key part of the Seaton Carew Masterplan

area and integral to the delivery of some of the development sites within the Masterplan.

4. Location

- 4.1 Seaton Carew is located on the Coast approximately 2 miles South of the main settlement of Hartlepool. (See **Figure 1**). Seaton Carew boasts good road transport links to Hartlepool and with the surrounding road network via the A178 trunk road. In addition to road and rail connections Seaton Carew enjoys strong pedestrian and cycle links to Hartlepool along the Coastal Path and the Sustrans cycle trail. There are three main bus routes, linking Seaton Carew with central Hartlepool and with south Hartlepool and settlements further afield.
- 4.2 The maritime town of Hartlepool is one of the top visitor destinations in the North East of England. The town has seen major investment in its facilities and attractions. As a result of this support, the town has experienced transformational changes headlined by the redevelopment of a large area of former dockland and the creation of the largest Marina on the north east coast between Hull and Edinburgh. Hartlepool boasts a wide range of shopping, tourist and leisure facilities, including the Hartlepool Maritime Experience, Hartlepool Art Gallery, Middleton Shopping Centre, Navigation Point, Seaton Carew and the Historic Headland.
- 4.3 Hartlepool is well serviced by road and rail with easy access to the A19 and A1(M), approximately 5 and 12 miles to the west respectively (See **Figure 1**). Hartlepool has a direct rail link to London, and both Hartlepool and Seaton Carew have a direct rail service to Billingham and Middlesbrough to the south and Sunderland and Newcastle to the north.

Figure 1: Location of Seaton Carew



5. Historical context

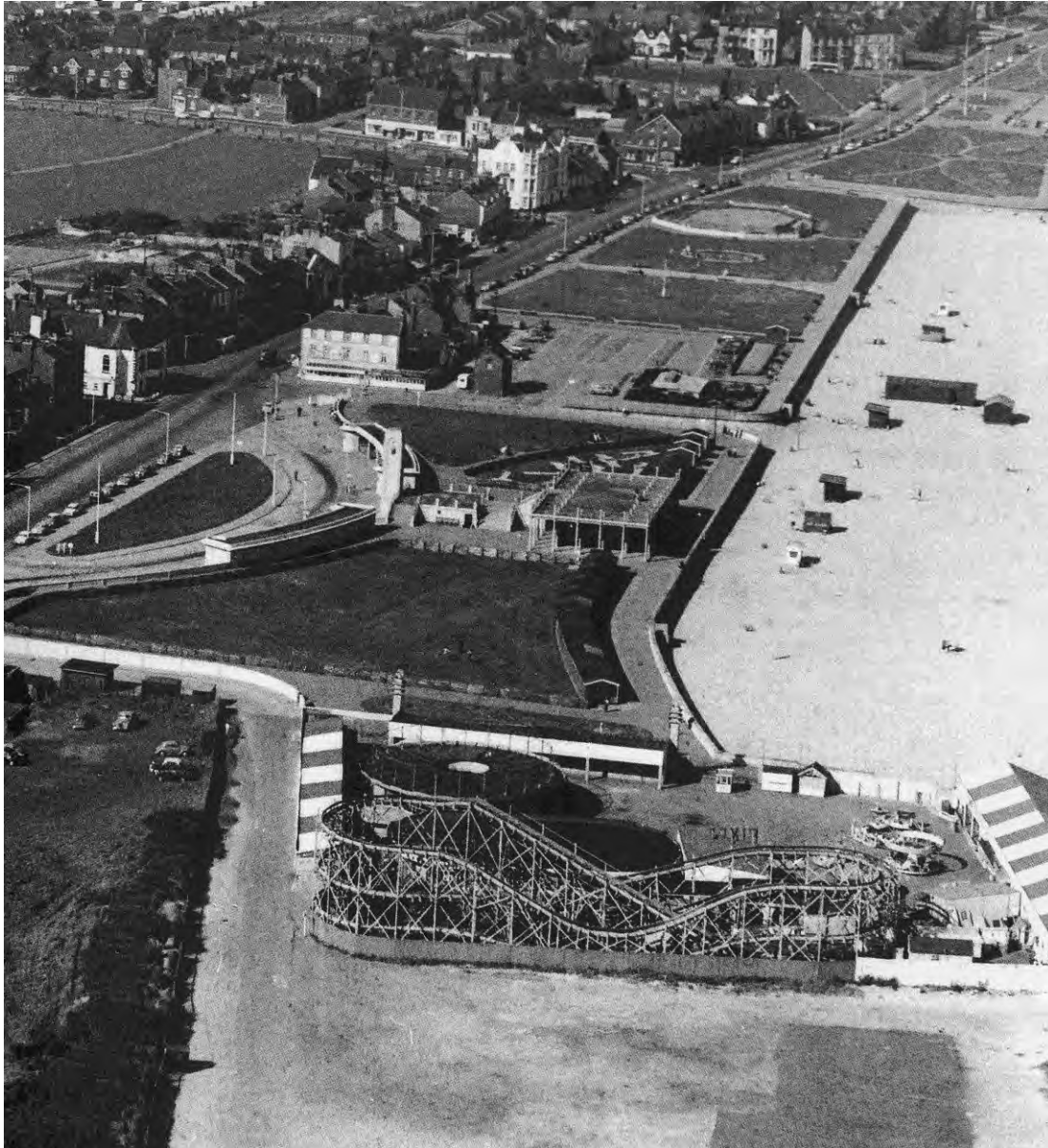
- 5.1 Situated on the southern edge of the town of Hartlepool, the seaside resort settlement of Seaton Carew has existed since at least the 12th century. Throughout medieval times, its inhabitants were predominantly employed in fisheries, agriculture and salt-panning.
- 5.2 In the late 18th and early 19th century, Seaton Carew became a popular holiday destination particularly for wealthy Quakers from Darlington and other nobility and gentry. Meeting the demand for accommodation, a number of high quality hotels and boarding houses were built along The Front, Church Street and The Green. With the arrival of the railway in the 1840s, the resort took on a more popular appeal with day trippers from County Durham and Teesside.
- 5.3 Although the beaches were closed throughout World War II, visitors from Teesside and the County Durham mining communities returned after the

war and Seaton Carew continued to have busy summer seasons throughout the 1950s.

- 5.4 In recent decades the interest in Seaton Carew's attractions has waned with the advent of cheap package holidays abroad. Revenue generated by tourism in the Seaton Carew area therefore diminished. Although the resort remains popular for day trippers, Seaton Carew has increasingly taken on the character of a commuter settlement for those working in the larger local towns, with housing development taking place between the older part of the settlement and the railway station.
- 5.5 The history of the area therefore provides an explanation of the physical development of the settlement. The 18th century period of development produced much of the informal layout of the buildings around The Green and Green Terrace. Many of these buildings were constructed in random stonework with clay pantile and a unselfconscious external appearance influenced by local needs.
- 5.6 The second main phase of physical development was in the 19th century when access was improved by roads and railways which was later supplemented by a tram service in the early 20th century supporting the expansion of visitor numbers. This period produced its own set of buildings; consciously designed residential villas such as the Staincliffe (now a hotel), The Cliff and the rest of The Green. The additional visitors also resulted in the construction of hotels (Seaton Hotel and the Seven Stars (now the Marine). All these buildings, unlike the earliest phase of Seaton Carew, have a designed appearance with strong vertical emphasis and the display of more self conscious architectural ideas imported from beyond Seaton Carew. The materials used are brickwork (often with decorative render), slate roofs with elaborate detailed decoration in the form of balconies, porches and towers.
- 5.7 The final main historical phase of physical development in Seaton Carew in the early 20th century was characterised by the reinforcement of its role as a seaside resort with the creation of the Bus Station and the north and south shelters, which are both now demolished. All were constructed in reinforced concrete in the Art Deco style of the 1930s.
- 5.8 A formal promenade was established over a number of years. It was introduced at the Southern end of Seaton Carew in the 1870's and eventually finished at the northern end of the area with the completion of the Esplanade in 1905.
- 5.9 The improving transport access which accelerated with the introduction of the tram service in 1902 was the major factor in the late 20th century development patterns including the conversion of the agricultural land to the west of Seaton Carew to a residential suburban character, which continued through the century.

5.10 Although Seaton Carew is a Victorian era resort it is now characterised by its low key leisure and recreation offer in comparison to other resorts.

Photograph 2: Seaton Carew Circa 1960



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6. Natural Environment

- 6.1 The coast fronting Seaton Carew is of considerable importance in terms of its ecology and geomorphology.
- 6.2 At the northern end of Carr House Sands is the Hartlepool Submerged Forest SSSI. This is an area of peat and preserved tree trunks from around 5,000 years bc. The SSSI designation extends from just north of Newburn Bridge to Long Scar rocks but the peat deposits themselves extend to the railway line in the west and south west of Long Scar rocks.

The “Forest” is usually covered with a thin layer of sand which is only occasionally exposed.

Photograph 3: Hartlepool Submerged Forest



- 6.3 Long Scar & Little Scar rocks are designated as a Local Geological Site. They are designated on account of the exposure of red Sherwood Sandstones from the Triassic, but ongoing research indicates that they might form the junction of the Triassic rocks with the earlier Permian Limestone, which would increase their importance if this proved to be the case.
- 6.4 Carr House Sands is part of the West Harbour and Carr House Sands Local Wildlife Site. This is designated because it supports good numbers of birds, in particular species that are associated with the Special Protection Area. The designation extends to the southern extent of Little Scar rocks.
- 6.5 An area of Coronation Drive, immediately north of Warrior Park Drive has recently been found to meet the criteria for designation as a Local Wildlife Site based on its diverse flora. However it has not been formerly designated as yet.
- 6.6 Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI is immediately south of the Seaton Carew Masterplan area. The designated area includes the foreshore from

the Pumping Station to Seaton Channel as well as the dunes and common themselves. The dunes form an important coastal defence feature and are vulnerable to excessive trampling, particularly on the seaward side.

- 6.7 Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI forms part of the wider Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA / Ramsar which is an internationally important site, designated for the birds that it supports. The Seaton Carew Masterplan has been the subject of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to ascertain whether it would have a significant effect on the site. Various factors resulting from the Masterplan were considered and the most notable was the potential for an increase in recreational activity as a result of the plan to increase disturbance to the birds for which the SPA/Ramsar is designated. Mitigation measures that could form part of the Masterplan are considered within the HRA.
- 6.8 Seaton Carew also has designated bathing waters which are an important natural asset for the regeneration and economic revival of the area. These waters are Protected Areas used by a large number of bathers and designated under the Bathing Water Directive. The overall aim of the Directive is to safeguard public health and ensure clean bathing waters.
- 6.9 There are three designated Bathing Waters in Seaton Carew which face the whole of the sea front regeneration area (Seaton Carew North, Seaton Carew Centre and Seaton Carew North Gare). Consideration will be given to the impact of any proposed development on bathing water quality as it is known that failure to do so may impact significantly on tourism and the wider regeneration of Seaton Carew.
- 6.10 Although certain of these natural environment features have the potential to act as a constraint on the Masterplan, they could also be seen as useful assets which enhance the importance of Seaton Carew.
- 6.11 Interpretation to highlight these features could add to the tourist appeal and could also act as mitigation to minimise any potential adverse effects, such as disturbance. Further consideration will be given to the potential for a "Virtual Visitor Centre" i.e. an interactive portal that enables people to link to the natural and heritage features in the wider Hartlepool area. This would, of course, be dependent on there being a suitable facility within Seaton Carew to host it.

7. Seaside Resort Policy Background

- 7.1 The much documented decline of British seaside resorts during last century and the rise of more affordable overseas travel has created a range of economic challenges for coastal resorts and towns. These places however still have a role to play in the tourism offer which in turn is an important part of the UK economy. In 2009 tourism represented a £115.4bn contribution to the economy which equates to 8.9% of GDP.

- 7.2 Recent national policy documents have therefore emphasised the importance of supporting coastal towns and resorts. Coastal areas around the country, although diverse, do share a set of key challenges including physical isolation, deprivation, declining investment and inward migration of older people. The government's view is that while these characteristics are not unique to coastal towns the combination of these issues together with the environmental challenges of coastal towns means that they do require specific focus. Policy includes the English Heritage/CABE report 'Shifting Sands'² that focused on the need to regenerate seaside resorts with high quality buildings and public spaces and the Select Committee Inquiry into Coastal Towns³.
- 7.3 The Shifting Sands report makes a number of recommendations for the regeneration of seaside resorts. The report identified that one of the charms of the English seaside resorts has been the broad base of their appeal. It is important to raise the quality of such areas without losing the character. The importance of using heritage as part of a regeneration strategy is highlighted alongside the need to raise the quality of open spaces. The report identifies that the aim must be to produce effective regeneration for people living within the seaside resorts. It is proposed that places where people want to live and work are likely to be places that people want to visit.
- 7.4 The Select Committee Enquiry identifies the critical importance of the economic regeneration of seaside resorts and the significant role that tourism plays therefore underlining the need to support this sector.
- 7.5 The historic environment can contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing agenda. The North East Historic Environment Forum in its Heritage Counts report 2014⁴ identifies that visiting heritage can improve people's wellbeing. The amount of money which provides the same impact on wellbeing as visiting heritage overall is calculated at £1,646 per person per year. The historic environment has a role to play in shaping distinctive, vibrant, prosperous places. Heritage led regeneration also plays a key role in economic development, creating special places in which to live, work and visit. Heritage is also an important factor for people when choosing where to visit.
- 7.6 Government responses have resulted in focused regeneration funding aimed at coastal and seaside towns including Seachange and the Coastal Communities Fund. The limited size and availability of this funding has meant that in addition to national policy support, more proactive local solutions are also required to address the issues facing coastal towns such as Hartlepool and Seaton Carew.

² Shifting Sands:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/shifting-sands.pdf>

³ Coastal Towns: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmcomloc/351/351.pdf

⁴ Heritage Counts 2014 www.heritagecounts.org.uk

- 7.7 The Government has recently committed to supporting Coastal Communities and has recently put in place “Coastal Community Teams⁵” to bring together local authorities, businesses, charities and communities to work together to tackle the issues facing these areas. Seaton Carew has a designated Coastal Community Team.
- 7.8 The Government also recognises the role of heritage and the important role it plays in the regeneration, economic growth and job creation of seaside resorts and has recently launched the Coastal Revival Fund⁶ to make use of heritage assets to provide both community and economic benefits.
- 7.9 Hartlepool Borough Council is committed to bringing forward the regeneration of Seaton Carew through utilising its own assets and land holdings. The Masterplan links together a number of Hartlepool Borough Council owned sites that will be brought to market and developed in a coordinated way with revenue from the sale of the land and from elements of Section 106 Legal Agreements being reinvested in the regeneration works at Seaton Carew.

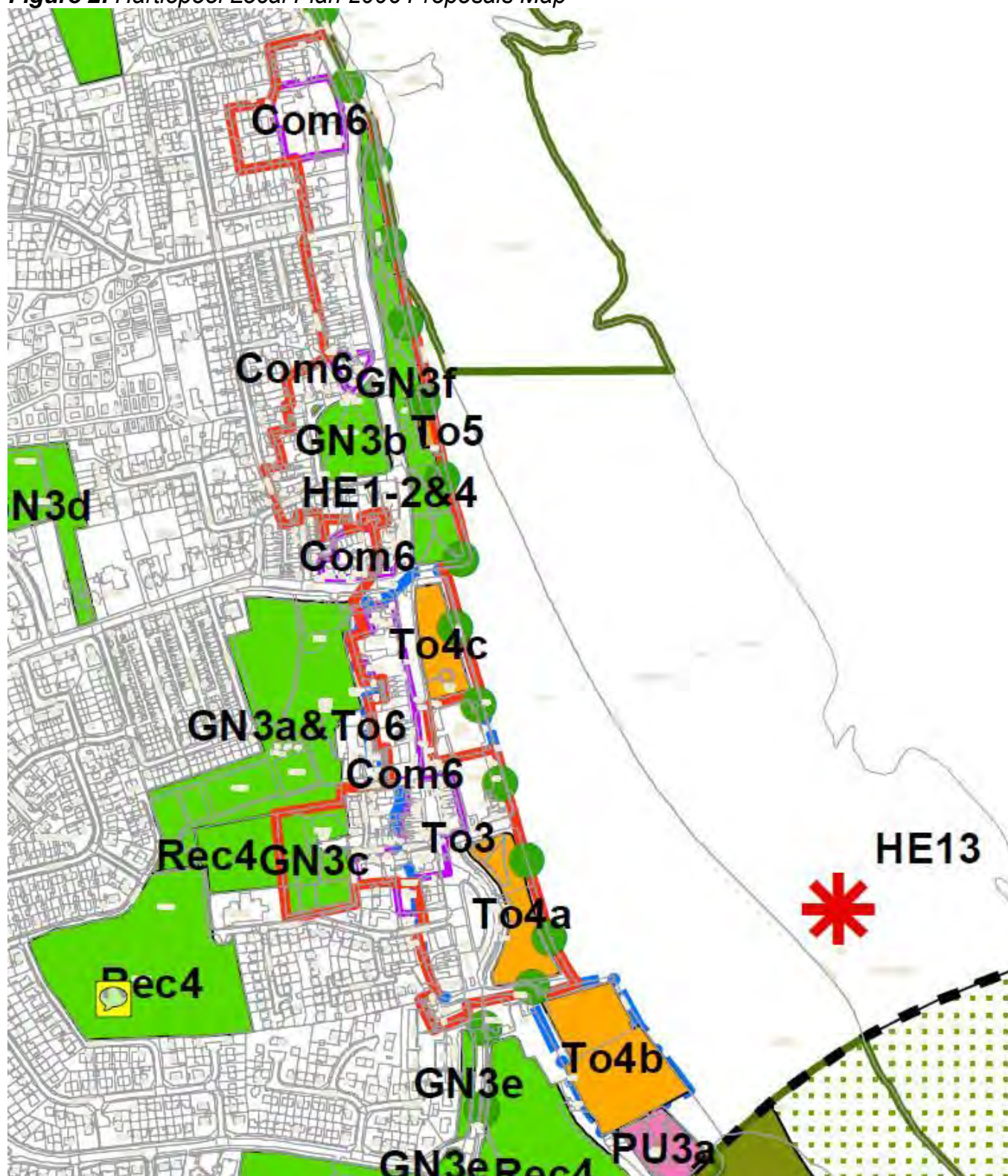
8. Hartlepool Local Development Framework

- 8.1 The Seaton Carew Masterplan sits within the Hartlepool Local Development Framework (LDF). The Hartlepool Development Plan comprises a number of documents. These documents known as Development Plan Documents (DPDs) form the Statutory Development Plan for Hartlepool. They are supported by a range of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) which help to give further advice and information to guide development. The SPD's currently endorsed are:
- Transport and Travel Plans SPD (January 2010)
 - Hartlepool Green Infrastructure SPD (February 2014)
 - Hartlepool Green Infrastructure SPD Action Plan (February 2014)
 - Shop Front and Commercial Frontages Design Guide SPD (December 2014)
 - Trees and Development SPD (June 2013)
- 8.2 The Local Plan is the Key Development Plan document within the Local Development Framework setting out the spatial vision, strategic objectives and land allocations for Hartlepool.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coastal-community-teams-to-take-control-of-seaside-regeneration>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-revival-fund-bidding-prospectus-and-application-form>

Figure 2: Hartlepool Local Plan 2006 Proposals Map



Legend:

- Conservation Areas
- Core Area of Seaton Carew
- Development Sites in Seaton Carew
- Protected Green Spaces & Coastal

- 8.3 **International (SPA/ Ramsar):** The southern boundary of the Masterplan area is immediately adjacent to the internationally important Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area /RAMSAR site (SPA) and its proximity to the Seaton Carew Masterplan results in the need for a “Habitats Regulations Assessment” to be carried out.
- 8.4 **National (SSSI):** Seaton Dunes and Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies immediately to the south of the boundary of the Masterplan area. This is one of the constituent SSSIs of the SPA.

Photograph 4: Seaton Dunes



- 8.5 The Hartlepool Submerged Forest SSSI lies approximately 1km north of the boundary of Masterplan area.
- 8.6 **Regional:** The Tees Valley Economic and Regeneration Investment Plan (TVERIP) are guiding investment in Tourism and the wider economy across the sub region. Both documents indicate the role Seaton Carew has in contributing to the visitor economy.
- 8.7 **Local:** There are currently two Local Sites immediately adjacent to the Seaton Carew Masterplan area.
- 8.8 Long Scar and Little Scar rocks are designated as a Local Geological Site on account of the exposure of red Sherwood Sandstones from the Triassic period.

- 8.9 Carr House Sands is part of the West Harbour and Carr House Sands Local Wildlife Site. This is designated because it supports good numbers of birds, in particular species that are associated with the Special Protection Area. The designation extends to the southern extent of Little Scar rocks.
- 8.10 Whilst a new Local Plan is developed a Planning Policy Framework Justification (November 2014) has been produced to show where it is considered that saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan are in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. The following policies apply:
- To3 Core Area of Seaton Carew
 - To4 Commercial Developments sites at Seaton Carew
 - Rec 9 Recreational Routes
 - Rec 4 Protection of Outdoor Playing Space
 - WL2 Protection of International Nature Conservation Sites
 - HE1 Protection and Enhancement of Conservation Areas
 - HE2 Environmental Improvements of Conservation Areas
 - HE3 Developments in the Vicinity of Conservation Areas
 - Com 6 Commercial Improvement Areas
 - GN3 Protection of Key Green Space Areas
 - WL2 Protection of Nationally Important Nature Conservation Sites
 - WL3 Enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - WL5 Protection of Local Nature Reserves
 - WL7 Protection of SNCIs, RIGs and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
- 8.11 Full details of all of these policies can be found in the “HBC Policy Framework- November 2014” update at www.hartlepool.gov.uk.
- 8.12 The new Local Plan currently being developed will replace the current policies covering Seaton Carew in due course.

9. Planning Obligations

- 9.1 The Local Authority requires Planning Obligations to ensure that developments make a positive contribution to sustainable development by providing social, economic and environmental benefits to the community as a whole. Depending upon the nature of the development the developer may be required to contribute towards Affordable Housing.
- 9.2 Affordable Housing will be required where relevant. The Planning Obligations SPD outlines how the Affordable Housing requirement should be addressed by developers.
- 9.3 In addition to Affordable Housing, the following categories of the Planning Obligations may be required from development proposals:
- Outdoor Sport and Play Facilities
 - Built Sports Facilities
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Highway Infrastructure

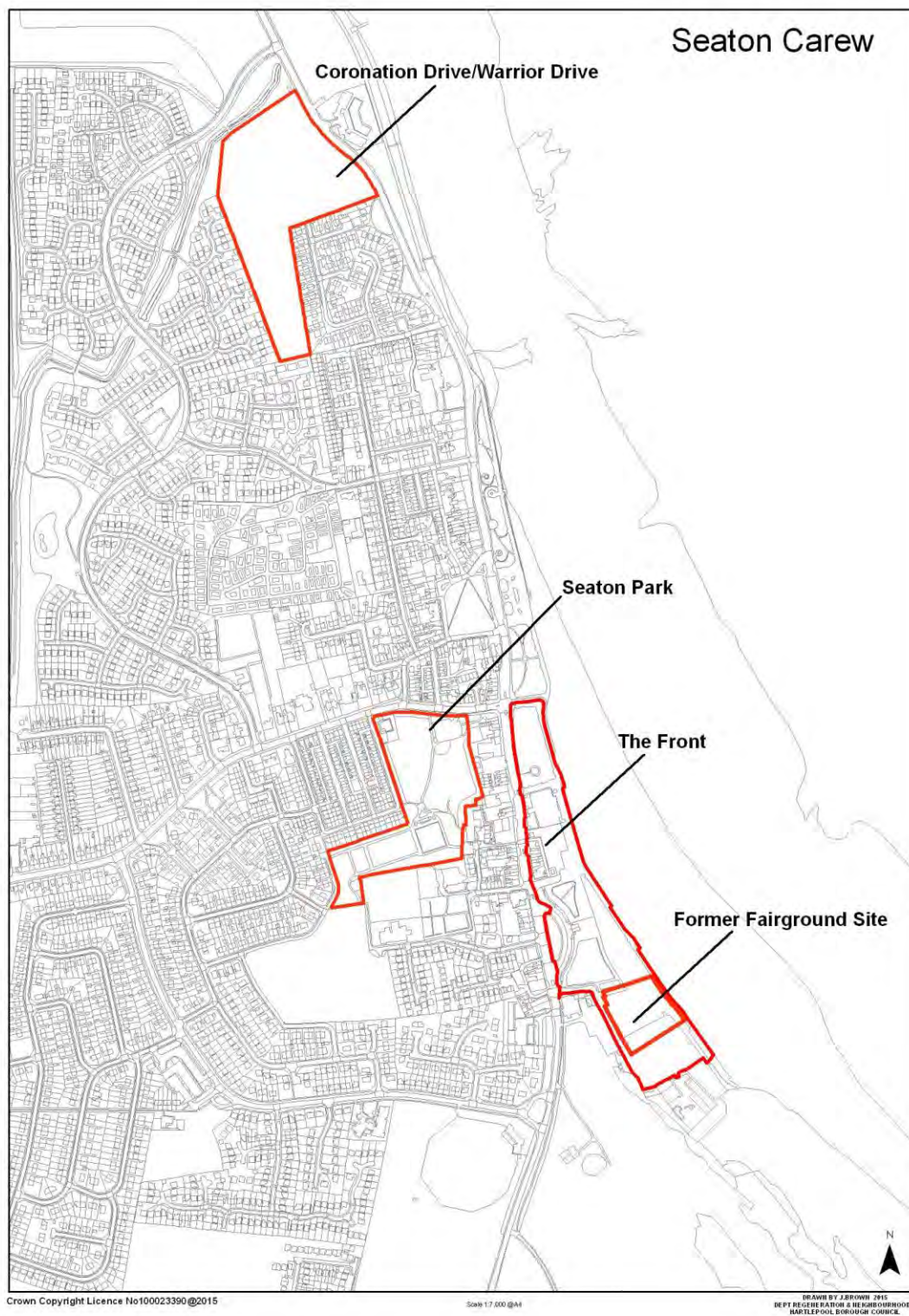
- Community Facilities (including Education)
- Training and Employment
- Heritage
- Improvements to enhance the ecological conditions of the plan area, to provide a green link between the coast and community and to mitigate for potential adverse effects on the SPA.

9.4 For further details, please refer to the Planning Obligations SPD or contact a member of the Planning Policy Team on 01429 284084.

10. Masterplan Area (SPD)

10.1 The Seaton Carew Masterplan area covers development sites across the whole settlement as identified in **Figure 3** including:

Figure 3: Seaton Carew Masterplan Sites



11. Analysis

The Front

- 11.1 The Front primarily serves as a recreational space for the residents of Seaton Carew, Hartlepool and for visitors to the area.
- 11.2 The Front includes a paddling pool set alongside a green open space used seasonally by a fairground, a significant disused property (The Longscar Building) which dominates the seaward side of The Front. To the south of this building is a block of mixed used development including resort related retail provision.
- 11.3 The Council intends to improve both the appearance and functionality of The Front through redevelopment including the clearance of the Longscar Building. The property sits in a highly prominent location on the sea front and has been left in a derelict state for a number of years now. The appearance and size of the structure has a detrimental impact on the surrounding Conservation Area. Over the years public consultation events have always identified it as a key issue in the regeneration of the area. This was again evident during the consultation on this SPD. The Council has sought to reach agreement with the owners and will continue to do so. Should it prove necessary for acquisition of the Longscar Building the Council will consider the use of its powers of compulsory purchase in order to facilitate redevelopment and improvement of The Front in accordance with this Masterplan.
- 11.4 Seaton Carew Bus Station is a Grade II Listed building and a prominent feature. The area has significant on and off street parking provision at the Rocket House car park and Sandy car park. The landward side of The Front includes amusement arcades, two pubs, retail units, a cluster of hot food takeaways and residential use. The built up area behind The Front is dominated by residential, guest house and care home uses.
- 11.5 The Front extends to 11.75 acres and is the main visitor focus and commercial area, located on the A178 between Station Lane and the former Fairground site. The area is defined by Seaton Common sand dunes and the former Fairground site to the South, Hartlepool Bay to the east, Seaton Park to the west and Station Lane to the North.
- 11.6 The Front is the focal point for vehicular, cycle and pedestrian movement. The main A178 connects Seaton Carew to Hartlepool and both the road, and promenade run parallel to the sea and dominate the access in and out of the resort. The other key access points to The Front are via Station Lane and to a lesser extent Elizabeth Way.

- 11.7 Tourist and commercial facilities are located on both sides of the A178. There are pedestrian crossings and protected crossing areas however enhancements to facilitate a safer crossing environment are important.
- 11.8 The A178 is also a designated abnormal load route, due to the access required by heavy industries to the south of Seaton Carew, therefore periodic closures and heavy loads do affect the area.

Photograph 5: Commercial Premises at the Front at Seaton Carew



Coronation Drive Warrior Drive site

- 11.9 The Coronation Drive site extends to 11.98 acres and consists of a large open site located at the entrance to Seaton Carew when approaching from the north and adjoins an existing residential development site.
- 11.10 The Coronation Drive site is an undeveloped site currently serving as informal recreational space. It is a former industrial site and is known to be contaminated with a significant earth mound to the rear of the site. The area is bounded on three sides by residential use.

Photograph 6: Land at Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive



Former Fairground Site

11.11 This site is currently undeveloped and is visually poor quality.

Photograph 7: Fairground Site Seaton Carew



Seaton Park

11.12 Seaton Park provides formal open space play facilities as well as sport and leisure facilities. Seaton Carew library occupies part of the site.

11.13 Seaton Park is situated within the heart of the settlement and provides an alternative to the beach and sand dunes for users seeking open green space. It is situated close to the sea front and was opened in 1962. The park occupies part of what was the Glebe Farm Estate, which was bought by Hartlepool Borough Council in 1949. The Park has a variety of family play attractions as well as sports and leisure facilities in its boundaries including tennis courts, bowling, playing pitches and changing facilities. Seaton Carew Library is also located in the Park.

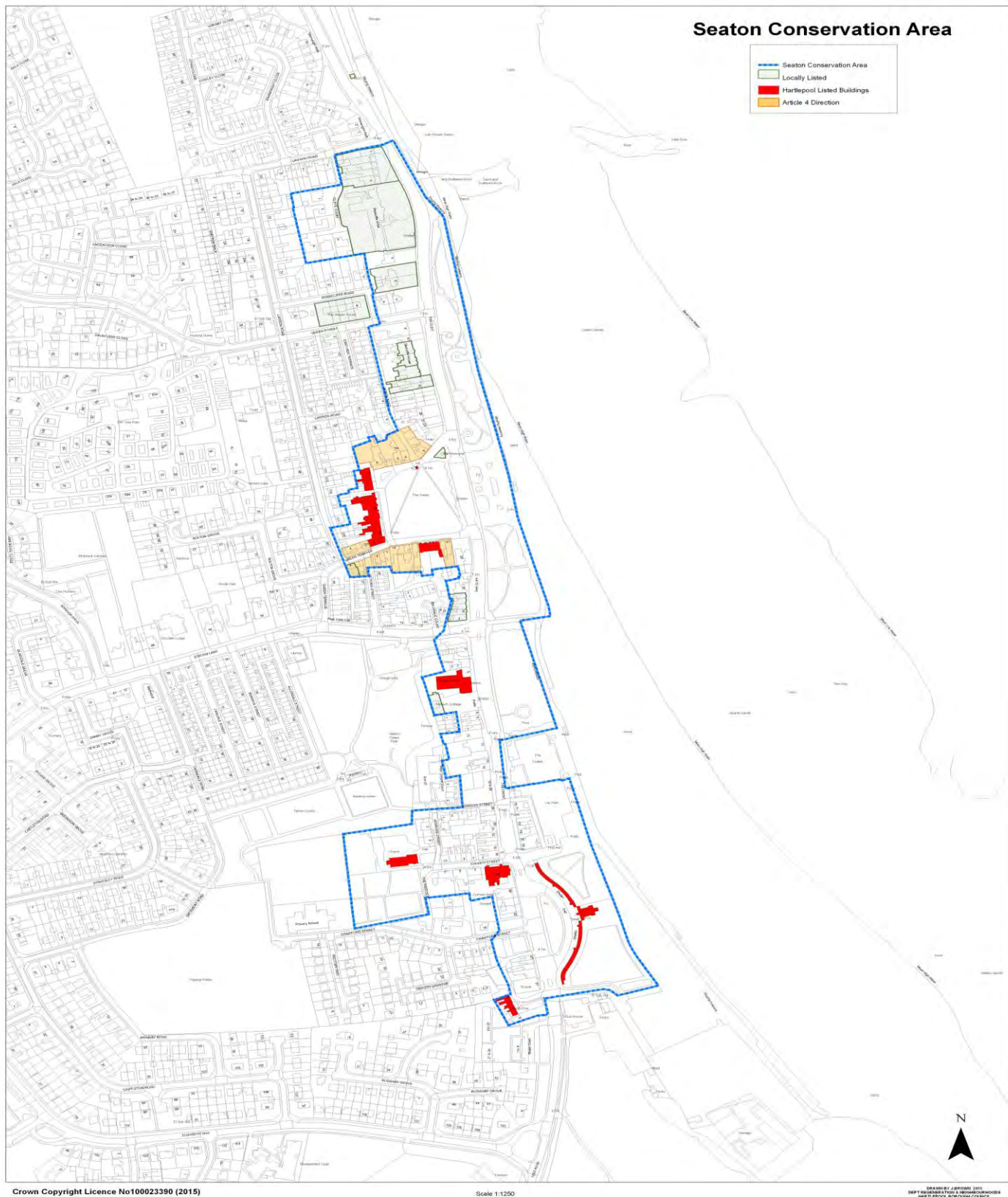
11.14 There is an active residents group known as 'Friends of Seaton Park' who have developed a Masterplan for the park in order to deliver the residents aims and aspirations for this public space. This work extends to organising events in the park which complement the existing visitor offer in the area.

Photograph 8: Seaton Park



11.15 The areas are not contiguous, however these sites are interdependent and form the key development areas of the Seaton Carew Masterplan.

Figure 4: Seaton Carew Conservation Area



12. History of the Conservation Area

Location and Background

- 12.1 Seaton Carew Conservation Area (**See Figure 4**) is located on the coast two miles south of Hartlepool. The Conservation Area was declared in 1969 and subsequently extended in 1976 and 2002. In form the Area consists of a frontage of properties facing out to the North Sea, across a wide expanse of sandy beach (at low tide) with a single road running north south to the front (the A178). This road is divided into two parts at the junction with Station Lane (which comes in from the west) with predominantly residential uses to the north and commercial buildings to the south. A more or less continuous frontage of buildings is formed behind the A178, from Lawson Road in the north to South End at the southern end of the Conservation Area.
- 12.2 This largely continuous frontage is punctuated by The Green, which is a large impressive square of properties set back from The Cliff, and the relatively narrow building-lined Church Street leading up to Holy Trinity Church. The exception to this is a small terrace of properties on the east side of the road at 70 to 79 The Front set with the rear elevations facing the sea. The southern end of the Conservation Area contains a number of listed buildings; including The Marine Hotel, Seaton Hotel and Holy Trinity Church reflecting the quality of the built environment in this area. Just south of this group of buildings is the art deco Seaton Carew Bus Station. The boundary of the Conservation Area skirts tightly around the Longscar Building located north of 70 to 79 The Front.

Photograph 9: *The Norton Hotel- Seaton Carew Conservation Area*

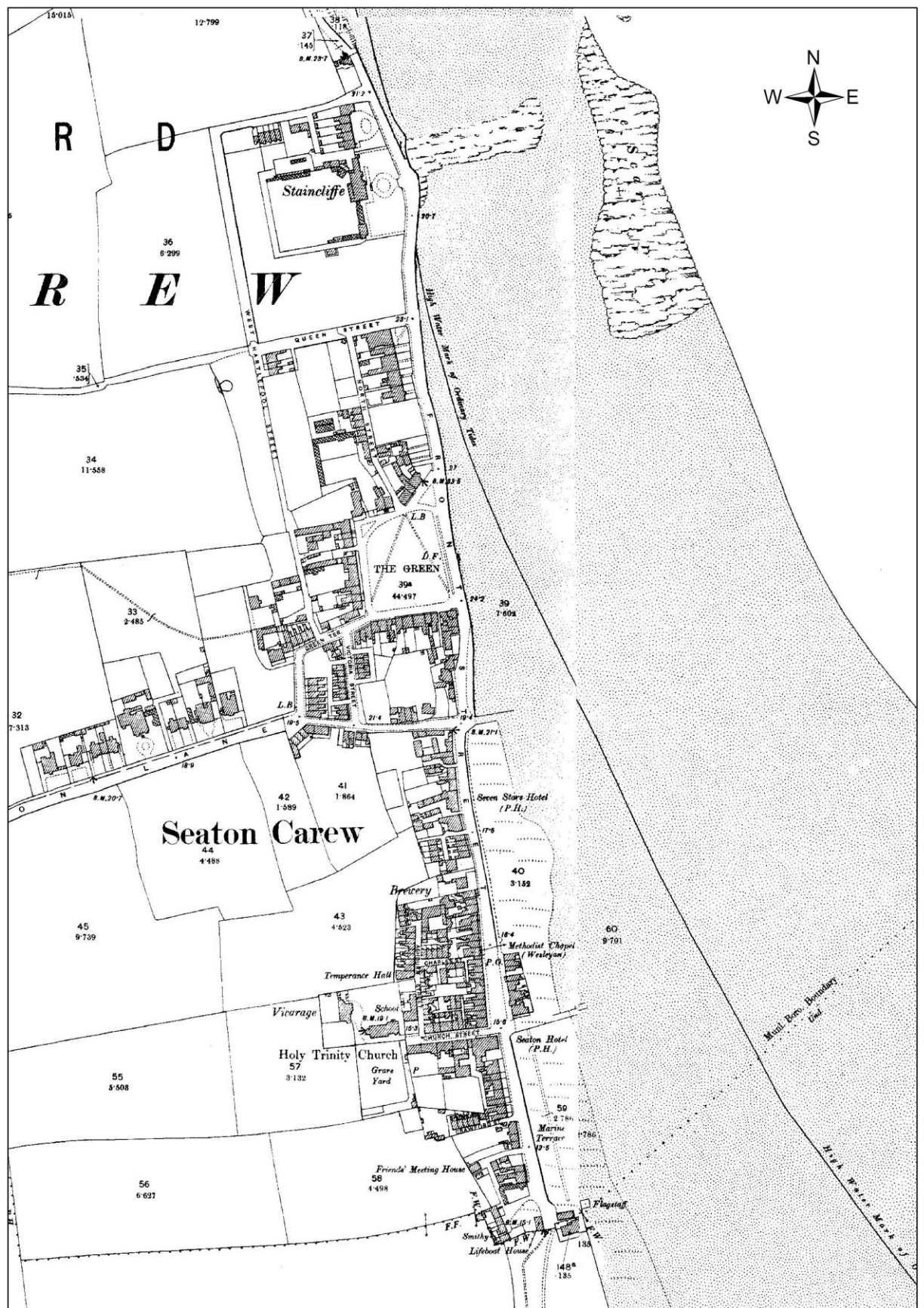


- 12.3 Seaton Carew Conservation Area comprises a number of structures which reflect the settlements early fishing and agricultural origins and its later development as a seaside resort. The earliest buildings are single or two storeys at the most, constructed in random rubble stone, often rendered. Nineteenth century buildings are usually two or three storey, some with traditional gabled dormers to the attic rooms. There are two distinct parts to the Conservation Area which is divided by Seaton Lane. To the north of this the area is predominantly residential and to the south is the commercial centre of Seaton Carew. The significance of the Conservation Area lies in the layout and architectural detailing of the buildings along with the historic interest in the role this seaside area has played in the development of Hartlepool.

History of the Conservation Area

- 12.4 The plan shown in **Figure 5**, dated 1897, illustrates how compact the early settlement of Seaton Carew was concentrated on a narrow strip facing the North Sea. One feature of note from the historic plan is that with the exception of 70 to 79 The Front the sea frontage was clear of buildings. The frontage to the sea was very natural consisting of rough grass and sand dunes bounded by a bird's mouth fence. A more formal promenade layout was introduced to improve the visitor experience over an extended period starting at the southern end of Seaton Carew in the 1870's and eventually completed with the formation of the Esplanade at the northern end in 1905.

Figure 5: Seaton Carew in 1897



- 12.5 The introduction of the promenade created a more formal access adjacent to the sea front. It did not lead to commercial development per se. The open spaces fronting the sea front became somewhat more formalised with mowed grassed areas bounded with pathways, and benches were installed to allow visitors to pause and admire the views. The development that did take place was of a municipal nature with the provision of the bus station and the North Shelter. With the exception of these structures this part of the Conservation Area remained open and free of obstructions.
- 12.6 The short terrace of 70 to 79 The Front are unassuming low rise buildings, in contrast to those which stand directly opposite. There is not a uniform design to the terrace and it has clearly grown incrementally over a number of years but most are two storey, some with bays to the front and others with shop fronts. Upper floors also have additional bays in some cases but in most sash style windows. The exception to this is 79 The Front which punctuates the end of the terrace rising to three stories, but its mix of bay and sash style windows means it has a character which reflects the rest of the terrace it is attached to.
- 12.7 The groups of terraces which are characteristic of this Conservation Area mean that buildings are unable to expand horizontally. For the most part development has been the addition of dormers or offshoot extensions to the rear. Located tightly to the back of the pavement the main view that is seen is the original building form with any new development hidden away, visible in some areas from rear lanes.
- 12.8 There are relatively few detached buildings in Seaton Carew. One is the Longscar Building which is just outside the Conservation Area. It has grown incrementally over the years with the footprint of the building growing to fill the plot to become one of the largest structures within this part of Seaton Carew.
- 12.9 Located to the rear of the plot, and visible on all four sides, the building can be widely viewed from both inside and outside the Conservation Area. The sheer scale of the building means it dominates all those around it. In particular when looking south to view the commercial centre of Seaton Carew the property dwarfs the terraces of The Front which lie behind it.
- 12.10 When walking along the promenade it is the only building which is located to the rear of its plot. For the most part the visitor is able to view the terraces on the opposite side of the A178 across a grassed area similar to the original layout of the settlement. The tall, sprawling Longscar Building obstructs these, meaning it is not possible to enjoy expansive views throughout the area as elsewhere on the promenade when adjacent to the property but instead that view is blocked by wall.

- 12.11 The Longscar Building does not sit within the Conservation Area but as **Figure 4** above shows is excluded from it. In effect it is almost an inset or enclave, surrounded by the Conservation Area but excluded from it.

Conservation Area At Risk

- 12.12 Seaton Carew Conservation Area is considered to be a Conservation Area at Risk due to the character, appearance and preservation of the Conservation Area. Surveys of the area have been completed since Historic England (previously English Heritage), launched the 'At Risk' register for conservation areas in 2009. In 2012 the area was considered to be 'At Risk' and has continued to be 'At Risk' in consecutive years to date.
- 12.13 There are a number of contributory factors which have resulted in the Conservation Area being identified as 'at risk' including:
- Unsympathetic alterations to shop fronts;
 - Increasing use of modern materials which has diluted the fine architectural details on some of the buildings;
 - The Longscar Building, which although outside of the Conservation Area detracts from its setting. The Longscar Building's modern design and prominent position, which is divorced from other buildings, is out of keeping in this locality.
- 12.14 The Conservation Area Visual Assessment 2009 and Seaton Carew Conservation Area Management Plan contain a number of actions for improvement. These proposals would preserve and enhance the Conservation Area and contribute towards removing it from the At Risk Register.
- 12.15 In addition there is a further opportunity to resolve the issues which are placing the Conservation Area at risk through the implementation of "constructive conservation" principles by positively and pro-actively seeking to utilise the heritage of the area to enhance local distinctiveness and attractiveness to residents and visitors.

Longscar Building

- 12.16 Buildings adjacent to the Conservation Area can impact on its significance. The Longscar Building is in the middle of Seaton Carew, although the boundary of the Conservation Area skirts round the property. Constructed in 1967 and subsequently extended in the 1980s the building is of a very different character to the surrounding Conservation Area. Although the building is not in the Conservation Area, by virtue of the boundary running so closely around the structure, it means that the site does impact on the character of the area.
- 12.17 This part of the Conservation Area is characterised by narrow terraced properties, with a vertical emphasis located to the back of the pavement. The majority of the buildings are rendered with slate, pitched roofs. In contrast the Longscar Building has more of a

horizontal emphasis, built in brick with a pantiled roof. To the front of the building is a garden type space and in contrast to other property in the area this is bounded by a wall, topped by railings. Behind this sits the sprawling collection of structures that have developed incrementally over the years. Having frontages to both the seaward and commercial sides of Seaton Carew this property dominates the area and as a result has a detrimental effect upon the character of the Conservation Area. The site is currently unused and as such is the focus of anti-social behaviour.

Photograph 10: Longscar Building at the Front



- 12.18 The building is a contributing factor to the Conservation Area being considered to be 'At Risk'. The following was noted in the 2015 Historic England, Conservation Area Survey, under 'factors threatening the character of the Conservation Area'

'There is a large building on the boundary of the Conservation Area. Built in the 1980s it is not of the same architectural character as the area. It had been used on an ad hoc basis during the summer season but more recently has stood vacant. The property is beginning to deteriorate with loose tiles to the roof where lead flashing has been stolen and generally the property is unmaintained. The state of the building and its location which is in the centre of the Conservation Area, although the boundary of the area skirts round the property, does mean its state generally has a negative impact on the Conservation Area.'

12.19 The Longscar Building has a detrimental impact on Seaton Carew Conservation Area for two main reasons. The incremental extension of the building into the current incoherent group of structures contrasts with the architecture of the Conservation Area. Little of the character of the neighbouring buildings or that of the wider area is found within the design of the property. As a result its location in such a central position means it appears as somewhat of an anomaly in its current location. Furthermore its vacant state has a negative impact on the area, with a dead frontage facing on to the main commercial area and the promenade to the rear, having a detrimental impact on the vitality of the adjacent areas.

12.20 At the present time the building has a negative impact on the character of the Conservation Area. It is considered to be a significant contributing factor to the conclusion that the Conservation Area is at risk. Its removal would, therefore provide an opportunity for a positive enhancement of Seaton Carew. It would remove a property that has a different and adverse character to those within the Seaton Carew Conservation Area. The design is an anomaly within the area; it is both large and has been incrementally developed across the plot to an extent that it dominates the area in which it is located. Its removal would restore unimpeded views to this part of the Conservation Area although this should not be seen as the sole consideration.

Photograph 11: The rear of the Longscar Building from the Promenade



12.21 Furthermore the installation of a Market Square/Events Space as detailed within the Masterplan on the site of the Longscar Building

would restore the openness and permeability of this part of the Conservation Area. This space would reflect the area to the east of the A178 elsewhere in the Conservation Area by providing unobstructed views within this section of Seaton Carew to both the small terrace of properties that are 70 – 79 The Front and allowing views across from the commercial area to the promenade and the sea beyond. This in turn will improve the experience felt when using the promenade in this part of Seaton Carew for similar reasons.

- 12.22 The main arrival area for most visitors is the car park to the side of the Longscar Building. The removal of the property would allow for enhanced connections from this point to the commercial part of Seaton Carew and the promenade.
- 12.23 It would also present an opportunity to enhance the area and reinforce this part of the Conservation Area as one for families. The site is next to the paddling pool area which is the main play offer for families with young children. The provision of the Market Square and the works associated with it would provide a formalised area for activity and a place for meeting which is not currently available. The combination of this and the improved play area would reinforce the character of the area as one of a leisure offer.
- 12.24 Historic England notes and welcomes the fact that amongst the key priorities identified for the regeneration of Seaton Carew is the protection and enhancement of its heritage assets, and the requirement for development to complement them through the robust implementation of strong urban design and “Constructive Conservation” principles.
- 12.25 Given that the primary focus of attention is on The Front, the Seaton Carew Masterplan is explicitly committed to the enhancement of the Seaton Carew Conservation Area and its environs through conservation-led regeneration built on heritage and tradition. Here, the emphasis is on celebrating the culture and heritage of the area and promoting the constructive utilisation of the area’s heritage assets as part of the refreshed offer for tourists and residents alike.
- 12.26 Heritage does not just relate to the buildings within Seaton Carew. It also relates to the character of the resort. Seaton Carew is a Victorian era resort but is now characterised by its low key leisure and recreation offer in comparison to other resorts.

13. Public Consultation

- 13.1 There has been a long history of business and community involvement in the development of the regeneration proposals for Seaton Carew. There have been a number of public consultation events which have helped to shape the proposals.
- 13.2 The public consultation at the Seaton Celebrates event on the 26th July 2014 (See **Appendix 4** for results) identified that the main priorities within Seaton Carew were.
- The need to address the problem of the Longscar Building,
 - The need to improve the appearance of Seaton Carew and
 - The need to develop the visitor offer of the resort.
- 13.3 The public consultation on the draft Hartlepool Regeneration Masterplan SPD was held between the 23rd March to the 15th May 2015.
- 13.4 A total of 378 questionnaire responses were received from businesses, residents and visitors. Responses were also received from Statutory Consultees.
- 13.5 In summary, the Seaton Carew Masterplan proposals received a significant level of support. There was strong support for the aims of the Masterplan including:
- Developing a clean family friendly environment
 - Enhancing public amenities, space and facilities for visitors and residents.
 - Supporting the economic vibrancy of the area.
- 13.6 The main priority for residents, businesses and visitors was the demolition of the Longscar Building due to its impact on Seaton Carew.
- 13.7 A separate **Consultation statement** has been produced which shows the consultation results verbatim. The Masterplan was updated to reflect the results of the consultation.

Issues and Opportunities

14. Issues

- 14.1 *Public Space:* There have recently been significant enhancements to the public space along the Front with works to improve the promenade and planting areas however, the central area is dominated by the Longscar Building which is derelict and highly prominent within the street scene. The negative impact of this property has contributed to reducing the success and popularity of the surrounding public space.

- 14.2 *Legibility:* The Front is the main focus for visitors accessing either the commercial facilities, beach, sand dunes or the promenade. Currently the links through this area to the promenade, beach or main car parks are not clearly identified.
- 14.3 *Movement:* The key concern relates to pedestrian movement across the A178. A 20mph zone is in place through The Front which helps safer pedestrian movement, but as this area is a focus for people with very young families, conflict remains an issue.
- 14.4 *Landscaping:* A number of landscaping schemes have been implemented at different times, however more recently a coherent strategy has been applied to the area immediately to the north of The Front. This assists in signposting pedestrians to the resort.
- 14.5 *Sense of Place:* The Front offers a mixture of attractions and reasons to visit Seaton Carew, from the traditional seaside amusement arcades and fish and chip shops to the natural assets of the sand dunes and beach. The promenade links Seaton Carew to the rest of Hartlepool and the Marina offering a mixture of uses and reasons for people to visit the town. Clear signage and identification of the individual elements through careful design improvements will help to strengthen its character.
- 14.6 *Environment:* The rundown Longscar Building dominates the appearance and perception of The Front. The form, mass and scale of the building is not in keeping with the rest of the built form in the area.
- 14.7 *Car Parking:* There is a need to expand the capacity of car parking in Seaton Carew to meet the demand from visitors.

15. Opportunities

- 15.1 Through consultation with residents, businesses and visitors a list of priorities have been developed, identifying a number of improvements and opportunities to revitalise the area:
- 15.2 *Access:* Access to Seaton Carew via public transport should be maintained. The Current bus service to Seaton Carew especially during evenings and weekend should be preserved and extended. There is also an opportunity to enhance Seaton Carew Station for rail passengers.
- 15.3 *Public Realm and Landscaping:* Scope exists to continue to improve the landscaping, planting and environmental improvements that have already taken place in Seaton Carew. Public realm improvements including the introduction of flexible multi-purpose spaces that can be used for events and outdoor organised activities would add significantly to the resort.

- 15.4 *Environment:* The removal of the Longscar Building would open up the seaward side of The Front and provide opportunities to enhance the public realm.
- 15.5 *Movement:* Improving pedestrian movement along the Front and enhancing the movement across the A178, between retail units and recreational attractions. A key requirement is to improve the function of Seaton Carew as a leisure and commercial destination.
- 15.6 *Legibility:* Opportunities exist to enhance the legibility of the place and create a better relationship and movement between the built environment and the natural assets of the beach, shoreline and dunes.
- 15.7 *Play:* Additional play facilities in the heart of the resort will complement the 'play journey' that already exists along the promenade that links Seaton Carew to Hartlepool. Seaton Carew Park could also incorporate additional play facilities.
- 15.8 *Facilities:* Community Facilities need to be introduced to the park to replace and improve those lost as part of wider development schemes. This will involve the redevelopment of the library to create a "Community Hub" incorporating library, community facilities and other associated services.
- 15.9 *Visitor Facilities:* Opportunities exist to improve visitor facilities in the central area to include more interactive water play facilities, improved public areas together with Beach Huts. Nature Tourism offers opportunities to take advantage of the tremendous natural land/seascape and link-up with RSPB Saltholme and Natural England.

16. Land Ownership

- 16.1 Hartlepool Borough Council own significant areas of land within the Masterplan area. These include the Former Fairground site and Coach Car Park, Bus Station, Rocket House Car Park, Paddling Pool site North Shelter area. Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive and Elizabeth Way sites and Seaton Carew Park.
- 16.2 The major site within the Masterplan in private sector ownership is the Longscar Building. It has been vacant and in a state of disrepair since it closing over 10 years ago. Given the size and nature of this property and its location, its inclusion in the Masterplan is critical. In bringing forward and delivering the objectives of the Masterplan the Council will work with the owners of this building, through agreement or by utilising its planning powers, to ensure this site contributes to the objectives of the Masterplan.

Development and Design Principles

17. The Front (Between Station Lane and Crawford Street)

- 17.1 Any development of The Front should:
- Be high quality and implement “constructive conservation principles” by positively and pro-actively utilising the heritage of the area to enhance local distinctiveness and attractiveness to townspeople and visitors alike.
 - Respond to the need to enhance the Conservation Area in such a way as to allow it to be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.
 - Contribute to the openness of the Front and respect and enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
 - Respect and respond to heritage assets in the area.
 - Respond where necessary to the advice in the Council’s Shop Front Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document
 - Reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Consider the opportunity for high quality public art
 - Development and Design should be sustainable and promote community uses.
- 17.2 Development to the coastal side of the road should primarily promote a range of outdoor facilities to support the leisure, visitor and tourism market to ensure that this area remains a focus for the family visitor market.
- 17.3 It is considered that the clearance of the Longscar Building will be viewed favourably as it would benefit the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- 17.4 Specialist Markets and Events will be encouraged to support local businesses and the visitor economy of Seaton Carew. The intended use for Markets/Events on the new multi-functional Market/Events space has some degree of permanence, but would be sympathetic to the surroundings and a tangible improvement on the existing building. Event Management measures to mitigate any high volumes of traffic will be required where appropriate.
- 17.5 Opportunities exist to achieve the principles of the Bathing Water Directive and maintain Bathing Water quality. It is important to maintain the standards of water quality, environmental management and safety to continue to achieve the Seaside Award Standard which helps to promote visitor numbers and tourism. The Masterplan has an aspiration to achieve the Blue Flag Award Criteria.
- 17.6 There is an opportunity to improve the Coastal approach routes into Seaton Carew along Tees Road and the area west of Coronation Drive to Newburn Bridge. There is also the opportunity to improve the railway approaches into Seaton Carew particularly from the South.

18. Seaton Carew Bus Station

- 18.1 Seaton Carew bus station will remain a bus stop and any development in this area should seek to positively enhance this heritage asset. Further more that development must respond to the need to enhance the wider Conservation Area in such a way as to allow it to be removed from the Heritage at risk register.

Photograph 12: Seaton Carew Grade II Listed Art Deco Bus Station



19 Former Fairground Site

- 19.1 Currently the 'Old Fairground Site' is underused and the Council is keen to bring forward development to enhance Seaton Carew. A range of uses may be appropriate including residential, retail and leisure. The adjacent coach park will continue to operate as a car park and be retained.
- 19.2 The setting of the development site would allow for a whole range of development options. Uses here could include commercial, retail, restaurants, commercial leisure uses and residential. This could range from one large entity with associated car parking and facilities to a number of smaller developments and users occupying the site. A mixed-use cluster style development would be welcome. The size and nature of the site and its prominence to the foreshore would allow a mixture of developments to enhance the development area as a whole.

19.3 Development brought forward for the Fairground site, including residential development will need to reflect the coastal and Maritime setting.

19.4 The site is adjacent to Seaton Carew Bus Station, a designated heritage asset. Any development should consider the setting of this asset.

20. Seaton Carew Park

20.1 Any development in the park should be restricted to community and recreational/leisure uses.

20.2 It is essential that the open character of the park be retained and that any development respects the character of this park and does not compromise the facilities already provided on this site for Seaton Carew residents.

20.3 Access to the site along Station Lane provides two key gateway locations (north-west and north east corners of the site) where entrance features would be appropriate to link The Front to the east and Station Lane to the west of the site.

20.4 The Station Lane frontage must incorporate good design principles respecting the identity of Seaton Carew and the character of the park. Any new development should consider secure by design principles and should make effective permeable links with existing entrances into the park from surrounding residential areas to encourage use.

20.5 Community Facilities will need to be developed to ensure that they are accessible. The proposals for this development should incorporate new/relocated community facilities.

20.6 The existing car park could be utilised and expanded as appropriate. There is scope for small car parks with access coming from Allendale Street and Grosmont Road. Servicing of any buildings which may be erected, will have to be considered. Cycle parking should also be provided.

20.7 Seaton Park lies on seasonally wet deep loam to clay, therefore, there is the potential to create ponds within the park that could benefit wildlife. This could also be used as an education resource for local schools.

21. Coronation Drive

21.1 Coronation Drive should be considered for residential development providing a range of family homes at a density of 25-30 homes per hectare.

- 21.2 As this site is located in a very prominent location along the main approach into Seaton Carew from the north, it is essential that the design of the site, and specifically the North-East corner of the development and the main road frontage, has excellent design standards to act as a gateway into Seaton Carew. Within the site there should be sufficient provision of safe, accessible and attractive open space with permeability throughout the site to allow ease of movement and adopting secure by design principles.
- 21.3 As part of the green infrastructure improvements of development at Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive, there is an opportunity to make a feature of the watercourse. The watercourse should have a buffer zone along the top of both banks to act both as a wildlife corridor and along a pedestrian amenity route. Ponds and SuDs with wildlife features could also be incorporated into the development as multifunctional features.
- 21.4 There is an opportunity to de-culvert the watercourse (130m) to the west of the railway and north of Seaton Lane (Grid reference NZ 51650, 29882) and also across the Esplanade near Warrior Drive at (NZ52212,30904) (100m) which would help with fish passage.
- 21.5 The Warrior Park site could potentially have an archaeological impact as peat deposits (which outcrop on the beach) are known to continue beneath the land in this area. The adjacent site (built c. 1999/2000) encountered the peat at c. 2.5m below present ground surface.

22. Bathing Water and Water Quality

- 22.1 The Masterplan will have regard to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Northumbria River Basin Management Plan. Ensuring sufficient bathing water quality is a key consideration of the Masterplan. Further details can be found within **Appendix 3**.

23. Biodiversity Enhancement and Habitat Creation

- 23.1 In any development, biodiversity enhancements can be incorporated via the planting of locally native species and provenance i.e. more areas of native wild flowers. For example, the current ornamental gardens at Seaton Carew Park could include areas of native plant species. The planting of native plant species are likely to attract and provide habitats for other native species.

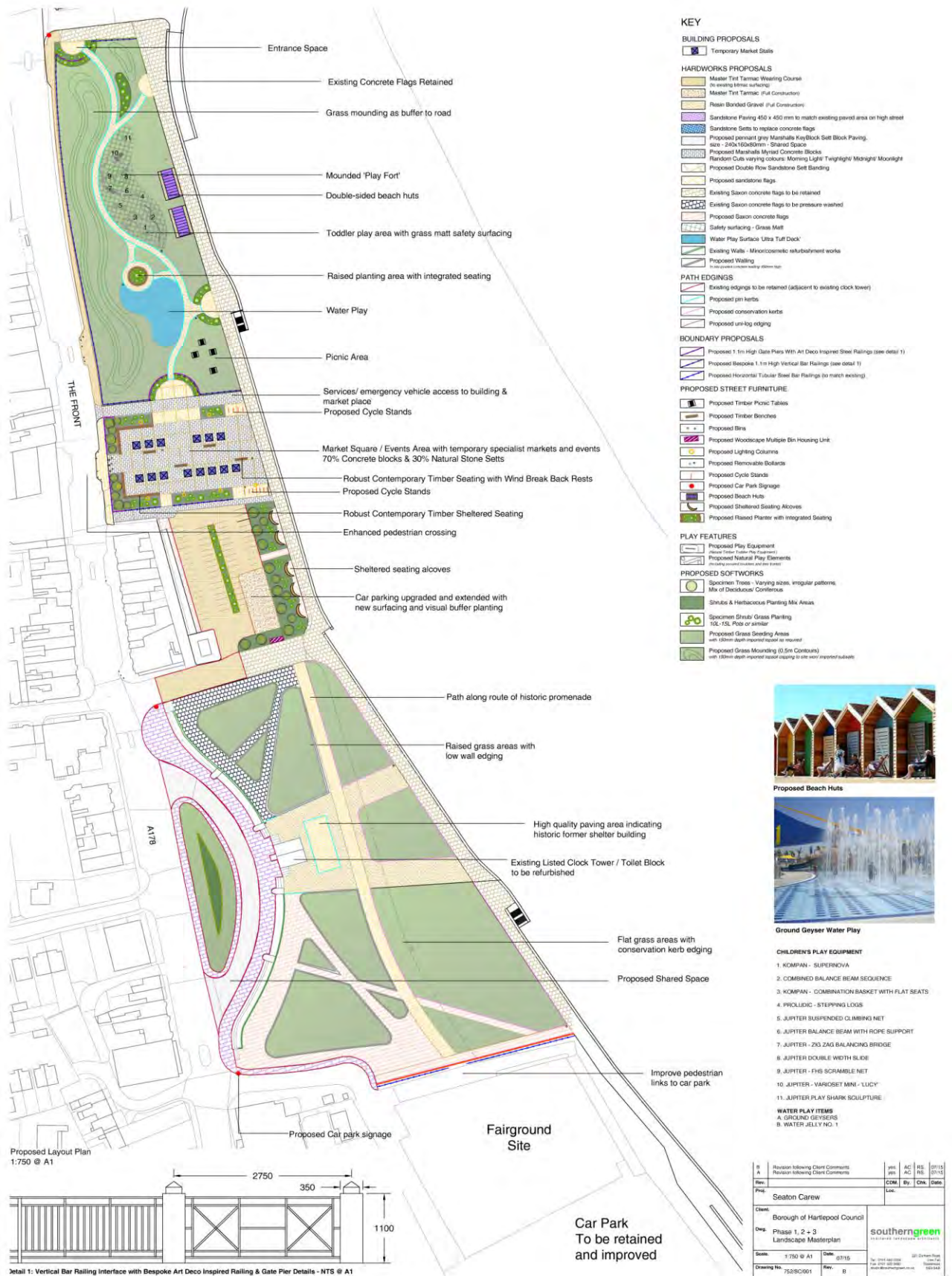
Photograph 13: Seaton Carew Beach



24. Seaton Carew Masterplan Proposals

- 24.1 The Seaton Carew Masterplan has been developed through extensive consultation with residents and businesses to respond to the need to regenerate The Front.
- 24.2 The Seaton Carew Masterplan is detailed within **Appendix 1** has been designed to:
- Respect and enhance the appearance of the Conservation Area;
 - Contribute towards the openness of the seaward side of the The Front;
 - Promote a range of outdoor facilities to support the visitor offer of the area.
- 24.3 The Seaton Carew Masterplan includes:
- New outdoor visitor facilities that will support the recreational use of the sea front, beach and promenade.
 - Development of a multi-functional high quality market/events space creating a new gateway to the seafront.
 - A new leisure area incorporating children's play facilities including a water play and natural play areas.
 - Enhancement of the Grade II Listed Bus Station improving the functionality of the surrounding space, reflecting the historic layout of the promenade.
 - The removal of the Longscar Building.
 - Double sided beach Huts which contribute to the visual enhancement of the area.

APPENDIX 1: Seaton Carew Masterplan



SEATON CAREW - SEAFRONT REGENERATION



Phase One 3D Visualization 1

Phase One 3D Visualization 2



Beach Huts



Market Stalls



Ground Geysers



Bespoke Play Fort

Area One

Development of a multi-functional new high quality market/ events space with raised planters, varied seating opportunities with shelter from the elements, lighting and cycle parking creating a new gateway to the seafront. The space should have a strong design philosophy reflecting the unique art deco styling of the nearby listed bus shelter and clock tower which would be evident in the design of boundaries and entrances.

Area Two

Development of a new leisure park incorporating exciting new children's play facilities including a water play area and natural play area. A meandering footpath would run through the park north to south and undulating grass mounding would provide a visually sensitive buffer to the road. Double sided beach huts and picnic tables could be installed adjacent to the promenade providing surveillance of the adjacent play areas and attractive views across the beach. Car parking provision adjacent to the market place would be upgraded with new surfacing and surrounding buffer planting.

Area Three

Enhancement of the setting of the listed building and improving the functionality of the surrounding space. This would involve resurfacing of the deteriorating bus lane surfacing and reflecting the historic layout of the promenade through use of neatly mown grassy areas and upgrading of surfacing materials and edging. The space would be kept open to allow for flexible use for potential events.

Key

- 1 Entrance/ arrival space
- 2 Grass mounding as buffer to road
- 3 Mounded 'Play Fort'
- 4 Double-sided beach huts
- 5 Toddler play area with grass matt safety surfacing
- 6 Raised circular planting area with integrated seating
- 7 Equipped water play area
- 8 Picnic Area
- 9 Services/ emergency vehicle access to building & market place
- 10 Market Square / Events Area with pop up stalls
- 11 Robust Contemporary Timber Seating
- 12 Proposed Cycle Stands
- 13 Car parking upgraded and extended and with new surfacing and buffer planting
- 14 Sheltered timber seating alcoves
- 15 Path along route of historic promenade
- 16 Raised grass areas with low wall edging
- 17 High quality paving area indicating historic former shelter building
- 18 Existing Clock Tower / Toilet Block to be refurbished
- 19 Flat grass areas with conservation kerb edging
- 20 Potential car park link
- 21 Proposed Car park signage

southerngreen
chartered landscape architects

SEATON CAREW - SEAFRONT REGENERATION

CHILDREN'S PLAY - INDICATIVE PLAY ELEMENTS

1 KOMPAN - SUPERNOVA



2 COMBINED BALANCE BEAM SEQUENCE



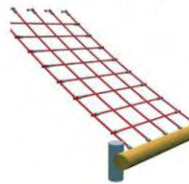
3 KOMPAN - COMBINATION BASKET WITH



4 PROLUDIC - STEPPING LOGS



5 SUSPENDED CLIMBING NET



6 BALANCE BEAM WITH ROPE SUPPORT



7 JUPITER - ZIG ZAG BALANCING BRIDGE



8 DOUBLE WIDTH SLIDE



9 JUPITER - FHS SCRAMBLE NET



10 SPRING ROCKER "CROC" x 2



11 COMBINED PLAY STRUCTURE



12 BESPOKE MOUNDED 'PLAY FORT'



WATER PLAY ITEMS - INDICATIVE WATER ELEMENTS

A WATER JELLYS



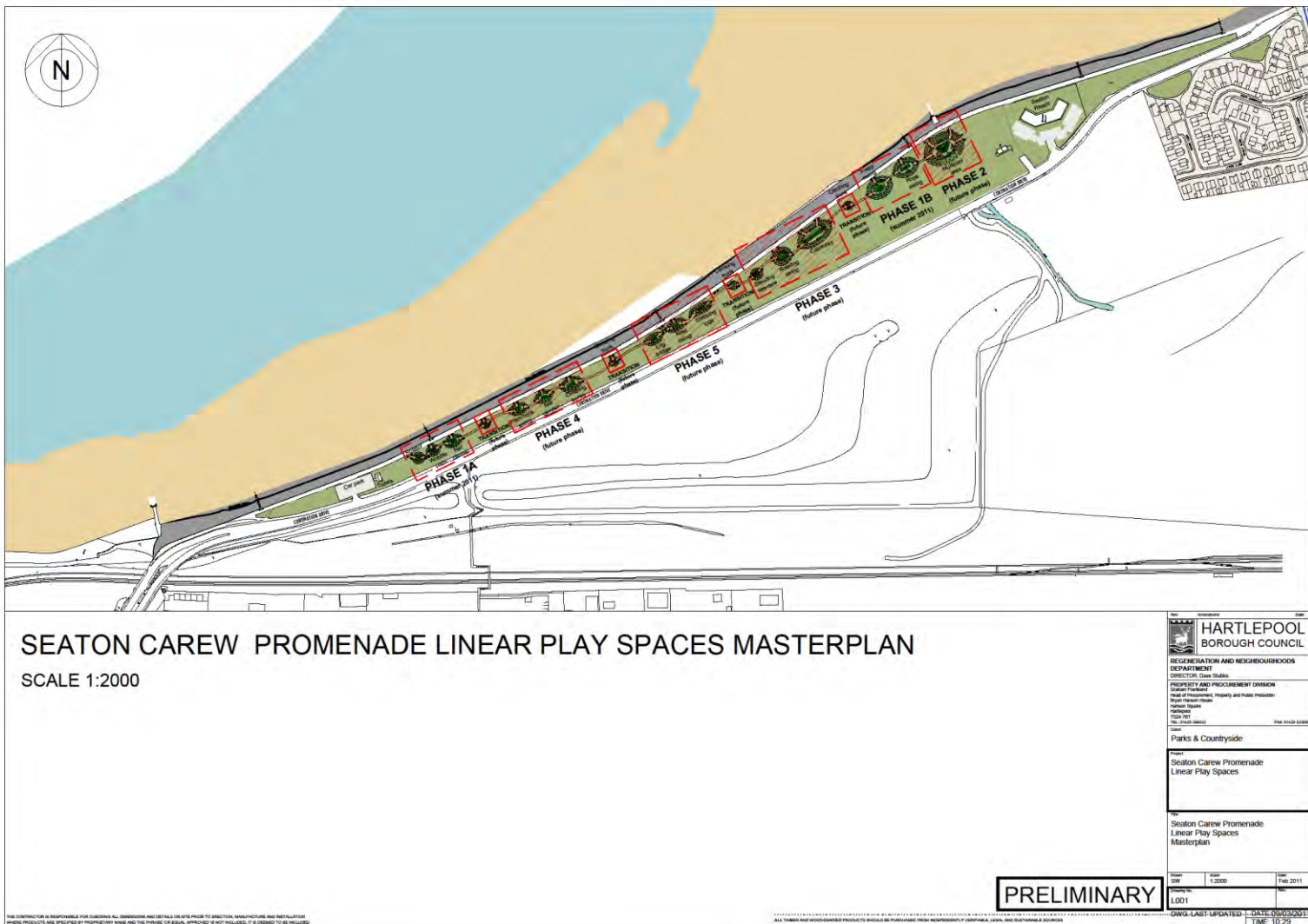
B GROUND GEYSERS



C NON-SLIP PLAY SURFACING



APPENDIX 2: Coronation Drive Play Builder Masterplan



APPENDIX 3: Sewerage, Flooding, Water Quality and Land Contamination

a) Flood Risk, Climate Change and Coastal Erosion

Consider potential flood risk, climate change and coastal erosion mitigation measures.

b) Sustainable Drainage Systems

The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will be encouraged. Well designed sustainable drainage systems can reduce the impact of domestic wrong connections by providing passive treatment of organic wastes which support bacterial communities.

c) Fast Food and Restaurant Developments

Satisfactory bathing water quality and a clean beach play a significant role in the tourism focus of the area. Some tourism developments, notably fast food outlets and restaurants, have the ability to introduce large amounts of fat oils and greases into the sewerage systems. Uncontrolled releases can lead to blockages and surcharge of foul sewage not only to rivers and coastal waters, but to promenades and walkways.

Any new development must be designed and built to an adoptable standard and connected to the public sewerage system. In addition appropriately designed fat traps and relevant management procedures will be a requirement for any new fast food or restaurant development.

d) Land Contamination

If breaking of the ground is proposed or importation of additional material, then an assessment of the risks to controlled waters posed by any potential contamination present should be undertaken.

The risk management framework provided in CLR11, Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination is followed when dealing with land affected by contamination.

The Council should refer to the Environment Agency 'Guiding Principles for Land Contamination' for the type of information required in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site.

e) Groundwater

If mains drainage systems are proposed to dispose of either surface or foul water, details will be needed, together with a risk assessment proving that the scheme will not pose an unacceptable risk of pollution to the Sherwood Sandstone principle aquifer, which underlies the area and is an important source of groundwater.

f) Sewerage

Any design / build should consider separate sewerage systems for surface water and foul water. Any sewage discharges or loads could increase the likelihood of Bathing Water Directive compliance sample

failures, which in turn could have a negative impact on tourism in the area and the classification of the Bathing Waters.

Private Sewerage Infrastructure: The Masterplan will require any new development to be connected to the public sewerage system.

Public Sewerage System: The Masterplan will seek to ensure that any new development is closely examined to ensure that adequate capacity is available or provided in order to prevent deterioration in bathing water quality.

g) Water Quality

The WFD is an European Legislation designed to protect and enhance the quality of our rivers, lakes, streams, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters, with a particular focus on ecology. The overall aim of the WFD is to ensure that all waterbodies achieve 'good status' by 2021 and to prevent the deterioration in the status of the waterbodies.

The WFD overall waterbody status is currently "Moderate", which is less than the required standard of "Good". Any opportunities to enhance the waterbodies through removing culverts, naturalising modified stretches and improving habitats would be beneficial. In addition, the use of permeable paving, swales and SuDS, where appropriate, to manage surface water flows will also help to mitigate potential pollution from spills and sedimentation. In particular, it is important that the Masterplan ensures the achievement and maintenance of at least satisfactory bathing water quality in coastal waters as defined by the Bathing Water Directive, and good ecological quality as defined in the WFD.

Particular emphasis will be given to water quality, which is key to achieving the standards of the Bathing Water Directive. The new Bathing Water Directive (BWD) introduces more stringent standards which will be reported at the end of the 2015 Bathing Water season.

APPENDIX 4: Seaton Celebrates Consultation Results

Seaton Carew Regeneration - The Front

Please tell us how you feel about the following statements

Answer Options	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know	Response Count
There is a need to improve the appearance and attractiveness of The Front, Seaton Carew.	1	1	0	7	87	0	96
There is a need to address the problem of the Longscar building	0	0	0	5	91	0	96
The development of small retail or cafe / restaurant business units and children's wet and dry play facilities at The Front in Seaton Carew will attract more visitors.	0	0	0	5	90	0	95
answered question							96
skipped question							1



Seaton Carew Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Statement.

Introduction

- The Regeneration Services Committee approved the public consultation on the Seaton Carew Masterplan on the 12th March 2015.
- The consultation on was held for 8 weeks between 23rd March 2015 and 15th May 2015

Methodology

- A Press release was sent out by Hartlepool Borough Council's Public Relations Team (Press release PRO36367) and articles appeared in the Hartlepool Mail on 25th March 2015 and April 3rd 2015 and the Northern Echo on the 25th March 2015.
- Letters were hand delivered to all businesses at the Front in Seaton Carew, Seaton Reach and the Elizabeth Way shops on 2nd April 2015.
- Copies of the SPD and questionnaires were also available in Seaton Carew Library, Hartlepool Central Library and the reception at Hartlepool Civic Centre.
- A presentation on the plans was also given to Hartlepool's Conservation Area Advisory Committee on the 11th March 2015.
- The questionnaire was sent to the Hartlepool Online Panel on the 26th March 2015 and details of the consultation appeared in Hartlepool Borough Council's Newslines publication which is circulated to all staff.
- A web page and electronic questionnaire using the survey Monkey Programme was available on the Council's website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/seatonspd.

Consultation Responses

- The table below shows the consultation responses verbatim and the subsequent changes that will be made to the SPD.
- A total of 378 questionnaire responses were received from businesses and residents, 7 responses from the statutory consultee list, 3 responses from Hartlepool Borough Council departments and 3 e-mails from residents.
- The Statutory Consultees consulted were:
Civic Trust Civil Aviation Authority, Crown Estate, Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Durham Heritage Coast, EDF British Energy, EDF Energy, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Greatham Parish Council, Grindon Parish Council, Hart Parish Council, Hartlepool Countryside Volunteers, Highways Agency, Homes &

Community Agency, Marine Hotel, Marine Planning Team, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Natural England, NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, RSPB, Seaton Carew Golf Club, Seaton Carew Sports and Social Club, Sport England, Stockton Borough Council, Tees Archaeology Service, Tees Valley Unlimited, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Teesmouth Field Centre, The Crown Estate, Trimdon Foundry Parish Council, Trimdon Parish Council, Wingate Parish Council, Wolviston Parish Council.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Historic England Statutory Consultee 1	1. <u>Introduction and Context</u> Section 1.1 sets out the overriding aims and objectives for the masterplan. Historic England notes and welcomes the fact that amongst the key priorities identified for the regeneration of Seaton Carew is the protection and enhancement of its heritage assets, and the requirement for development to complement them through the robust implementation of strong urban design principles.	Noted
		Given that the primary focus of attention is on The Front, the SPD should more explicitly commit to the enhancement of the Seaton Carew Conservation Area through conservation-led regeneration built on heritage and tradition. Here, the emphasis should be on celebrating the culture and heritage of the area and promoting the constructive utilisation of the area's heritage assets as part of the refreshed offer for tourists and residents alike.	Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.
		Section 1.2 makes reference to recently undertaken sea defence improvements in the heart of the resort. If, as I assume, these works required planning permission, Historic England has no	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Historic England	record of having been consulted.	
		<p>Section 1.6 helpfully acknowledges the value which seaside resorts still have in economic terms as justification for carefully managing their built heritage. It should be noted, too, that the historic environment can contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing agenda, something which I am aware is of particular interest to the people and politicians in Hartlepool. This theme was explored by the North East Historic Environment Forum in its Heritage Counts report last year. Research found that visiting heritage sites makes people happy - the monetary value of this impact on wellbeing being estimated at £1,646. We are told that 'old buildings gladden the heart: their aesthetic pleasures make people feel substantially better' [Rachel Cooke, Observer, 29 November 2014]. Further information can be found on the following website:</p> <p>www.heritagecounts.org.uk/</p>	Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.
		<p>2. <u>Hartlepool Local Development Framework (LDF)</u> We are advised that the Local Plan (2006), as part of the LDF, contains the spatial vision, strategic objectives and land allocations for the next 15 years. It has not yet been replaced. Paragraph 1.9 of that Plan indicates that it covers the period up to 2016, not the next 15 years from now implied here.</p> <p>Section 2.1 sets out the prevailing planning policy framework</p>	<p>Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Historic England	<p>within which the SPD will sit. It identifies those policies saved from the Local Plan 2006 which still apply to the study area. On the face of it, the policies deemed applicable appear to be selective, in that Policy To5: North Shelter has been saved but not thought to be relevant going forward. The SPD would be assisted were reasons given for applying some saved policies but not others.</p> <p>Section 2.2 concerns planning obligations. In addition to heritage being a legitimate recipient of Section 106 monies it is accepted that public realm works can also be a beneficiary.</p> <p>3. <u>Masterplan Area</u> This section outlines the masterplan coverage. The Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive site is not given its own numbered section. As a general observation, the SPD would benefit considerably from photographs highlighting particular issues, buildings and features.</p> <p>4. <u>Analysis</u> Section 4.1 deals with land use. Within consideration of The Front is a description of the conservation area. Whilst Figure 4 shows the extent of the conservation area, it would be helpful were it to show other heritage assets, including those on the Local List and others which are not designated, and the extent of the area to which the Article 4 Direction relates.</p>	<p>this comment.</p> <p>Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Historic England	<p>Section 4.3 sets out the issues and opportunities the area presents. This commentary should acknowledge that the conservation area is currently at risk, suggesting the need for a customised action plan aimed at removing it from the register. The conservation area does benefit from a very useful Visual Assessment which also contains a number of actions for improvement. This should be viewed as a starting point for any planned enhancements in the conservation area being promoted through this SPD, and at the very least there should be some cross-reference to it. If current thinking as regards The Front is now at variance with the actions in the Visual Assessment, the SPD is the means by which this evolution can be set out, articulating in the process how current proposals will preserve or enhance the conservation area and assist with removing it from risk.</p> <p>Clearly, what is currently seen as an issue/problem in relation to the conservation area also presents an opportunity to resolve these issues and problems through the implementation of 'constructive conservation' principles - positively and pro-actively seeking to utilise the heritage of the area to enhance local distinctiveness and attractiveness to townspeople and tourists alike.</p> <p>5. <u>Land Ownership</u> No comments.</p>	<p>Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Historic England	<p>6. <u>Development Principles</u> As opined above, development principles for The Front should respond to the need to enhance the conservation area in such a way as to allow it to be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register. Rather than simply being 'sympathetic' to the character of the bus station, new development in association with it should seek to positively enhance the heritage asset. The Council need not be afraid to be bold and ambitious where heritage assets are concerned - the critical issue is usually one of securing a sufficiently high quality solution.</p>	Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.
		<p>7. <u>Design Principles</u> This section, notwithstanding the seeming lack of aspiration in the previous section, gives much clearer and ambitious instruction in relation to the heritage of the area - instilling the need for development to complement (see 7(i)(d)) and reinforce existing character, and to respect and respond to the heritage assets in the area.</p> <p>Sections 6 and 7 contain no principles for the Elizabeth Way site.</p> <p>The SPD should promote the need for development to respond, where necessary, to the advice in the Council's Shop Front Design Guide SPD and any associated saved Local Plan policies.</p>	Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.
		<p>8. <u>Proposals</u> The current suite of consultation documents contains two which</p>	Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Historic England	<p>do not elide. The SPD currently contains information regarding the development of The Front. It is, however, at odds with that contained within the call to 'help shape the major regeneration of Seaton Carew'. The SPD contains no information regarding the development of the other sites in scope, although the other consultation document includes a plan for Elizabeth Way which for some reason is not to be found in the SPD.</p> <p>For the record, Historic England has no substantive comments or observations to make in respect of the Elizabeth Way site, or the Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive site. Proposals for the Seaton Park site have the potential to impact upon the conservation area and as such we retain an interest in what may occur in respect of it.</p> <p>9. <u>Figures</u> See various comments above.</p>	<p>this comment.</p> <p>Noted and the SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>
	<p>Highways Agency</p> <p>Statutory Consultee 2</p>	<p>Highways England operate the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The closest point to the above area is the A19 at its junction with the A689 Woolviston. Development put forward should be incorporated into the wider Hartlepool Planning process and transport impacts for any of the development sites highlighted should be mitigated through including generated traffic forecasts into the local plan and planning applications detailing any material transport impact at the SRN generated by the development.</p> <p>With the nature of the development being largely visitor focussed,</p>	<p>Noted. Event management will be referenced within the SPD</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Highways Agency	which does not concentrate traffic into peak hours, and the distance of the development from the SRN, it is likely that the normal traffic generated will not exceed capacity at the SRN. However, should there be periods of high volumes of visitor traffic, for example the Tall Ships event, it may be wise to consider event management measures to mitigate peaks.	
	Stockton Council Statutory Consultee 3	Thank you for consulting the Council on the Draft Seaton Carew Masterplan. The Council do not have any specific comments on the contents of the document.	Noted
	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Statutory Consultee 4	Redcar and Cleveland Borough council have no specific comments to make on the SPD and that your general approach is supported.	Noted
	Natural England Statutory Consultee 5	The Draft Seaton Carew Masterplan SPD appears to have been completed before the details of the developments as listed in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) had been finalised. Therefore to ensure a greater join-up with the HRA, the SPD should be updated to reflect this. <u>Section 2.1 Planning Policy</u>	Section 2.1 Noted and the SPD will be amended to reflect comments.
		There are some inaccuracies regarding the tiers of sites in the	Noted and the HRA will be amended to reflect

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Natural England	<p>“International” paragraph. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are nationally important and so the reference to these in the header should be removed. Although Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI is also designated as Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site, this should be placed into a “National” paragraph, although the link between the levels of designation can still be acknowledged. Hartlepool Submerged Forest SSSI should also be referenced in a “National” paragraph.</p> <p>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)</p> <p><u>Appropriate Assessment</u></p> <p>Natural England have identified a number of area for improvement which are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 surveys were undertaken between September 2010 and March 2011 to establish the extent that SPA birds were using the foreshore in front of Seaton Carew. Natural England is aware of further data that could be used to gain a wider and more up-to-date view in relation to SPA/SSSI birds and human disturbance which should be used if appropriate. It would be advantageous to show the location of range of any surveys used to inform the HRA on a map. The further data includes: 	<p>comments.</p> <p>Noted and the HRA will be amended to reflect all of the comments outlined.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seaton Sands and North Gare Bird Survey (July 2012 - February 2013); DBC ○ Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC) data ○ Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Core Counts for Seaton Sands Count Sector (extends from northern edge of Seaton Carew/Little Scar south to North Gare Breakwater (1993-2014)) and North Gare Sands Count Sector (extends from North Gare Breakwater south to southern edge of sands at mouth of Seal Sands (1993-2014)) ○ Bird and Human Activity on Seaton Carew Beach (September - November 2010); DBC ○ Bird Disturbance Log - Seaton Carew Pumping Station (September - November 2010); DBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to the proximity of the proposed development to the beach and the fact that many dog walkers walk their dogs twice a day, it is likely that your assumption that dog walkers will use the beach once a day is an underestimate and that two trips to the beach a day for dog walkers would be a more realistic worst case scenario when assessing impacts on SPA/SSSI birds through recreational disturbance. ● Noise and visual disturbance (such as through lighting) as a result of the construction and use of the proposed 	

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Natural England	<p>development should be considered in relation to SPA/SSSI birds both within the SSSI/SPA boundaries and also using functional land out-with the designated site boundaries as well as recreational disturbance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run-off from the proposed development should be considered in relation to damage to the SPA/SSSI or adjacent areas of land of functional importance for SPA/SSSI birds. The details of this issue can be resolved as part of the information submitted for any subsequent planning application. <p>Natural England do not have any fundamental concerns regarding the conclusions of the HRA, subject to the modification of the HRA to satisfactorily address our needs.</p>	
	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Statutory Consultee 6</p>	<p>1.1 Aims and Objectives</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that the overriding aims and objectives are amended to explicitly identify the importance of designated Bathing Waters and water quality. Bathing Waters can improve the areas image and promote tourism. Therefore, we would support the inclusion of an objective which seeks to achieve the principles of the Bathing Water Directive and maintain Bathing Water quality. This objective should be incorporated throughout the masterplan.</p> <p>With respect to biodiversity, we would welcome the inclusion of</p>	<p>Noted, the overriding aims and objectives will be amended to explicitly identify the importance of designated Bathing Waters and water quality through the inclusion of an objective which seeks to achieve the principles of the Bathing Water Directive and maintain Bathing Water quality.</p> <p>Objectives which seek to protect and</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	objectives which seek to protect and enhance the natural environment. This is consistent with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).	enhance the natural environment will be included.
		1.2 Complimentary Projects This section identifies other major projects currently being developed. It should be noted that the sea defence improvement scheme has already been delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council. This should be reflected within the masterplan.	The SPD will be updated to reflect the sea defence reference.
		1.5 Natural Environment This section makes reference to protected areas. However, no reference has been made to designated Bathing Waters and the potential they have in the regeneration and the economic revival of the area. It is recommended that this is referenced within the masterplan.	Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this.
		2.1. Planning Obligations We note that Planning Obligations already include Green Infrastructure and Heritage. We recommend that planning obligations are used to facilitate improvements to enhance the ecological conditions of the plan area and to provide a green link between coast and the community.	Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this.
		3. Masterplan Area <u>Former Fairground Site</u> The majority of this site is located within flood zone 1, which is at	Noted and if the site is brought forward further

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	low risk of flooding. However, a section of the site is located within flood zone 3, which is at risk of flooding. The Council should be able to provide evidence that a sequential approach to growth has been taken to steer development away from areas at risk of flooding. Any development would need to pass the Sequential Test (and Exception Test as applicable) prior to permission being granted.	evidence on flood risk to support the application will be produced.
		The site will benefit from the new coastal defence works detailed on page 5. However, it is important that the site specific Flood Risk Assessment considers the standard of protection offered by the new sea defence and residual risk of overtopping and/or breaching. The impacts of such an occurrence would need to be assessed as part of the FRA. Other sources of flooding will also need to be considered as well as emergency evacuation.	Noted
		<u>The Front</u> Parts of the site are located within flood zone 3, which is at risk of flooding.	Noted
		The Council should be able to provide evidence that a sequential approach to growth has been taken to steer development away from areas at risk of flooding. Any development would need to pass the Sequential Test (and Exception Test as applicable) prior to permission being granted.	
		The site will benefit from the new coastal defence works detailed	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	<p>on page 5. However, it is important that the site specific Flood Risk Assessment considers the standard of protection offered by the new sea defence and residual risk of overtopping and/or breaching. The impacts of such an occurrence would need to be assessed as part of the FRA. Other sources of flooding will also need to be considered as well as emergency evacuation.</p> <p><u>Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive</u> This area forms part of an historical landfill site (licence returned 1987) that accepted domestic and commercial waste, incinerator ash and waste from the construction industry.</p> <p>This landfill site permit was issued to Hartlepool Borough Council Borough Surveyor and Engineer, in 1977 for the disposal of domestic and commercial waste, incinerator residue and waste from the construction industry. The licence was surrendered in March 1987.</p> <p>This site is known, from some early gas monitoring undertaken by Cleveland County Council, to be generating potentially significant quantities of landfill gas. The Environment Agency has no recorded information with regards to possible presence of landfill gas within the site. Responsibility for landfill gas monitoring at this historic site, lies with Hartlepool Borough Council. The monitoring results may be available from your public health department.</p> <p>As outlined in our letter to Hartlepool Borough Council in</p>	<p>Noted. A full and detailed site investigation be carried out prior to any development taking place ensuring that any necessary steps are undertaken to remove or overcome contamination.</p> <p>Noted. A full and detailed site investigation be carried out prior to any development</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	September 2011 regarding the Seaton Carew Development and Marketing Brief, we would strongly suggest that housing developments are NOT built on Coronation Drive. It is also highly recommended that a full and detailed site investigation be carried out prior to <i>any</i> development taking place. If flammable or asphyxiant gases (primarily, but not exclusively, methane and carbon dioxide) are encountered then appropriate steps should be taken to negate any potential threat from this to any developments.	taking place.
		Comments in relation to land contamination are detailed within the general comments section of this letter.	
		<p>4.3 Issues and Opportunities</p> <p>With regards to biodiversity, we would welcome the inclusion of references which encourage biodiversity enhancement and habitat creation opportunities. We have identified the following biodiversity enhancement opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In any development, biodiversity enhancements can be incorporated via the planting of locally native species and provenance i.e. more areas of native wild flowers. For example, the current ornamental gardens at Seaton Carew Park could include areas of native plant species. The planting of native plant species are likely to attract and provide habitats for other native species 	<p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an opportunity to de-culvert the watercourse (130m) to the west of the railway and north of Seaton Lane (Grid reference NZ 51650, 29882) and also across the Esplanade near Warrior Drive at (NZ52212,30904) (100m) which would help with fish passage. With respect to Seaton Park, the park lies on seasonally wet deep loam to clay, therefore, there is the potential to create ponds within the park that could benefit wildlife. This could also be used as an education resource for local schools. As part of the green infrastructure improvements of development at Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive, there is an opportunity to make a feature of the watercourse. The watercourse should have a buffer zone along the top of both banks to act both as a wildlife corridor and along a pedestrian amenity route. Ponds and SuDs with wildlife features could also be incorporated into the development as multifunctional features. <p>7. Design Principles Consideration needs to be given to the impact of Bathing Waters from direct or diffuse discharges, such as mis-connections and non-mains drainage. Domestic wrong connections can contribute towards poor bathing water quality in coastal areas. Any design / build should therefore consider separate sewerage systems for</p>	<p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	<p>surface water and foul water. Any sewage discharges or loads could increase the likelihood of Bathing Water Directive compliance sample failures, which in turn could have a negative impact on tourism in the area and the classification of the Bathing Waters.</p> <p>We would welcome the inclusion of a design principle which encourages the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Well designed sustainable drainage systems can reduce the impact of domestic wrong connections by providing passive treatment of organic wastes which support bacterial communities.</p> <p>Given the flood risk associated with two of the development sites, we would support the inclusion of a design principle which takes into consideration potential flood risk, climate change and mitigations measures. We would also support the inclusion of a design principle which takes into account coastal erosion.</p> <p>Seaton Carew Masterplan phase 1 The diagram on page 21 states the Environment Agency will be providing new paving to the promenade. These works have already been undertaken and were delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council. Therefore, the diagram should be amended to reflect this.</p> <p><u>General comments</u></p>	<p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	<p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>The masterplan must have regards to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Northumbria River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>The WFD is an European Legislation designed to protect and enhance the quality of our rivers, lakes, streams, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters, with a particular focus on ecology. The overall aim of the WFD is to ensure that all waterbodies achieve 'good status' by 2021 and to prevent the deterioration in the status of the waterbodies.</p> <p>The WFD overall waterbody status is currently "Moderate", which is less than the required standard of "Good". Any opportunities to enhance the waterbodies through removing culverts, naturalising" modified stretches and improving habitats would be beneficial. In addition, the use of permeable paving, swales and SuDS, where appropriate, to manage surface water flows will also help to mitigate potential pollution from spills and sedimentation.</p> <p>Bathing Water and Water Quality</p> <p>The masterplan states that the key primary assets of Seaton Carew are the beach and the sea and that Seaton Carew is a key tourism asset within Hartlepool. We agree with this assessment. However, it is considered that the masterplan does not adequately reflect this assessment as references to the Bathing</p>	<p>Noted. The diagram will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	Water Directive and bathing water quality are absent. The masterplan must therefore have regard to objectives of the Bathing Water Directive and bathing water quality.	
		Bathing Waters are Protected Areas used by a large number of bathers and have been designated under the Bathing Water Directive. The overall aim of the Bathing Water Directive is to safeguard public health and ensure clean bathing waters.	Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.
		There are three designated Bathing Waters in Seaton Carew (Seaton Carew North, Seaton Carew Centre and Seaton Carew North Gare). The whole of the sea front regeneration area faces the three Seaton Carew Bathing Waters. Therefore, it is vital that consideration is given the classification of the Bathing Waters and the impact of any proposed development/masterplan on bathing water quality. Failure to maintain designated Bathing Waters may have significant impacts on tourism and on the regeneration of Seaton Carew.	Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.
		In particular, it is important that the masterplan ensures the achievement and maintenance of at least satisfactory bathing water quality in coastal waters as defined by the Bathing Water Directive, and good ecological quality as defined in the WFD.	Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.
		Particular emphasis should be given to water quality, which is key to achieving the standards of the Bathing Water Directive. The new Bathing Water Directive (BWD) introduces more stringent	Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	<p>standards which will be reported at the end of the 2015 Bathing Water season. There is a risk that the bathing waters within the plan area may fail the revised directive. Therefore, ensuring sufficient bathing water quality should be a key consideration of the masterplan.</p> <p>Public Sewerage System Sewage collection and treatment infrastructure is in place in and around Seaton Carew to minimise the discharge of untreated sewage to Seaton Carew streams and coast. This infrastructure includes a number of permitted overflows to allow sewage to discharge with some or no screening in times of wet weather, electrical or mechanical breakdown.</p> <p>Seaton Carew is at the downstream end of this sewage collection infrastructure. New development within not only Seaton Carew but the wider Hartlepool conurbation served by this infrastructure may result in an increase in the frequency and amount of sewage overflow at Seaton Carew, which would have adverse implications on the Bathing Waters.</p> <p>Valley Burn is culverted beneath Mainsforth Industrial Estate before discharging to a foul sewage pumping station at the north end of Seaton Carew from where it is directed to Seaton Carew Sewage Treatment Works. Periods of heavy rainfall and high flow in Valley Burn contribute to this pumping station overflowing to a short sea outfall.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	<p>The masterplan should seek to ensure that any new development is closely examined to ensure that adequate capacity is available or provided in order to prevent deterioration in bathing water quality.</p>	<p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>
		<p>Private Sewerage Infrastructure Private discharges of sewage effluent are permitted into The Stell at Seaton Carew. Although such discharges are likely to have little or no effect on the overall coastal bathing water quality, they may impact on the quality of this watercourse as it runs across the beach. The Council may wish to consider requiring any new development to be connected to the public sewerage system.</p>	
		<p>Fast Food and Restaurant Developments Satisfactory bathing water quality and a clean beach play a significant role in the tourism focus of the area. Some tourism developments, notably fast food outlets and restaurants, have the ability to introduce large amounts of fat oils and greases into the sewerage systems. Uncontrolled releases can lead to blockages and surcharge of foul sewage not only to rivers and coastal waters, but to promenades and walkways.</p> <p>The Council may wish to consider requiring any new development to be designed and built to an adoptable standard and connected to the public sewerage system. In addition appropriately designed fat traps and relevant management procedures should be a requirement for any new fast food or restaurant development. We</p>	

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	<p>would welcome consideration of this matter within the masterplan.</p> <p>Land Contamination The masterplan fails to take into consideration the issue of land contamination. Therefore, it is recommended that the masterplan has regard to the land contamination.</p> <p>If breaking of the ground is proposed or importation of additional material, then an assessment of the risks to controlled waters posed by any potential contamination present should be undertaken.</p> <p>We also suggest that the risk management framework provided in CLR11, Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination is followed when dealing with land affected by contamination.</p> <p>The Council should refer to the Environment Agency 'Guiding Principles for Land Contamination' for the type of information required in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site. The Council's public health department can advise on the risk to other receptors such as human health.</p> <p>Groundwater If non-mains drainage systems are proposed to dispose of either surface or foul water, details will be needed, together with a risk assessment proving that the scheme will not pose an</p>	<p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be updated to reflect this comment.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Statutory Consultee Responses	Environment Agency	unacceptable risk of pollution to the Sherwood Sandstone principle aquifer, which underlies the area and is an important source of groundwater.	
	Tees Archaeology Statutory Consultee 7	<p>I have read the document online and have no major comments or objections.</p> <p>The area of seafront redevelopment is likely to have no impact on archaeological deposits as the area is all reclaimed land. There are no known archaeological sites at the Elizabeth Way site.</p> <p>The Warrior Park site could potentially have an archaeological impact as peat deposits (which outcrop on the beach) are known to continue beneath the land in this area. The adjacent site (built c. 1999/2000) encountered the peat at c. 2.5m below present ground surface. The only time that peat was disturbed by the development was during the installation of pipework for the pumping station. I am presuming there would be a similar clearance on this site and this could be confirmed if borehole information is available.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted. The SPD will be update to reflect this comment.</p>
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Manager	<p>1. Water play proposals – Unfortunately the extensive experience we have with coastal facilities like this suggest the proposed water play experiences will be problematic and are highly likely to fail in their current format. Attached are some detailed observations from the Legionella team</p>	Noted.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	HBC Consultee 1 Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Manager	<p>and our Quality Safety Officer who oversees the running of the current facilities at Seaton and the Headland. Some scheme alterations/ options are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User group needs. Water play is an exciting opportunity for young children to engage in. Our current paddling pool caters specifically for the toddler age group which needs a safe space overseen by parents/ guardians. We ensure this area is fenced to provide some piece of mind to users and prevent straying of toddlers into potentially hazardous zones like the road or promenade with bikes etc. Fencing also helps deters problems with littering and dogs entering the facility. We would always insist consideration is given to these problems in any new scheme design. - Sand and maintenance of clean water are not compatible. - Seasonality of provision. Outdoor Water play is subject to seasonal availability due to the weather so with the aim of providing year round attraction we would urge consideration of other play equipment/ play spaces not dependent upon water also to be incorporated in to provision in the vicinity. 	<p>The design will be amended to reflect the safety comment. A fence will be included within the designs.</p> <p>Noted. The design will be amended to reduce maintenance requirements. A grey water system will be included.</p> <p>Agreed. Alternative play equipment will be included within the designs for toddlers and juniors.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paddling pool retention. Ideally Seaton Master Plan – Phase 1 retains the existing paddling pool but refurbishes it with a new colorful waterproof lining (circa £12K). Phase 1 also considers the fencing/ security of users issue discussed above. We would also urge the provision of suitable themed toddler/ junior play equipment for year round interest for families visiting the area. - Making water play work. Seaton Master Plan – Phase 2 If the decision is taken to go for a water play development this needs to be incorporated into a semi-indoor covered space to prevent the problems we have identified with water quality. The exact look of this we leave to others to investigate but we are thinking something like a steel/ glazed covering with a side facing the sea where a wall of folding doors can be opened up on good days. A development like this might attract commercial interest for its upkeep and future investment and tie into the other commercial facilities suggested on the master plan. Also by being covered/ enclosed it has the potential to be less seasonally dependent and thus contribute to the economic viability of the area year-round. - Toddler and Junior play provision. We would urge you to consider in both the phase 1 and phase 2 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. An indoor space is not appropriate for this location. Windbreaks will however be investigated.</p> <p>Noted. Future phases of the Masterplan will include additional Playbuilder equipment</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Manager	<p>schemes to consider greater toddler/ junior play provision in this area of the scheme. The linear Playbuilder play site with further investment will cater for younger children and teen provision.</p> <p>2. Seaton's linear Playbuilder play site further investment, barriering to create safe play space, child safe road crossings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further investment in the 'linear Playbuilder play site' along the promenade would be highly desirable given its popularity year round with families. - Fencing/ Barriers. In addition consideration to provide fencing/ barriering in the same area along the side of the road adjacent to the play site/ green space to physically separate it from Coronation Drive and provide a safe child friendly play green space for games would be welcomed. - Safe road crossing points. With any proposed housing provision on the west side of Coronation Drive it would be prudent to expect a developer to provide for traffic light controlled crossing points for children to use to access the linear play site facilities on the promenade. 	<p>along the promenade.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Crossing improvements' will be included within the revised designs.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Manager	<p>3. Rocket House Car parking to rear of proposed 'commercial centre' and south side of 'Market Square'. Existing traffic flow issues have been identified that need to be designed out of any new scheme (see Quality Safety Officer observations in attached email).</p> <p>4. Beach Lifeguard base and beach observation facilities – Lifeguard station near Rocket House is not identified on plan or provision made in master plan scheme.</p> <p>5. Rocket House restoration – This is an important support facility for beach events and training and needs investment for upgrading and general refurbishment.</p> <p>6. Beach Chalets – Construction considerations and necessity for fire retardant materials (see Quality Safety Officer observations in attached email).</p>	<p>Noted. The designs will be amended to address the traffic flow issues.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Opportunities for investment in the Rocket House will be investigated.</p> <p>Noted. Fire safety will be an important consideration in the design of the Beach Chalets.</p>
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Quality and Safety Officer HBC Consultee	On the phase 1 plan it is proposed to make the paddling pool into a sand pit, it would be better to leave it as a paddling pool because I would imagine there would be complaints, the kids can make sand castles on the beach anyway and most parents / guardians like the idea of not having to supervise the children as closely as they would have to if they took them paddling in the sea. Also the shore line is some distance away and I know Sunderland made their pool into a sand pit and they have to sterilise the sand daily and make it safe from glass, dog fouling	Noted. The designs will be amended and the paddling pool will not be turned into a sand pit to reflect the concerns.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	2 Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Quality and Safety Officer	<p>etc. We empty and refill the paddling pool daily so any glass etc is removed easily instead of having to rake through sand.</p> <p>Only thing I want to add to HBC Legionella Team Leader's comments regarding water feature would be the constant cleaning and maintenance of any water spray nozzles, the sand and salt will block them.</p> <p>Other observation are:</p> <p>Beach chalets need to be constructed with fire retardant materials, we had chalets years ago and they were removed due to vandalism and fires. I have a Blyth contact, if required I can ask if they've had any problems.</p> <p>What is planned for Rocket House? I would imagine it's listed and within the conservation area. This building does have some historical value, being the location the RNLI used to set off the Rockets to notify members to launch the rescue boat early in the last century. It needs a damp course, external re-rendering / painting and new windows.</p> <p>Looks as if the Beach Lifeguards have not been considered. Where is the lifeguard Station which also acts as the point for first aid, lost children and drinking water? These are provisions required for any beach awards (Seaside Award / Blue Flag). Lifeguards could they be based in the commercial building with a</p>	<p>Noted. See comment above.</p> <p>Noted. The refurbishment of the Rocket House will be considered as part of the regeneration proposals.</p> <p>Noted. See comment above. The signage and ways to improve the coach Park will be investigated. A review of car parking will be undertaken.</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Parks and Countryside Quality and Safety Officer	<p>lookout tower? If this was to be considered the Commercial Centre would need to be closer to the prom.</p> <p>Finally central car parking is an issue, the Coach Park which is to be retained is sufficient to hold the number of visitors, however people insist on parking nearer to the attractions which cause congestion problems in the central parking area, the plan states this area is to be extended but I still envisage parking congestion and more disabled spaces are required, with more parking enforcement. Like the idea there is one entry / exit into this car park, at the moment the one way system is not enforced causing near collisions and problems getting out of the car park. Parking in areas not designated as parking needs to be enforced in this area, particularly the entrance and exit of this car park.</p>	A review of car parking will be undertaken.
Council Department Response	<p>Hartlepool Borough Council Legionella Team Leader</p> <p>HBC Consultee 3</p>	<p>If this goes ahead in the scale that the proposal seems to suggest then;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We have a duty of care to protect our staff and the members of the public from Legionella bacteria & to maintain bathing water quality. 2) The current method of using rapid release chlorine tablets and regular draining of the paddling pool will be insufficient and would, if adopted, fail miserably. 3) This feature will need a full water treatment program in 	<p>Noted. The safety and maintenance of the water play facility will be investigated to design out any risks. Opportunities to recycle water will be investigated.</p> <p>Noted</p>

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Legionella Team Leader	<p>place (in-line with the original specification at Block Sands) and we all know what happened to that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such systems might be fine in-land but they struggle to handle the specific problems associated with the seaside. • Seagulls, ducks etc love to roost on these patches of water and contribute a huge impact on chlorine demand. • The 'exhaust' from these birds will find itself on the sand filtration system and the whole unit will become an incubator for various, potentially pathogenic, bacteria – see Block Sands • There always will be a tremendous amount of littering which will also add to the organic loading of the pool – se Block Sands • Experience has shown that these ponds become a means for locals to wash their boots, dogs, bikes etc. – see Block Sands • The lovely little children bring various pieces of the beach to play with in the pool – rocks, sand, sea weed & livestock – see Block Sands • It will become a regular bubble bath when various people lob in a bottle of washing-up liquid – as occurs a Wesley Fountain. 	

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response	Hartlepool Borough Council Legionella Team Leader	<p>4) All those factors from item (3) will ensure that the feature will require close monitoring to maintain even the basic water quality. I would expect at least twice per day.</p> <p>5) The need for routine maintenance on pumps & electrics (moth balling the plant in winter and commissioning in the Spring.</p> <p>6) There will be a need for routine microbiological sampling and the associated costs.</p> <p>7) If it is decided to go down the 'routine drain down' route the pure size of the pool will incur significant water charges and problems with downtime whilst it is drained and refilled. I would suspect that this would be unpopular with the Members when the locals start revolting. Not forgetting that such volumes will be subject to neutralisation and possibly discharge consent.</p> <p>8) I'll leave you to worry about dog fouling & the slips, trips and falls issues.</p> <p>9) Finally, from a Legionella point of view I can imagine it being subject to intense scrutiny and when we do isolate the bacteria, which we will, there will be a huge amount of bad publicity as had occurred in other Councils up and</p>	Noted. The safety and maintenance of the water play facility will be investigated to design out any risks. Opportunities to recycle water will be investigated.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Council Department Response		down the length of the British Isles. Don't forget the fountain outside the Seaburn Hotel ended up being a huge plant pot. This feature will end up being a white elephant.	
Economic Regeneration Forum Business Response	Economic Regeneration Forum Business Representative Email1	Having reviewed the plan presented at the meeting, I agree with the proposed developments and hope that progress can be made with the Longscar Hall situation as this is a blight on the landscape! A couple of suggestions from me would be to extend the promenade into the marina as currently not easy for cyclists to get to and from without dismounting and would increase footfall to restaurants and cafes from cyclists. A another facility/attraction could be along the lines of the Barclays bikes in London, where by hire cycle hubs could be placed at both marina and seaton carew, with a variety of cycle maps for families to hire which again would connect both areas together and make it seamless.	Noted
Resident E-Mail	Email 2- Resident	In principle I think what is being proposed is a fantastic long overdue idea. the only thing I would personally disagree with is the need to build houses on the car park behind the golf club, this has got to be the most ridiculous place to put housing I have ever heard. Surely the resort as a whole would benefit much more by some sort of entertainment based attraction being built on this site that would attract out of town visitors. The priority of the whole proposal however has got to be the demolition of the longscar centre. Has their been any thought to extending the	Noted. The Longscar is a key priority for the SPD. The SPD will be updated to include the approaches to Seaton Carew.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Resident E-Mail		resort to the north to provide other possible attractions to draw in visitors??	
Resident E-Mail	Email 3 - Resident	<p>We've just been taking a look at the master plans for Seaton Carew and want to feed back that we think there should be a championship grade mini golf course included somewhere in the plans.</p> <p>Your website here states that you were planning to include mini golf http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/200079/regeneration/1704/seaton_carew_masterplan/1</p> <p>But the only mention in the consultation paper is a mention of the sports domes which is quite different.</p> <p>Since first playing a round of mini golf last summer up at Newcastle (http://www.parklandsgolf.co.uk/play/mini-golf/), we were hooked. We enjoy the wild west themed course at Adventure Valley in Durham (http://adventurevalley.co.uk/gallery/adventure_valley_golf) and made a point of playing as many courses as possible on a trip to Scotland last summer. Our favourite from Scotland was Jurassic Parr in Glasgow (http://www.worldofgolf.co.uk/golf-centres/glasgow/jurassic-parr/) - the but there were also courses in Broddick and Dunfermline.</p>	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Resident E-Mail	Email 3-Resident	<p>Our favourite courses of all are the two championship mini golf courses which have helped to regenerate the sea front at New Brighton on the Wirral. I'd urge you to read up about it or take a fact finding trip over there to see how the courses have really been key to the regeneration - it's the main reason why any of our friends or family would take the trouble of travelling an hour to visit the town. The first course is an 18 hole course based on the best holes from real world championship courses. The second course was added last year and is based on a theme of local landmarks and history. Have a read through the comments on facebook (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Championship-Adventure-Golf/156452377853621) or tripadvisor (http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g528777-d4550495-Reviews-Championship_Adventure_Golf-New_Brighton_Wirral_Merseyside_England.html) to see how popular they are with a wide range of ages.</p> <p>The reason why I'd suggest mini golf is because it's great fun when the course is done well. It brings in money and provides employment and good courses offer loyalty cards - get your sixth game free! Families enjoy the game and I've often returned with friends or cousins who want to take on the challenge. Anything which could encourage people to return time and again, tell friends and bring them along, get people to spend money and provide jobs should be considered so please take a look at some of the other courses out there and consider it in the final plans.</p>	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Resident E-Mail	Email 3-Resident	<p>We've also played some smaller courses in the region - there is one on the sea front in South Shields and one in Barnard Castle. Both courses seemed popular while we were there but I felt that the courses were a bit cramped and neither were full 18 hole courses so the games were over rather quickly and didn't seem to be quite such a good deal so we'd be less likely to be back.</p> <p>Doesn't have to be a sea front thing if you can signpost people to the park. The New Brighton course works quite well because it is located in a sheltered dip below the road and sea wall so it is out of the wind.</p>	Noted
Q1. Would you like to see any other areas included within the Seaton Carew SPD			
Open-Ended Response			
Questionnaire Responses Q1. Would you like to see any other areas included within the Seaton Carew SPD	SC005	No	Noted
	SC006	No	Noted
	SC007	The whole of the "Front" walkway from former fairground site to the Marina A) To provide some joined up recreational facility and give the Front some real purpose. B) Developcycle racing and a "Noddy train" transport for children, elderly a general public access/enjoyment.	Noted. Additional Playbuilder equipment will be investigated.
	SC009	Library service	Noted however the library service is outside the remit of the SPD.
	SC010	I would like to see more palm trees with seats underneath to allow people who are enjoying walking the promenade to sit and rest, as well as enjoy the scenery of the beautiful calming sea.	Noted. Covered in SPD
	SC012	No	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC016	Q5 - Seaton Train Station could be made more comfortable. With vending machines and path and road access. Needs money spending on it.	Noted- Reference will be made to the train station.
	SC018	None come to mind	Noted
	SC019	Stop the ongoing enlargement of waste tips.	Noted
	SC020	The existing seems comprehensive	Noted
	SC021	No	Noted
	SC022	No, the existing is quite comprehensive.	Noted
	SC024	no	Noted
	SC025	possibly	Noted
	SC026	cannot get onto website to see plan	Noted
	SC033	No	Noted
	SC036	No	Noted
	SC038	no	Noted
	SC039	No	Noted
	SC040	Yes	Noted
	SC041	Not at the moment as we need to focus on the current plan succeeding.	Noted
	SC044	Yes the area of grass that Grosmont Road runs along. This area of grass has fences and gates that are in poor condition. Also the building on the front that is the old Las Vegas arcade, this is one of the building that is showing up the front, along with the house that is 51 the front.	Noted. Enquiries with enforcement will be made.
	SC047	No	Noted
	SC048	Yes, The field that is opposite Holy trinity school. The fences and gates are in poor condition here. The old Las vegas arcade on the front also is in a poor condition and makes the front look bad.	Noted. Enquiries with enforcement will be made.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC049	No	Noted
	SC051	Yes	Noted
	SC053	No	Noted
	SC054	no	Noted
	SC055	No	Noted
	SC056	no	Noted
	SC059	No	Noted
	SC060	yes	Noted
	SC062	No	Noted
	SC068	No	Noted
	SC071	none	Noted
	SC072	no	Noted
	SC076	decent pub	Noted. There are sufficient pubs.
	SC077	Longscar Centre to be removed from the area within the SPD.	Noted. Do not agree. The Longscar is the main issues within the area to address.
	SC079	Coastal approach and exit routes need improving, especially Tees Rd. Consider screening to hide tip (s) ?	Noted. Reference will be made to approaches to Seaton.
	SC080	The sea	Noted
	SC083	No	Noted
	SC084	Seaton SPD Plan 2015 link does not work	Noted
	SC086	no	Noted
	SC092	no	Noted
	SC093	No as long as the community hub provides infrastructure support for bowls, tennis and football provision in and around the park	Noted- Feasibility of tennis and bowls facilities will be investigated as part of the SPD.
	SC094	No	Noted
	SC095	No	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC098	No	Noted
	SC099	No - Covers the key priority areas in Seaton	Noted
	SC102	unsure	Noted
	SC103	The area west of coronation drive down to newburn bridge.	Noted. Reference to this area will be included.
	SC106	those shown are a priority	
	SC107	I would like to see our Hospital supported with the monies being spent on this update at Seaton	Noted. The hospital is not part of this SPD. The hospital is NHS funded not Local Authority funded.
	SC108	No	Noted
	SC109	more play equipment along the prom on coronation drive	Noted. Additional Playbuilder and play sites will be investigated.
	SC111	no	Noted
	SC112	Not especially	Noted
	SC114	no	Noted
	SC116	yes	Noted
	SC117	No	Noted
	SC119	no	Noted
	SC120	Yes, the area of the front from Newburn Bridge to Seaton carew	Noted
	SC121	Tighter control on rubbish tips to north and south of the village. Waste plastic and paper from both sites blows into Seaton depending on the wind direction.	Noted. This is outside of the remit of the SPD
	SC124	No	Noted
	SC126	As for now your planning to develop the main area that needs it, the old fair ground and where the very run down Coasters is located.	Noted
	SC130	No, it covers the areas needing regeneration.	Noted
	SC131	No preference.	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC134	I've looked at the plan for Seaton and it looks good but I hope you are not building too high as that is what spoilt the front with the present buildings - you dominated the older, attractive remnants of the 'village' by building the Longscar Hall so preferably it should only be 'one storey' buildings.	Noted. Heritage and building scale and massing are covered within the SPD
	SC138	The Cliff	Noted
	SC140	las vegas amusements centre should be next to be regenerated / purchased / sold on.	Noted. See comment above.
	SC141	Corner of Warrior Drive and Coronation Drive.	Noted
	SC143	no	Noted
	SC144	No	Noted
	SC146	The tip at Newburnbridge is a disgrace and stincks on days when the wind is in the right direction also the amount of mud left all over the road	Noted
	SC149	No	Noted
	SC151	Graythorp	Noted
	SC157	Yes	Noted
	SC158	No	Noted
	SC159	No	Noted
	SC160	No	Noted
	SC161	no	Noted
	SC162	The landfill sites	Noted
	SC163	yes; all the coast area, from Crimdon to Seaton	Noted. Disagree as the area needs to be focussed within Seaton Carew.
	SC164	no	Noted
	SC165	No. The Front is the most important area.	Noted
	SC167	Yes. Most of Hartlepool.	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC169	No	Noted
	SC171	No	Noted
	SC174	No	Noted
	SC176	Yes	Noted
	SC177	access road to station lane slipway ...	Noted
	SC178	Not at the momment	Noted
	SC180	No	Noted
	SC183	No	Noted
	SC184	No	Noted
	SC185		Noted
	SC186	no	Noted
	SC188	No	Noted
	SC190	No	Noted
	SC192	No	Noted
	SC193	NOT SURE	Noted
	SC197	All of coronation drive	Noted
	SC198	No	Noted
	SC199	No, I think that covers it well.	Noted
	SC202	No	Noted
	SC203	no	Noted
	SC209	No	Noted
	SC212	No	Noted
	SC217	No	Noted
	SC219	No	Noted
	SC220	no	Noted
	SC221	no	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC232	No longscar building is a priority for me and also any run down buildings on the opposite side of the road. Most now have been significantly improved	Noted
	SC233	I would like to see some development along the stretch to Newburn Bridge	Noted.
	SC234	I would like to see community areas within Seaton Carew be included. There are some big estates such as Warrior Park / Drakes Park with limited or run down facilities and are close enough to the sea front that they would benefit from being redeveloped. The pond area is lovely, however it could attract more visitors if it had enhancing facilities such as information points about the kind of wildlife attracted during the seasons, a seasonal coffee station etc. The Schooner pub is and has looked dark and depressing and uninviting for nearly a decade now. Considering the amount of people living in the catchment area, this should be a hub for all who want to get together. A weatherspoons pub would be more appropriate and bring in more of the residence than a dark dingey pub.	Noted. The focus of the SPD is the Front and the creation of community facilities within Seaton Park
	SC236	Yes	Noted
	SC238	The park area	Noted. This area is included within the SPD
	SC240	In need of bakery +fresh veg small shops on front	Noted
	SC242	The front is the main attraction and yet it is the most run down area of Seaton Carew, I would focus mainly there.	Noted. The SPD focuses on this area.
	SC244	No	Noted
	SC245	No	Noted
	SC249	no. it looks great as it is.	Noted
	SC251	no	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC256	A swimming pool and a gym or something different for the youth to do because my personal opinion is that there is only the arcades and gambling isn't good for the younger generation it's constantly costing money just to get to town and do something with myself where as it would just be and short walk away	Noted. Youth facilities are included within the SPD.
	SC257	No	Noted
	SC258	Improvements to the landfill site to stop rubbish being blown about	Noted.
	SC261	Newburn Bridge Area	Noted.
	SC262	No	Noted
	SC263	No	Noted
	SC265	no	Noted
	SC266	Landfill sites either end of Seaton Carew	Noted
	SC271	The park and the car park of the old fairground site	Noted. These areas are included within the SPD
	SC272	Railway station	Noted
	SC275	I think it should encompass the whole area, not just selected development sites, in terms of considering the impact of any individual area on the rest of the surrounding areas (eg new housing may require more school places, closing a youth centre requires provision of facilities elsewhere)	Noted
	SC276	No.	Noted
	SC277	Seaton Green	Noted
	SC279	No	Noted
	SC285	Something to hide power station and steel works	Noted
	SC288	more things for children	Noted
	SC289	Get rid of those old bulidings that once was coasters pub... there	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1		an i sore to seaton crew x	
	SC294	No	Noted
	SC295	I have concerns re parking and volume of traffic on main road	Noted. Improved pedestrian crossings will be included within the SPD
	SC296	No	Noted
	SC299	Don't think so	Noted
	SC301	No	Noted
	SC306	No	Noted
	SC307	no	Noted
	SC308	No	Noted
	SC309	No	Noted
	SC310	Marina, town, dyke house	Noted. Disagree. This area is too far away from Seaton Carew. The Marina is being considered as part of the Hartlepool Regeneration Masterplan.
	SC319	No	Noted
	SC324	No I think the recommendations are adequate for the moment	Noted
	SC325	The park needs updating and would be good if it had designated off lead dog area	Noted. References to improving Seaton Park will be included within the SPD.
	SC326	The whole 'front' should come under consideration. From newborn bridge to the end of the promenade.	Noted
	SC328	More car parking facilities.	Noted
	SC329	No	Noted
	SC330	No	Noted
	SC331	no	Noted
	SC332	No	Noted
	SC333		Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC334	Get the landfill sorted out - Once ad for all.	Noted
	SC336	Yes	Noted
	SC338	No	Noted
	SC341	Yes a public access ramp or track to the sea to launch pleasure watercraft. As a seaside resort people should be encouraged to take up water sports, fishing, pleasure boating, jet skis etc, the towns economy could improve as sales and servicing would be required if there is demand.	Noted
	SC343	Shopping centre	Noted
	SC345	No	Noted
	SC346	Coronation drive	Noted
	SC347	The longscar site. Build a 'splash' facility. This will give people a reason to come to seaton all year around. It will not be in competition with the local businesses. It will capture all the people who go out of town to splash in Stockton. it will bring loads more trade into Seaton. It will provide employment for the people of Hartlepool. Mill house is in an awful state of repair. Close it and rebuild in Seaton. The size of the splash footprint (measured on google earth) easily fits on to the longscar centre site with room to spare. It would be a flagship investment in the area and wold re-generate the area for the next 30 years. This could be done at the expense of everything else, as there would not be a need to do anything else.	Noted
	SC350	No areas specifically but I would like off lead dog facilities available at the seafront to be maintained.	Noted
	SC352	No	Noted
	SC353	Yes	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 1	SC355	The Green and War Memorial	Noted
	SC356	Yes	Noted
	SC357	No	Noted
	SC358	Get rid of all the buildings that a left to go to wreck and ruin	Noted
	SC361	I think the business along the sea front could do with some attention as all the buildings look run down. There should also be something in place to keep the beach clean as it always seems to be covered in litter, broken glass and dog mess	Noted. The Parks and Countryside team will be informed of the litter, broken glass and dog mess.
	SC362	No.	Noted
	SC363	Redcar beach	Noted
	SC364	Outdoor fitness equipment along the prom	Noted
	SC365	From marina to power station.	Noted
	SC366	Some thing done with longscar its a eye sore, more bins, something	Noted
	SC367	no	Noted
	SC374	The longscar centre	Noted
	SC375	Extension of car park at Newburn Bridge (near toilet block). At weekends and on numerous evenings cars fill the small car park and then start to park on the grass. Needs to be expanded.	Noted. The feasibility of the car park extension will be considered.
	SC376	No	Noted
Q3. Would you like to see any the aims included within the Seaton Carew Masterplan?			
Open-Ended Response			
Q3. Would you like to see any other aims included within the Seaton	SC001	No, just an understanding by decision makers that Seaton carew is a small place and has-other than seafront area-few amenities. Further housing (eg Coronation Drive.Warrior Drive area) will overburden the school, public teransport and shopping facilities and spoil the wider green open area welcoming visitors from the	Noted. The SPD does not propose to develop the green wedge along coronation drive with the exception of the infill site at Coronation Drive/Warrior Drive. Design guidance is included with the SPD.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Carew Masterplan? Question 3		North of Seaton along Coronation Drive.	The Local Plan that is being produced in conjunction to the SPD will take account of housing sites and will look at wider infrastructure needs as a result of these.
	SC002	Cleaner beach	Noted. The Parks and Countryside team will be informed.
	SC005	Demolish Longscar Hall	Noted
	SC006	Demolish Longscar Hall	Noted
	SC007	1. See comment above Seaton should not be isolated from Hartlepool but connected to it to enhance the support to economic vibrancy of whole of Hartlepool, Seaton, Marina and Headland tourist attractions should be co-ordinated eg by a "Noddy train" tourism linkage!! a pitch and putt/mini golf and Coronation Drive area and more parking facility. 2) No where in this plan is there any provision for wider activity or shelter to cope with the North East seaside variable weather!! No indoor provisions for safe play area for children under supervision? 3) No reference or encouragement to visit Seaton by rail connection and Seaton Station. 4) No mention to develop Seaton Park or reference to enhance facilities thereat/library/changing rooms etc. pitch and putt green.	Noted. Shelters will be considered as part of the environmental improvements. Seaton park is included within the plan. Routes into Seaton will be included in the SPD
	SC008	Reintroduction of a regular bus service	Noted. This is outside the scope of the SPD
	SC010	Please consider a special area where such as children's entertainment can be accessed. At present it spoils the view when roundabout and shows are placed on the beautiful green lawns.	Noted. The open spaces and Conservation areas are key areas within the SPD.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3	SC012	No	Noted
	SC013	Yes, close tips and open caravan parks.	Noted
	SC014	I assume #2 includes toilet facilities, which are sadly lacking in the village	Noted. There are existing toilet facilities within Seaton Carew.
	SC016	More money needs to be spent on all area's clean, especially on busy days as the rubbish left is terrible. More cafe's and eating areas needed	Noted. The street cleansing teams will be informed.
	SC017	Any houses that are built should be in keeping with a traditional sea front	Noted. Heritage and design is an important consideration within the SPD
	SC018	Better control of the tip area near domes, has significant impact on Seaton Carew area. Pedestrianise area from Seaton Lane up to Elizabeth Way (Access only for delivery residents etc)	Noted. Pedestrianisation would be impractical
	SC019	The deprivation at Seaton is the same as the rest of the town which is further impacted by the continued disregard of EU Laws which state that a waste tip cannot be placed within 800m of the high water mark. Newburn is only across the road and ABLE on Brenda Road is only 400m away from the MHW.	Noted
	SC020	It is essential the plans should make the most of the Seaton Carew Conservation Area. Existing businesses must be supported.	Noted. A reference to supporting existing businesses will be included.
	SC021	Incorporate a combined heat and power system, and encourage solar and wind technologies in both private homes and communities in general	Noted. The Planning team seek to ensure renewables are included in housing developments across the town.
	SC022	The Masterplan should make the most of the historic Seaton Carew Conservation Area. Plans should be complementary to and support existing businesses.	Noted
	SC023		Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3	SC024	in summer see many families walking to seaton there does not appear to be enough public transport to and from seaton carew especially on Sundays and public holidays	Noted. Public transport is outside the remit of the SPD.
	SC027	I would like to see a permanent amusement fair ground again as we had in the past with a large ferris wheel at its hub.	Noted
	SC031	Estate renovation for visual impact	Noted
	SC033	No	Noted
	SC035	A decent public transport infrastructure to make all the developments planned feasible, and provide activities for youth in the evening	Noted
	SC037	Renewable energy (PV, Wind, Wave) in sensible and mutually agreed areas where land and coastline permit, as well as PV on all council buildings and grants for more PV on domestic buildings.	Noted
	SC038	Removal of the fairground rides	Noted
	SC039	No	Noted
	SC043	Not to overwhelm the existing retail businesses	Noted
	SC045	Extend parking facilities.	Noted. Car Parking will be considered within the SPD
	SC046	A big clean up	Noted. The street cleansing team will be notified.
	SC047	More attractions	Noted
	SC049	Keep seaton primarily as a residential area	Noted. Seaton Carew has a dual role and is an important visitor destination.
	SC054	to provide provision of facilities/resources with serious consideration being given to the needs and wishes of the local residents - Seaton Carew is now a predominantly a residential	Noted. Any commercial development would be based upon demand.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3		area with large scale housing developments taking place in recent years. Any proposals for future commercial developments should give the views and needs of residents priority. We already suffer the results of existing numerous fast-food outlets causing major littering, parking and anti-social behaviour issues. Revitalisation of the Saltburn area with an emphasis on local historic/cultural qualities may well be suitable for the Seaton area with the creation of gallery/exhibition spaces, workshop/studio facilities which could offer opportunities to take advantage of the tremendous natural land/seascape and link-up with RSPB Saltholme and Natural England. It should not need to be pointed out that almost all of the car-parking provision that was available in the 60's heydays of Seaton Carew as a resort has now been developed for residential use so the emphasis should in the future be firmly on quality provision rather than any return to the long - gone appeal of a 'resort' destination.	A reference to nature tourism will be added to the SPD.
	SC055	Empty run down buildings sorted or compulsory purchase orders placed	Noted
	SC058	Sports facilities	Noted
	SC062	Anything to stop the council from trying to drag it down any further	Noted
	SC065	Car park back of Seaton golf club needs improving to cater for large buses/ people carriers for invalid/ wheelchair users	Noted
	SC071	no	Noted
	SC077	Support the redevelopment of the Longscar Centre site for a comprehensive commercial and residential scheme as a focal point for The Front area.	Noted. Disagree.
	SC078	Seaton Carew does not look critical to the Strategic Road	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3		Network but if relevant consideration of any impact thereon should be given.	
	SC079	Develop SC as an attraction with an events manager to ensure there is always something to see and do all summer and school holidays, regardless of the weather.	Noted. Events spaces are included within the SPD
	SC080	Improve the quality of life for residents	Noted
	SC083	No	Noted
	SC084	Get rid of the Longscar Centre !!	Noted
	SC086	no	Noted
	SC093	No	Noted
	SC094	Ensure a safe and comfortable environment for Seaton Carew residents	Noted
	SC095	No	Noted
	SC102	unsure	Noted
	SC105	Enhance the use of our excellent beach and the sea, with maybe a watersports centre, jetski hire, sea kayak hire, pedaloes (in an area made safe by floating rope as other resorts do). We get quite a lot of sunshine here compared to other places, and this sort of outdoor activity is just as viable as outdoor eateries in other parts of the town.	Noted. The Local Authority will make all efforts to bring in private development to enhance the tourism industry and promote tourism.
	SC106	encourage visitors	Noted
	SC107	Again i would like any monies for this project to be spent supporting the retention of our Hospital	Noted. The hospital is not included within the remit of the SPD.
	SC108	no	Noted
	SC115	Make it a destination!	Noted
	SC120	More landscaping of the large grassed area of Coronation Drive back towards the tips site, with pathways for walkers etc	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3	SC121	Remove Longscar hall and replace with a small exclusive shopping mall.	Noted. A shopping mall is not appropriate at this location.
	SC122	a fit for purpose indoor play area for children. The facilities in "Talk of the Town" are dated at best	Noted
	SC124	I think it covers most of the areas I would just like to see the eyesore Longscar Hall demolished as it spoils the look of the sea front	Noted
	SC127	Reduce travel times through Seaton	Noted
	SC134	Endeavour to keep it litter free if possible!	Noted
	SC136	Demolition of Longscar Hall	Noted. Longscar Hall is a key part of the SPD
	SC138	Maintenance a priority	Noted
	SC140	Residents views on parking need to be addressed as I struggle to get parked outside my house even with a permit. also ridiculous that I have to pay 20 pounds to sometimes park outside my own home.	Noted
	SC143	don't know	Noted
	SC147	Removal of Lingscar Hall	Noted
	SC149	Make the people who live here proud of there home town	Noted
	SC150	Yes amendments to existing Longscar Hall	Noted
	SC155	More parking	Noted
	SC157	Yes	Noted
	SC158	No	Noted
	SC159	Get rid of longscar centre and make a car park NO MORE FOOD OUTLETS please. The business find it hard without anymore shops getting built, use the empty shops that are already there.	Noted.
	SC160	The banishment of the eyesore on the front must be a priority	Noted
	SC162	A dry ski slope on the landfill sites. A world class public art	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3		sculpture along the prom. Illuminations like they have at Blackpool. A tower bigger than the proposed wind turbines. A subterranean pier just to be different from Redcar.	
	SC163	Get rid of unwanted building grots	Noted
	SC164	no	Noted
	SC165	Get rid of Coasters	Noted
	SC169	I think it's important that Seaton Carew retains its 'village' character, despite urban development and, in line with this, that the area is protected from a plethora of advertising signage, 'kiss me quick' developments, and garish retail outlets. In short, it should be the Eastbourne of the North, rather than the Blackpool.	Noted
	SC171	No	Noted
	SC175	Get rid of trucks carrying waste through main road through Seaton.	Noted. The feasibility of Heavy Loads routes will be investigated.
	SC177	sort out the car parking , there is not enough car parking in seaton on sunny days...	Noted
	SC178		Noted
	SC179	Wardens to issue on spot fines for parking?dog fouling/litter dropping etc. In hartlepool these rules/laws need to be enforced not just written as is the case at present.	Noted
	SC183	Sea and Wildlife protection	Noted. The SPD will be the subject of a Habitats Regulations Assessment and Natural England have been consulted.
	SC184	No	Noted
	SC186	no	Noted
	SC190	Remember where we are - the North East of England - any proposals should take into account of the weather we get, cold,	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3		wet and windy	
	SC191	More car parking facilities	Noted. Car parking will be investigated.
	SC193	NOT SURE	Noted
	SC202	Improved transportation bus routes etc	Noted
	SC205	Facilities to include music venues and events	Noted
	SC207	No, the first 2 above are of significant benefit	Noted
	SC209	No	Noted
	SC211	Eliminate the run down buildings and improve the general visual impact of the area. (although covered by the other aims I feel it should be made explicit - and could be done at less cost)	Noted
	SC212	Keep the west side of Coronation Drive clear of housing for about 30 meters and landscape the area for the benefit of the tenants and public to enjoy.	Noted
	SC213	more proper toilets	Noted
	SC217	More beach chalets	Noted. Beach chalets are included within the SPD
	SC219	Focus on recreation	Noted
	SC221	no	Noted
	SC228	allow the sea coal men back on the beaches to keep the sand golden.	Noted
	SC234	Increase awareness of the area and its facilities using appropriate marketing tools. We need more tourists here, its a great place for those who know about it.	Noted
	SC235	Yes	Noted
	SC236	Putting fun rides in better. Places so it doesn't spoil views. And bakery % fresh veg shop on front	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3	SC240	Yes small fresh bakery + fresh veg shop	Noted
	SC241	get rid of the tips at both ends of the village	Noted
	SC242	It would be nice to see young start up businesses in the area supported to help regenerate and modernize Seaton's popularity.	Noted
	SC244	Better education - only one small church primary school need to either rebuild and enhance and improve Golden Flatts or else build a new school at season - possibly on the coronation drive site; focus should be leisure leisure leisure - needs to be facilities which will be successful all year round and not just on sunny/warm days. Need to have attractions/facilities which will attract people from outside Hartlepool - focus of this master plan is too much on residential	Noted. The Local Plan considers wider infrastructure such as schools.
	SC245	No	Noted
	SC249	no	Noted
	SC251	no dogs on the beach	Noted
	SC256	Get rid of all the buildings that are not being used on the seafront such as the lonscar and the cafe's re do the footpaths just to make the place look tidier and more bins	Noted
	SC257	Nothing I can think of	Noted
	SC258	Improve the landfill site - no further development & control of the rubbish	Noted
	SC259	How about a roller skate rink for the young people like we had years ago up seaton	Noted
	SC260	Marketing and promoting Seaton Carew	Noted. The Council's Tourism Officer will be informed of this response.
	SC262	Yes the demolition of the eye sore that was once the lonscar hall. I wonder are rates been paid on this building?	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3	SC263	Demolish the Longscar centre	Noted
	SC264	CCTV cameras to provide a safe environment for visitors and residents and to discourage anti social behaviour which would be a negative for the whole area and discourage visitors especially families,	Noted. There are existing CCTV cameras in Seaton Carew.
	SC266	Removal of landfill sites from what is supposed to be a tourist destination	Noted
	SC268	Try cleaning the sea-coal off the beach for a start..it's not rocket science!!!	Noted
	SC276	Sustainable transport. This masterplan is too limited in scope and should aim to encourage to travel to Seaton Carew sustainably. Not only would this be better for the local environment & health of visitors but could benefit the local economy as well. Tyler et al. (2012) The relevance of parking in the success of urban centres: A review for London Councils http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/transport/parkinginlondon/parkingurban.htm (link is external) A desktop review of research found that there was little evidence that the availability of parking but there seemed to be little correlation between parking and commercial success and that a good mix of shops and a quality environment are more important in attracting visitors. Krag, T. (2002) "Commerce and Bicycles", Paper presented at 'Trafikdage' at Aalborg University, 2002. Translated from the Danish. http://copenhagenize.eu/dox/Commerce_and_Bicycles-Thomas_Krag.pdf (link is external) A review of mostly continental European studies found that in town centres, pedestrians and cyclists shopped more frequently, so even though they spend	Noted. Cycle parking provision will be included within the revised designs. Cycling is an important element of sustainable travel and the project will aim to enhance cycling facilities.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3		less per trip than car drivers, in total they spent more. Shopkeepers tend to underestimate the number of customers who come by bike, making them reluctant to provide for them at the expense of car parking.	
	SC277	Return to Victorian seaside village. Return of community facilities such as the youth centre, sports centre and have them enhanced with a gym and cafe. Restore Victorian garden layout on sea front. Put back the skating rink with Victorian style. Rebuild the South Shelter. Move the funfair off the sea front and back to the South of the village where it used to be. Get the sea coalers cleaning the beach again. Make the front pedestrianised.	Noted. Community facilities are included within the SPD.
	SC279	No	Noted
	SC281	to bring a mini blackpool more job more holiday makers nothing now there for people other wise we will still have nothing	Noted
	SC286	Remove eyesore thst is coasters old lingscar hall	Noted
	SC289	I would like to see some huts/challets to rent on the sea front for people to use x	Noted. Beach huts are included within the SPD.
	SC293	Make it affordable for all to enjoy a day out by the seaside. Pointless having fab new facilities if people can't afford to use them	Noted
	SC294	To return fun activities to the area.	Noted
	SC295	Profusion of inexpensive activities more educational	Noted
	SC296	No	Noted
	SC297	Let the sea coalers back on the beach as it looks a mess	Noted. Sea Coalers will be granted access however this is outside the remit of the SPD
	SC299	Would like local residents to be considered more and more	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3		rubbish bins provided with clear instructions on how to use them!	
	SC303	Showground should be brought back, and longscar hall the wilkie brothers should be fined on a monthly basis for the way its been left to deteriate	Noted
	SC305	Areas for kids ages 1-5 as this will attract families and will encourage them to have days out.	Noted
	SC306	No	Noted
	SC308	No	Noted
	SC309	Park improved, seacoal removed, church bells curfew of 12 noon till 6pm, library given exterior improvement	Noted
	SC311	Children's facilities. A further play area. Mini golf perhaps etc	Noted
	SC312	Yes get rid of the sea coal	Noted
	SC315	Parking Sports facilities with sprung floors the domes does not provide this	Noted
	SC316	Sporting facilities with sprung floors domes does not provide badminton netball facilities	Noted
	SC322	More car parking facilities and a better bus service.	Noted
	SC324	Perhaps tidy up the beaches full of sea coal, dirty looking beaches distract from any improvements made by this recommendation.	Noted
	SC328	A more frequent bus service being made available.	Noted
	SC329		Noted
	SC330	No	Noted
	SC331	School large enough so that every child in Seaton can attend school in Seaton	Noted
	SC332	Stronger community integration	Noted
	SC340	Make it affordable to all to be able to enjoy a day out by the sea	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3	SC341	Maybe sea view restaurants and quality drinking establishments, you need to attract the right type of customer	Noted
	SC343	Shopping centre	Noted
	SC346	Promote tourism	Noted
	SC347	Maintain the current businesses that are in seaton, not building extra units when there are currently empty units.	Noted
	SC353	No	Noted
	SC356	No	Noted
	SC357	No	Noted
	SC358	To get rid of coasters	Noted
	SC359	I think the sand should be soft and clean so that you don't hurt your feet on the rocks or your bum if you sit and I think there should be alot more things to do there rather than a beach fish shops arcades(in which some are closed) and rock shops it's shocking	Noted
	SC360	Attract tourism	Noted
	SC362	Maintain the current facilities thst are present within Seaton Carew.	Noted
	SC365	Aim to attract hundreds of thousands of people using modern showground attractions,	Noted
	SC366	The shops look nice and something done with empty shops	Noted
	SC367	to provide a family orientated area like it once was	Noted
	SC374	Create interest around Seaton within different age groups, for example concerts for teenagers or different outdoors event in the summer.	Noted. The SPD considers a range of activities for different age groups.
	SC375	The forced demolition of the Longscar Hall removing the biggest blight on the seafront.	Noted. The Longscar is a key element of the SPD. This response responds to any

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 3			comments about the Longscar Building.
	SC376	No	Noted
Q5.FAMILY/PLAY ZONE DESIGN PRINCIPLES Do you have any other comments you would like to make for this area?			
Open-Ended Response			
Q5. FAMILY/PLAY ZONE DESIGN PRINCIPLES Do you have any other comments you would like to make for this area?	SC001	There is no further need for fish and chip shops, cafe's or ice cream as there are already a number of them in this immediate area and further competition will weaken their stability possibly causing some to close.	Noted
	SC002	Car parking so that visitors do not block residential zones at busy times ie weekends, bank hols, firework display.	Noted
	SC003	No beach huts, they get burnt down. the only place people go if it rains is the amusement arcades, so somewhere to shelter.	Noted
	SC005	I agree as long as maintained properly	Noted
	SC007	1. Boulders and timber poles are dangerous to children on health and safety grounds unless post is properly constructed and protected play areas. 2. Sand banks, sand pits, troughs of plants and beach seats would be more beneficial, attractive and easy to maintain and important overall ambition of area, rather than grasses. 3. Beach huts will block views to beach area and deteriorate in same way as Longscar Hall has done for years.	Noted. The designs for the timber poles and boulders behind the bus station will be revised.
	SC008	Perhaps an area for roller boards for older teenagers	Noted
	SC014	I have serious doubts regarding beach chalets, they will be a target for vandals and addicts	Noted. Appropriate security, maintenance and management arrangements will be investigated.
	SC016	Waterplay & mini golf and all other ideas are brilliant and just whats needed	Noted
	SC017	Just to be kept clean	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5	SC018	None at moment	Noted
	SC019	Seaton is similar to Blackpool, the owners took the profits during its popular period and put nothing back. It is up to them to correct matters.	Noted
	SC020	One of the proposals is the establishment of beech chalets. It is important that these are appropriate and recognise a traditional seaside setting.	Noted
	SC022	If such changes as the provision of chalets are to be included then, these should be appropriate to the Conservation Area and a SEASIDE setting.	Noted
	SC024	driving past the already erected small play zones along the sea front I find they are always in use again particularly at weekends and public holidays maybe something for 8 to teenage years small cycle track or skateboard ramps here and there	Noted
	SC036	Any children's dry play area should be of the shredded tyres/soft underfoot, should they fall. Any wet play area should be non-slip - I don't think natural stone boulders are appropriate - too hard a surface especially for smaller children.	Noted. Safety will be considered in the deign process.
	SC041	As long as Longscar is either removed or redeveloped, I will be happy	Noted
	SC044	I think this would be a great area to take my children. It would also provide a fantastic area to visit with family and friends that live outside the area predominately Lincolnshire. One thing I would like to see in this area is the provision of public toilets and changing for children. As a parent of two children I know that once I set up a picnic and have two children playing in the water, one would need a wee and a walk to the clock tower with a picnic	Noted. Toilet provision will be carefully considered in taking the SPD forward however ongoing maintenance costs have to be taken into account in any proposals.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5		set out and two wet children is just not practical. Local business wouldn't appreciate wet children slipping over on their floors just to use the toilets i'm sure. Also I wouldn't be entirely comfortable with changing my children in full view of the public and would appreciate a small secluded changing area.	
	SC048	Fantastic design would love to take my children here. Would be a great area from my family that live in Lincolnshire to visit when they come to see us. Would suggest a Changing area with toilets. I would be reluctant to let my children change outdoors in public. The clock tower toilets are a little far for a parent to take the children as they play in the water and have a picnic set up.	Noted
	SC052	The picnic area looks a bit small? Should there be some public conveniences?	Noted. Toilet provision will be carefully considered in taking the SPD forward however ongoing maintenance costs have to be taken into account in any proposals.
	SC053	Performance and events - don't make me laugh.	Noted
	SC054	Please note previous comments..... Beach chalets in the past were vandalised, seriously uneconomic to operate and maintain and in this area are no longer suited to the needs of casual visitors. We do not enjoy the meteorological or financial climate of the South coast of England. There would seem to be a sad lack of imagination, marketing and economic awareness in the proposals as indicated..... ice-cream, fish and chips, paddling pool etc. hardly the forward-looking vision of the Hartlepool Marina, Metrocentre or Newcastle Quayside. PLEASE be BOLD and IMAGINATIVE for the next generation of Seaton and Hartlepool residents.	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5	SC055	Can't open on my device. I hope it's not just rides and smelly burger vans!	Noted
	SC056	only concern is possible increase in ASB during evenings??	Noted. Designs will consider crime and anti-social behaviour.
	SC060	I think this is a great idea. Hartlepool families will love it and it will attract people from neighbouring towns, bringing money into our town.	Noted
	SC065	Making access easy	Noted
	SC067	No pubs/bars adjacent to it	Noted
	SC070	Really happy about chalets	Noted
	SC071	no	Noted
	SC077	The Longscar Centre is a key site in delivering the the masterplan and regenerating Seaton Carew. The current proposals make poor use of the site with only a limited commercial offering. In order for the masterplan to be viable and strengthen the economic performance of Seaton Carew, this area needs to be focused on delivering a comprehensive mixed use commercial and residential scheme on the Longscar Centre, which will act as an economic catalyst for the area.	Noted. Disagree.
	SC079	Need plenty of windbreak features as sea wind is chilling. Would also reduce sand accumulation in bad weather.	Noted. Windbreaks will be considered within the SPD.
	SC080	Make it more fitting for a Victorian village and look to Beamish for inspiration	Noted.
	SC083	No	Noted
	SC084	The link for Seaton - The Front does not work The link for Family and Play Zone design principles not work	Noted
	SC086	no	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5	SC089	You are suggesting that the area be put in front of buildings is The Marine Hotel etc. this would obscure views to the sea, also it is next to main road. Why not put it behind the clock tower which is away from buildings and near toilets.	Noted. Opening up the seaward side of The Front is a key aim of the SPD.
	SC090	You are putting family play area in front of buildings i.e. Marine Hotel, which would obscure there views. Why not put it in the area behind close ck tower away from buildings and main road? Also making it easy access to toilets.	Noted. The SPD aims to create a central focal point for Seaton Carew.
	SC092	Make sure the paddling pool is restored. Roller skating area would be nice to.	Noted.
	SC093	Supervision and maintenance of the water play area needs to be considered.	Noted.
	SC096	How vandal proof would these facilities be overnight etc or are we going to have too fund a security service to look after them	Noted. Crime and vandalism will be considered as the designs are revised.
	SC097	i do not think there should be any commercial activities in this area, as they are the reason we have an eyesore there at present, and there is no guarantee that we would not end up with a different one should the business ventures be unsuccessful. I do not think there should be any residential property on the sea side of the front.	Noted. The SPD has design principles to open up the sea front.
	SC098	There would need to be some supervision of the water play area to ensure it was used properly and safely, keep dogs out etc. Need a non slip surface and would need to ensure water quality was maintained. There doesn't seem to be much for teenagers, which is disappointing given the loss of the youth centre to enable the Council to sell land for housing as a contribution towards the costs of the new schemes. Also there is little in the way of sports	Noted. Community and Youth Centre is included within the SPD.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5		facilities to compensate for the loss of the sports centre.	
	SC099	Well thought out - beach chalets would be popular and enhance the area and I am glad to see a water play area for the children retained as the current paddling pool is very popular and well used	Noted
	SC102	no	Noted
	SC105	I think outdoor showers, and taps should be dotted around for people to wash sand off when coming off the beach as you see abroad. This would also help keep the paved / grassed areas clean by not bringing so much sand off the beach.	Noted. Public shower facilities will be investigated.
	SC106	anything that will continue from the work already done to improve the area. It looks good but can it be easily maintained?	Noted
	SC108	Ensure that there's plenty of seating available along the promenade part of the development	Noted. Adequate seating will be provided.
	SC116	who's looking after this area!?	Noted
	SC120	Must have CCTV coverage, as the site will attract persons when not open/late at night. Also suggest that more chalets for rent are installed.	Noted
	SC123	Make sure car parking is ample and car movement is safe around the area	Noted
	SC124	It looks very smart and a big improvement it should encourage more family visitors	Noted
	SC125	It's a unique idea but I find it boring. I Was expecting to see a lot more. Swings, slides, ground trampolines, climbing frames, mini golf. Maybe you need to introduce activities aimed at teenagers to, beach volley ball and a skate boarding park.	Noted
	SC126		

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5	SC127	Bulldoze it and leave it as an open paved area with seating	Noted
	SC128	Well it's just more of the same. Too much money .teenagers need places away from houses to play football/hang out . Maybe netted 5a side pitches would be an idea	Noted. 5-aside football pitches would be inappropriate within the SPD area. The nearby Sports Domes provide this facility.
	SC129		
	SC130		
	SC131	I think we have enough fish & chip resteraunts so would like to see some other retail outlets on offer. A swimming pool would be nice but how is it going to be maintained. I recall cutting my feet on glass as a child at Seaton paddling pool. Any boulders would need to be child friendly so they dont fall and hurt themselves. I like the entertainment area.	Noted. Ongoing maintenance of any facilities will be an important consideration.
	SC143	no	Noted
	SC149	Got to make enough parking areas too.	Noted
	SC157	As long as done for the right reasons	Noted
	SC159	We just need to put back what has been taken away:- the pitch n put, crazy golf and a roller skating ring and of course the fun fair	Noted
	SC162	Looks tacky. Needs something with style and panache. Art deco influenced architecture like Miami maybe. Pedestrianised the front.	Noted. Pedestianising the Front would be inappropriate as vehicle access to Seaton Carew is required. Improved crossing points will be considered. The heavy loads route also runs through Seaton and is another reason the front could not be pedestrianised.
	SC165	Food and drink outlets are well catered for in existing premises. There are already at least 3 fish & chip shops, an ice cream/café, ice cream/sweet shops, pubs, restaurants and a new café. Extra seating/picnic tables would be more appropriate.	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5	SC169	However, beach huts have proved a failure near this area due to vandalism. Security is therefore critical.	Noted
	SC175	Again - stop waste trucks coming through The Front	Noted
	SC177	the lifeguard tower should be resited down to south slipway..	Noted
	SC179	A place to lock and leave bikes while visiting/using the area.	Noted
	SC183	None	Noted
	SC186	no	Noted
	SC190	The weather has obviously been ignored in the design of these outdoor activities	Noted
	SC193	NONE	Noted
	SC195	Would like to see more for adult visitors	Noted
	SC196	Age restrictions needed for safety of toddlers. Adequate seating for adults needed	Noted. Additional seating will be included within the designs.
	SC200	Could not see the design principles because of too many bytes. Would hope for a fairground	Noted
	SC209	Looks great	Noted
	SC210		Noted
	SC211	needs clarity on where car parking will be for the extra vehicles anticipated for this development. Ideally parking should be banned from most of the streets adjoining the play zone	Noted
	SC212	The area behind the proposed chalets could be further enhanced by added play structures for children. A visit to Riverside Park at Chester-Le-Street could be of value as they have a great selection of apparatus for young children.	Noted
	SC219	The areas like to the beach and sea must be paramount	Noted
	SC221	no	Noted
	SC223	Too many family orientated attractions part of the pleasure of	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5		Seaton is that it appeals to all ages.	
	SC225	allow the vehicles on beach for seacoal removal	Noted
	SC230	I don't like the idea of natural stone as in my experience it can be very slippery and potentially dangerous for children	Noted. Appropriate materials will be used within the designs
	SC232	Only concern here is the security of the chalets - re ASB graffiti etc	Noted. Management and security will be considered.
	SC233	We do not need any more fish and chip shops. Should we not be focussing on more healthy options for families?	Noted
	SC234	The suggestion of a picnic area I love! This would be a massive improvement on the flat green areas currently being used by visitors. I would say this facility would be high up on the list rather than more wooden timber structures.	Noted. A picnic area will be considered.
	SC238	Must be well maintained and kept clean	Noted
	SC240	Don't block the sea view from people's flats houses like the fun fair goes inappropriate place to put it people pay for this view on their rent	Noted
	SC242	Perhaps if the performance area is large/flat enough in the winter a portable ice skating rink similar to that which visits the Life center in Newcastle could be erected for all year round family entertainment.	Noted
	SC243	Please ensure that toilet and changing facilities are included in these plans. Also please be aware that noise levels should be considered so that people visiting the other end of Seaton to enjoy walking and viewing the sea are not disturbed from their own experience of visiting the seafront.	Noted
	SC244	Water area and events area are great ideas but generally weather dependent and seasonal - what options for winter etc - also as	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5		someone who lives in season it is extremely windy and salty in the air so materials such as coloured paint and tarpaulin covers will very quickly look tired and worn - at least annual replacement!	
	SC249	love the idea of the water play. happy mount park in morecombe has this and we love taking the kids there in the summer when visiting the grandparents.	Noted
	SC253	Seaton Carew has the potential to be a lovely seaside resort. Please don't overdevelop the sea-front with too many play areas and bright colours. The charm of Seaton Carew is it's lovely old buildings and pastel colours. Less amusements and more old-fashioned seaside charm!	Noted
	SC256	It isn't very good I never went as a child I thought wow a slide and some swings not really a buzz there but now there is a boat which floods and the sand goes everywhere	Noted
	SC260	The beach huts should be modelled on the ones previously at Seaton Carew	Noted
	SC264	Would question the need for yet another fish and chip shop or ice cream parlour as there are plenty just a short walk away, a convenience store would be of more use to visitors and residents alike.	Noted
	SC275	I'm not sure we need more ice cream & fish & chip shops - we have plenty of these on the sea front already. You should also consider why beach huts failed in the past - security & maintenance are paramount. The play and picnic/performance areas are great.	Noted
	SC276	The best public spaces of character and quality are defined by their relationship with buildings, the have active and permeable	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5		membranes around the edge that encourage people to visit, linger and spend money. By retaining the road as a through road with car parking on both sides severs the family/play zone from these buildings and businesses.	
	SC277	Not appropriate for a Victorian seaside village. Too out of character. Not suitable for the North East climate. Insufficient consideration to parking.	Noted. Parking will be considered during the design process.
	SC279	No	Noted
	SC281	i agree that they should have a family place but it should extend and make it worth while for people to come a little min golf wont get the people in	Noted
	SC291	Where is the money coming from?	Noted. The money is from the residential development sites within Seaton Carew.
	SC293	looks fantastic, but concerns about open access and vandalism	Noted. Security and maintenance will be important considerations.
	SC294	Longscar Hall must be demolished.	Noted
	SC296	No	Noted
	SC299	I agree changes need to be made to encourage visitors but it needs to be more classy and attract the right people too. Carparking needs attention too. Also new bus route all along the front to Church St, which may encourage more walkers in that they can get back by bus if they walk too far?	Noted
	SC308	No	Noted
	SC311	Further play area/ mini golf/ trampolines. Children's fun facilities. Like the water facilities if it includes a paddling pool even better	Noted
	SC315	Need to ensure there is sufficient parking -also local parking permits should be for every day	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5	SC322	A decent coffee sho would be better than another fish sho. Also, it would be better to extend the car park that's near the longest hall. And also bring back traffic wardens.	Noted
	SC330	This is a huge improvement.	Noted
	SC342	Not keen on the proposed timber structures. Could be vandalised. Would rather see return of crazy golf/ putting green or something similar.	Noted. The designs will be revised to remove the timber structures behind the bus station.
	SC343	Would be good to have a club for kids to go to in evenings to keep them of the street	Noted
	SC346	Ongoing maintenance essential	Noted. Agreed, maintenance will be considered
	SC347	Play zone offers exclusively summer activities. Seaton is freezing for 9 months of the year. Retain the paddling pool. Install a concrete skate park (very popular all year around), or even some outdoor gym equipment and have a healthy play section. Seaton is not the south of France. It's cold. Also, wooden chalets look nice, but will be empty for 9 months of the year, and will attract arsonists, and vandals who will urinate against them, as well as the thousands of dogs which are walked along the promenade daily, they will urinate on them. They will smell and they will rot. Do not build them.	Noted
	SC350	I think areas that are easily maintained and difficult to damage or be vandalised must be a priority as we would want facilities that will last.	Noted
	SC353	Yes I would also like to suggest a few picnic tables to for the family's having a day out	Noted
	SC357	It would be nice to see a sculpture like the 1101 at seaham	Noted. A reference to public art will be included within the SPD.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 5	SC359	I think it should be a lot more for family cause if it was more exciting with a lot more to do there would be alot of tourists creating more money Into the economy so it would be win win for you and the tourists	Noted
	SC362	Firstly the Longscar Hall has to be purchased prior to this happening and as this has been going on for so long, I feel attention should be centred on this purchase prior to planning for a proposed replacement. Although this family area appears appealing, the climate here would mean that it is only in operation gor a small period of time, and I feel that the rest of the year it would go unsupervised nor would it be maintained properly as is the case with most areas in Seaton.	Noted
	SC365	Safe secure free from dogs	Noted
	SC367	areas for parking and easy transport connections	Noted
	SC374	Ensure the equipment is not stolen after a matter of days of installing it like the equipment in the bishop Cuthbert area.	Noted
	SC375	Important that this area should be 'secured' during the winter months and dark evenings, these are the times of the year that hard work can be undone by kids who are bored and have nothing else to do but damage things !	Noted
Q7. COMMERCIAL ZONE DESIGN PRINCIPLES Do you have any other comments you would like to make for this area?			
Open-ended.			
Q7. COMMERCIAL ZONE DESIGN PRINCIPLES Do you have	SC001	As stated in Q5. too many additional food venues will create too much competition for established food places. Seaton is very busy when the sun shines but at other times (for much of the year) not enough people come and spend money at cafes.ice cream parlours etc. to justify adding more without overtime	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
any other comments you would like to make for this area? Question 7		costing established places their businesses.	
	SC002	More litter bins in this area.	Noted. Litter bins will be considered within the designs
	SC003	There are shops already on Seaton Front that are empty.	Noted
	SC005	There are plenty of empty shops in Seaton Carew we don't need any more. No more modern building like the Longscar Hall.	Noted
	SC007	This expensive idea is merely replacing one "Longsacr" Hall with another, both blocking sea views. Re-developing interior of existing Longscar would provide indoor weather protection, child proof safe play area with possible water zone and refreshment facilities plus dancing, badminton, basketball, gymnastics, dog shows, market stalls, business and meeting facilities to enhance tourism and support to local existing hotels and B&B's to enhance the local economy.	Noted. Disagree. The SPD aims to open up The Front.
	SC014	I assume the existing shops to the east of the road will be demolished. What is happening to the shops west of the road?	Noted
	SC017	Don't agree building houses on old fairground. That should be a nice walk away from the shop area not more congested	Noted
	SC018	Get rid of the monstrosity of a building of Longscar Building ASAP. Account not taken of impact. Account not taken of impact on existing businesses. No though apparently given to sympathetic restoration and consolidation of what inarguably is a more historic area i.e. 'Old Seaton Carew' (for example the Seaton Hotel)	Noted
	SC019	As previously stated, owners should do more instead of relying on the town to subsidise what amounts to prolonged neglect.	Noted
	SC020	This should provide a space for indoor activities, exhibition area,	Noted.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7		creative crafts etc. Sheltered seating should also be provided. It is important that the existing provision e.g. fish shops should be maintained and NOT duplicated and in competition. The backs of the buildings themselves are shown as backing on to other buildings instead of backing on to the car parking.	
	SC022	An indoor area should cater for indoor activities, exhibition areas, creative crafts, sheltered seating. The plans show buildings which are backing on to other buildings when they could be backing on to a car park.	Noted
	SC024	we have recently acquired a better standard of café in seaton ie coasters and Gladys tea rooms odd cod and fish face all of these be frequented by myself and family we have read online rave reviews about these places if you read feedback on their various site people are coming to them from out of the area HBC should maybe make note of these positive feedbacks and some how encourage more visitors through a visit seaton carew website	Noted
	SC036	How much will it cost street vendors to have a market stall! Will the residential element object to the proposed next door entertainment venue?	Noted
	SC038	Surely there are enough empty commercial properties in the town at present without creating more by building new properties, which will either outcompete existing businesses, causing closures, or be occupied by existing businesses causing more empty commercial buildings. Seaton is already a junk food mecca, why make it worse?	Noted. Any future redevelopment would be dependent upon demand.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7	SC043	Seaton has enough fish & chip shops & cafes it also has half a dozen ice cream sweet shops plus indian restaurants plus umpteen arcades & fun palaces.... it does need some shelters, but along the whole of the front from the clock tower to the marina..... Most of all..... The Existing Bus Station & Clock Tower should be maintained on a regular basis (Painted)	Noted
	SC045	Ensure free parking is available.	Noted
	SC048	Brilliant. I can almost taste the fish and chips sat outside then a walk into the market place to visit maybe a craft stall? love it.	Noted
	SC054	Seaton Carew is no longer a commercial centre..... a couple of arcades and a dozen fast-food shops do not justify the claim of 'commercial centre' ! The public would respond with interest and enthusiasm to new and original businesses with an emphasis on quality and variety though it would take time and supportive marketing to establish awareness and reputation. A mini-Sage/Baltic Gateshead, with live performance drama/music events etc.a quality restaurant, Suitable provision for market style promotions/out-door events already exists on the new landscaped area behind the Clock Tower.	References to the marketing of Seaton Carew will be included within the SPD.
	SC055	Can't open on my device. I hope it's not just cheap pound shops	Noted
	SC062	I agree with the ideas but think the market area should be held until a planned reliable market is available - or make it a multi purpose space which is usable by a market only on special occasions	Noted
	SC071	no	Noted
	SC077	The key site to delivering the ambitions of the masterplan is the Longscar Centre. The proposals in their current format make	Noted. Disagree. The openness of The Front is a key consideration.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7		poor use of the opportunities presented by this key regeneration site. Supporting a high quality design led mixed commercial and residential scheme on this site will act as a focal point for the regeneration of Seaton Carew, and make a significant contribution to boosting the economic performance of the town.	
	SC079	Bldg example is dated. Need striking beautiful modern building, distinctive (eg. frank gehry - google him!) type would attract visitors. How about a sea-life centre. Nothing between Tynemouth and Scarborough exists.	Noted
	SC080	Quality not quantity. Promote artisan and craft produces not bad health fast food	Noted
	SC081	It certainly is a start.	Noted
	SC083	No	Noted
	SC084	The link for Commercial Centre Zone design principles does not work	Noted
	SC086	no	Noted
	SC092	A good maritime theme and fitting with the current buildings on the Front.	Noted
	SC093	no	Noted
	SC095	No	Noted
	SC097	I agree with the principle of open air spaces for pop-up markets/traders, but there should not be any permanent structures for commercial use.	Noted
	SC098	There are already sufficient commercial buildings and residential properties, and I do not believe that we need more. If they go ahead, must ensure buildings are easy to maintain, and enforce owner/landlord responsibilities to keep in good order. Seaton has	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7		suffered far too long from derelict buildings on The Front, not only but especially the Longscar, and the Council has ignored this, taking far too long to address the problems. The Wilkinsons have been allowed to act disgracefully, with no intention of repairing this building. It should have been compulsorily purchased and demolished well before now.	
	SC099	My only concern would be having the correct commercial units to attract businesses as the units attached to the Longscar Hall were never used for long and quickly fell into disrepair. Plenty of seating and space for temporary units needs to be a priority	Noted
	SC105	Looks good, but needs quality businesses. We don't want it becoming derelict due to high rents and inhabited by charity shops and pound shops as has happened elsewhere in the town.	Noted
	SC106	the whole look needs to link together with the 'Seaton' we have today not an add on. like the ideas but the do not want to be another eye sore	Noted
	SC108	no	Noted
	SC110	will someone please sort out coasters	Noted
	SC115	Make its special, somewhere to be proud of, a landmark not some half arsed shed.	Noted
	SC118	Quality of design and finished article must be paramount. Generally speaking the quality of some of the newer developments in town could be so much better eg. some of the marina development.	Noted
	SC120	concerned re the number of proposed market stalls that can be placed in location. Also weather conditions on the front will hamper the stalls and possibly public participation on many days	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7		due to exposed location !	
	SC122	I would only question how much seating and bin provision there will be. On a nice day Seaton Carew is 'packed' with people to such a degree that queues for the fish shops can take about 20-30 minutes. seating for this many people should be considered	Noted
	SC123	Make sure the building can be used for multiple purposes and not too big otherwise it will become unused and run-down.	Noted
	SC125	Not really needed but still ok. Car park does need extending though	Noted
	SC128	We already have plenty of unhealthy take-away shops. And ice cream sellers too. Something different would attract visitors.	Noted
	SC130	Although the design principles look fine, I would question building commercial units when there are already unused units on The Front.	Noted
	SC131	I don't think we need anymore fish & chip shops. I think a narrowing of the carrageway is not needed as there are already narrow areas and a pelican crossing would do the job. There is already a 20 MPH speed limit which slows the traffic down. Please don't forget this is one of the route's in and out of Hartlepool which needs to be maintained.	Noted
	SC134	No, as I previously said it must not dominate the area - it removes the seaside feeling of the 'village' with high buildings and look what happened - we've been left with an eyesore - it could happen again so preferably keep the buildings single storey!	Noted
	SC143	no	Noted
	SC146	why have a market zone as the market in the town is dead except for flea markets	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7	SC149	Need to ensure it is litter free and recycling needs including so visitors to both this and the water feature area are encouraged to keep area tidy.	Noted
	SC157	No	Noted
	SC160	Do we need more shops n arcades there are enough already	Noted
	SC162	Low rent chip pies just bring the area down. We need to be more like Padstow with Rick Stein. Invite a celebrity seafood chef to develop the area.	Noted
	SC165	I agree but with reservations. As before 'Food and drink outlets are well catered for in existing premises. There are already at least 3 fish & chip shops, an ice cream/café, ice cream/sweet shops, pubs, restaurants and a new café. Extra seating/picnic tables would be more appropriate.' Also, there was a 'landmark building' there before - the Longscar Hall. It was dated and needed to be replaced but it was replaced with the Coasters complex. Not a great success for the community or the local authority. There are enough arcades already to provide entertainment. Existing commercial premises should be supported.	Noted
	SC169	I see no value in retaining the existing car park on the promenade. It spoils the flow of features along the promenade and could be used to enhance the market/display areas. Parking could be concentrated at the larger car park near the end of the promenade, where there is room for extension.	Noted. The provision of car parking will be reviewed
	SC171	no	Noted
	SC175	Cannot agree until the waste trucks are stopped from going through The Front	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7	SC179	better/more parking off road	Noted
	SC188	Much more traditional style of design to fit in with existing buildings. Will stand the test of time.	Noted
	SC190	Weather	Noted
	SC193	NONE	Noted
	SC195	Great but the area must not be blighted by takeaways as there is too many already	Noted
	SC196	Consider barrows (and storage facilities as in shopping malls. High quality souvenirs - as on sale at Historic Quay?	Noted
	SC198	I do not think it would be in anyone's interests to consider residential apartments on any upper floor	Noted
	SC199	The weather is a huge consideration in design. Covered areas and indoor activities/space are important.	Noted
	SC209	No	Noted
	SC212	Any new buildings could be kept to match the design of the Bus Station for continuity.	Noted
	SC219	Area must not detract from other shopping areas in the town outlets should complement the attractions at Seaton. Focus on local small business. Parking should be plentiful, free, and must not detract from the beach front location	Noted
	SC220	Too little, remove amusements first	Noted
	SC221	no	Noted
	SC222	Please level the Longscar Hall site, grass it over and then leave well alone! Give us back our open aspect. We don't need any more white elephants	Noted.
	SC228	demolish Longscar Hall	Noted
	SC234	Fantastic tourist hub	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7	SC238	Retail units to be affordable for all people	Noted
	SC242	A beach front family food pub such as those at ingoldmells Skegness would work well here.	Noted
	SC243	I fear that the effect of these plans will echo the effects of the 'regeneration of Redcar', in that many people do not like what has been done to the seafront and consider it to be spoilt. We do not want 'landmark' buildings suddenly appearing and spoiling the atmosphere of the place that people are used to. What is this obsession with Hubs? Redcar seafront is gradually being ruined by being turned into a sterile characterless theme park and I can see that you're going to do the same with Seaton. Local people from the area have been visiting these places since being children, we like the way they are, with all their scruffiness and character. Stop trying to tart them up into someone's idea of what a seaside town should look like. No doubt there will be the inevitable overpriced sculpture of a dead fish or something by some pushy untalented careerist 'artist' who will end up as Hartlepool's cultural advisor in a few years time. Oh and how about a vintage tearoom with some mismatched china and bunting while you're at it.	Noted
	SC244	The private sector will invest where they believe there is an opportunity to make money. The council should focus on putting in infrastructure and attracting visitors but leaving it to private sector how they will fill the units etc - bars and restaurants will not be successful in season unless there are good transport links and lots to do to attract visitor numbers. Look at seaton now - there are and have been bars and restaurants which are good quality	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7		but have not been sustainable	
	SC245	No convinced about the market place, it could have the potential to "cheapen" the look of the area and the feel of a commercial zone	Noted
	SC253	Do not block the sea-views with high buildings like the current monstrosity!	Noted
	SC260	Would be good to have some artist studios included in the commercial building for local artists to rent, with a gallery space so they can sell items. Like this centre in Manchester http://www.craftanddesign.com/about/	Noted. Artist studios are not included within this SPD. The Church Street area of Hartlepool has been designated a creative industries quarter.
	SC263	We do not need another centre similar to the Longscar. It will only follow the same demise. There are enough commercial outlets already.	Noted
	SC264	Would like to see more individual units even "farmers market style" that would attract a more diverse range of shopping ie Arts and Crafts, Gifts, speciality food etc, not everyone wants fish and chips/burgers or ice cream.	Noted. A temporary market and an events programme will be investigated.
	SC272	Reduce impact of slot machines	Noted
	SC273	I like the idea but I am concerned about the height and actual design of the buildings - a few years ago there was a proposal for the sea front which involved a totally hideous red brick building which fortunately never got past the planning stage - this style would be wholly inappropriate for the setting	Noted. Design guidance is included within the SPD so that any new development reflects the Conservation Area and the character of Seaton Carew.
	SC275	Again, we don't really need more ice cream and fish & chip shops. Please consider alternative enterprises.	Noted
	SC276	I agree with the principles but feel they have been poorly executed. You either need proper pedestrian crossings to	Noted. The designs for the pedestrian crossings will be reviewed.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7		"enhance pedestrian flow" especially for vulnerable/disabled pedestrians or remove on-street parking, the centre line hatching, reduce traffic numbers and speed.	
	SC277	Leave the business men to commercial enterprises. If it will be financially sustainable, they will do it otherwise it will be a certain failure.	Noted
	SC279	If the "commercial zone" is to include flats and apartments, I disagree with it.	Noted
	SC281	i disagree on all of it make it like it should be for the holiday makers	Noted
	SC282	not really sure a commercial zone is what the area needs. lonscar hall needs knocking down and replacing with a car park or grassed area. there are plenty of business in seaton already. the units further along the seafront (chippy, bar and indian) have changed ownership several times and are now looking rather dated and is only a matter of time before they go the way of the longscar hall.	Noted
	SC291	Where is the money coming from?	Noted
	SC293	LITTER could vendors be made responsible for cleaning area around the shops, cafe's etc on a daily basis?	Noted
	SC296	Ni	Noted
	SC299	Would prefer new building to not be so imposing, ie not too high and not residential nor too unsightly	Noted
	SC308	If Hartlepool Borough Council are incapable of dealing with Coasters / Longscar then perhaps advice should be taken from larger more effective local authorities who know how to implement a compulsory purchase order.	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7	SC311	Not sure about the timber features. Pointless?!?	Noted
	SC314	/Seriously doubt that these plans will materialise going on the track record of HBC where nothing decent has been done to Seaton Carew in 20 years except 2 very smelly landfill sites.	Noted
	SC315	How does this work in the winter months?	Noted
	SC327	Toilet Facilities	Noted
	SC342	Buildings would be good in the Art Deco style to tie in with the bus station. Good quality buildings essential to prevent what has happened to existing Longscar building.	Noted
	SC347	Seaton at best is a coastal village. It's never going to be a huge commercial hub. Building more retail units on the sea front is a colossal mistake. If they were viable, then the longscar centre would be thriving. There are still empty retail units on the sea front. Building more would be a huge waste of money and would leave us in a similar position as we are now. The best thing to do with the 'commercial' centre is DON'T BUILD IT. There are enough small businesses in Seaton struggling to make ends meet as it is. Don't bring in more competition please. Just flatten the site and make it more leisure. Please do not build more commercial stuff IT WILL FAIL.	Noted
	SC350	I'm not sure about this as I am reluctant to promote new builds/building in the area. I think the natural beauty should be enhanced on the sea side of the road. Any development should be kept to currently urbanised areas. The current restaurant facilities which where but 5years or so are go are an eyesore on the landscape.	Noted
	SC353	No	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 7	SC357	No	Noted
	SC362	Without appearing too negative, I believe that the current commercial premises offer enough space for retail within Seaton. Some current buildings are unoccupied and unsightly. To build new buildings would not necessarily address this problem and indeed could exasperate it.	Noted
	SC374	Ensure suitable shops are installed that create interest across a range of ages and preferences	Noted
	SC375	The new commercial area MUST link with the main street adjacent to it for those business already on the sea front to prosper alongside them. If all of the foot traffic is directed towards the new development you will be left with new buildings on the sea front and empty eyesores on the main street.	Noted
Q9.I Performance and Events have- Do you have any other comments you would like to make for this area?			
Open-ended report?			
Q9. PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SPACE DESIGN PRINCIPLES Do you have any other comments you would like to make for this area?	SC001	Keep it a safe, accessible play area-no extra commercial venues needed. Re-furbish any existing venues which are closed and spoil the overall look of this part of Seaton which has the vast majority of traders working very hard to attract visitors.	Noted
	SC002	How does HBC propose to keep noise to a level that does not affect local residents.	Noted
	SC003	A bandstand would be nice and skating rink. How about tea dances!	Noted
	SC005	Old fashion skating rink. Crazy golf	Noted
	SC007	Wvent space already exists at the rear of the Clock Tower and existing paved area is adequate. Beach Huts and protected flower beds would enhance the area and hard PVC style	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 9		shelters, larger bus shelters, cycle shelters and station would suffice as wind breaks wothough providing overnight accomodation to intransients. Timber screening will provide nothing but expensive maintenance costs. Hartlepool already has enough telegraph poles.	
	SC016	To put a stage in sounds a great idea	Noted
	SC018	Utilize the library to become an information office. Move area currently earmarked as 'expanded car park' onto former fairground site & incorporate this into leisure area of promenade	Noted
	SC019	With such venues as the Historic Quay, Borough Hall and its outside area and the Town Hall Theatre being threatened due to lack of use, why design another with the same problems.	Noted
	SC020	An appropriately-sized performance and events space should be provided between the sea and the clock tower. The proposed timber and planting features will detract from the purpose of this space and should not be included in the design.	Noted
	SC024	mostly make this accessible to all able and disabled.	Noted
	SC033	Access to events should be free to Hartlepool council tax payers	Noted
	SC035	It's great to have these listed buildings, but it needs more use for its original purpose.	Noted
	SC036	Suggested timber features will soon become tired looking and overgrown without constant maintenance. The suggested hard surface - set paving - is not conducive to wheelchairs or prams/buggies, not to mention high heels.	Noted
	SC038	If money is available to spend on this area, I could think of a lot worse than the proposed scheme, I would be interested to see	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 9		some more details.	
	SC043	pointless waste of money, a "Performance Area" who exactly will be performing & what will they be performing, a nonsensical idea that would need regular upkeep that is unlikely to happen..... Seaton has been lacked basic maintainance on its public areas for years.... Correcting that would be a big improvement	Noted
	SC053	Don't believe it will be used	Noted
	SC054	Though I agree in principle with the proposals for an Art Deco theme for the area, a few timber poles and a basic landscaping plan is a long way short of such a fulfilment.... again, the marketing/planning proposal is unimaginative and lacking in creative boldness.	Noted
	SC055	Can't open plans but this town is lacking this type of area	Noted
	SC062	I would definitely include an amphitheater as the existing space would not be flexible enough	Noted
	SC071	no	Noted
	SC079	Performance space needs cover from the elements . Parking - SC needs more managed parking for visitors ! Congestion v. serious in Elizabeth Way and surrounding roads during big events.	Noted
	SC080	Plenty of spaces already, we don't need or want any near residential areas. Bandstand in Headland, Summerhill, town Hall, Borough Hall exist and are already under exploited and under used	Noted
	SC081	Outdoor events great idea. Seaton has to have more to offer than fish & chips, ice cream and amusment arcades	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 9	SC084	The link for Performance and Events space design principles does not work	Noted
	SC086	no	Noted
	SC092	Some type of bandstand or staging area for holding music events and hosting the firework display would be great	Noted
	SC098	Don't like timber structures as these will look scruffy in no time, and look pointless. Amphitheatre is a good idea, and the ability to hold a wide variety of events would be excellent. Would suggest some form of shelter as the sea front is extremely windy and this would prevent events either being cancelled due to adverse weather or with poor attendance.	Noted
	SC099	Low maintenance planting is a good idea to soften the area which also need to enhance the bus shelter and tower design, so ideas work well	Noted. Maintenance of any planting will be investigated.
	SC103	There would appear to be a lack of outdoor activities such as crazy golf, etc. Are these to be considered elsewhere?	Noted
	SC105	I like all the precedent study features, especially the amphitheatre style, which complements the flow of the bus station.	Noted
	SC106	in principle like the ideas but feel that they will become forgotten	Noted
	SC108	no	Noted
	SC110	what about coasters	Noted
	SC115	You should maximize of the striking art deco style already in the area, this should inform your new landmark buildings, streamline, glass, sympathetic colours and lighting. Make it count!	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 9	SC116	depends on who's going to be looking after this area	Noted
	SC120	Would not bother with performance space. This will not be utilised much in my opinion. It would only serve as a meeting point for youths etc on evenings.	Noted
	SC122	Personally, I feel that the southern parts of area 5 and the land considered for housing directly adjacent to this land should be hardlandscaped for events. This would allow a part of the car park to be used for 'behind the scenes' vehicles whilst allowing the hardstanding area to be used for the public	Noted
	SC128	Your proposal for a performance space will be used as a skate park, maybe more people would like a skate park	Noted
	SC130	Seaton's infrastructure appears to struggle during the annual fireworks display - regular events attracting large crowds would need to be carefully managed to avoid disturbing residents.	Noted
	SC131	The stage structure is not marked so I can not see where the new event/stage will be in relation to the plan. Please could the soft planting area be done with something other than gravel as wheelchairs and pushchairs can not be used on gravel. I am concerned that the gravel will also be buried by sand when the winter storms blow sand onto the planted area. It would be good to have a large performance/event area as we dont have an outside area in town at the moment. Have you checked whether there is going to be enough car parking in the proposed areas? I like the idea of trying to use Art Deco principles to blend in the bus station.	Noted
	SC134	I just hope it is used!	Noted
	SC143	no	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 9	SC149	Same comments as on 2 areas already mentioned .	Noted
	SC157	No	Noted
	SC162	Considering we are lucky to get 1 event a decade the idea is a waste of money. Just use a farmers field like pigpen for any events.	Noted
	SC165	The principle is good but I cannot tell where an event audience would be. On the wildflower and grassed areas perhaps? Again, I would hope that seating will be included in this area along the walkway by the beach.	Noted
	SC169	However, emphasis should also be placed on 'non-performance' seating, in order to allow folks just to enjoy the sunshine.	Noted
	SC171	No	Noted
	SC175	Same again. This will never be a resort until the waste trucks are sorted out and sent on another route.	Noted
	SC190	We do not live in the south of france	Noted
	SC193	NONE	Noted
	SC196	Events space disappointing - does not maximise potential for new ventures e.g. open air concerts etc. Consider drive in movie events? wild flower area in danger of becoming neglected very quickly. Space could geberally be put to more innovative use.	Noted
	SC209	No	Noted
	SC212	Great minds think alike - my previous comment regarding the Bus Station was before I turned to this page.	Noted
	SC219	Needs to be a flexible space not with permanent screening which would be at rinks of vandalism	Noted. The SPD will be amended so that all designs consider crime and anti-social

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 9			behaviour.
	SC220	Open area will become unused except for vandals	Noted
	SC221	no	Noted
	SC238	Needs an option of covering the open air space if events are marred by inclement weather	Noted
	SC242	It's a great idea to have a performance space as long as the original art deco clock tower is part of the design, bonfire night is the only predictable night we have entertainment on the front, it would be wonderful to see it all year round.	Noted
	SC243	A waste of time. The Deco bus station has always been iconic and always will be -why not just give it a lick of paint once in a while - that would help!	Noted. Maintenance of the bus station will be reviewed.
	SC245	Like the idea of the performance space, however what are the plans for it being used regularly. It could end up looking abandoned like the similar space at the headland	Noted
	SC263	Not too sure that the art deco is a good idea. The bus station is run down, unused and cheap refurbishments do no work	Noted
	SC273	I think the art deco style would be a brilliant idea	Noted
	SC275	Amphitheatre style is excellent, and could be used for tourist seating generally. People need places to sit on a warm day, to enjoy food or drink. The grass/posts/boulders part takes a lot of space and is a bit useless. May be better with seating/picnic areas, or people will just sit on the logs & boulders	Noted
	SC277	Inappropriate near residential housing. We have a town Hall a Borough Hall for entertainment. Inappropriate considering the climate too. Insufficient parking means events become a nuisance to residents.	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response
Question 9	SC279	Looks great	Noted
	SC282	again seems a little too fancy for seaton carew. keep things simple.	Noted
	SC291	Where is the money coming from?	Noted
	SC294	The Longscar Hall must be demolished.	Noted
	SC296	No	Noted
	SC299	Bus station needs painting	Noted
	SC308	No	Noted
	SC311	Timber features?!? Waste of money and effort	Noted
	SC315	Do not like proposed designs -think the timber grasses will look untidy and shabby after a year or 2	Noted
	SC342	Difficult to see wher the 'stage area' would be. Don't like the suggested timber/ Boulder landscaping. Good idea in principle to have a performance area. Don't like the Rhyl example - too much bare concrete would be a magnet for graffiti.	Noted
	SC347	The current design does not allow performances or events. Grass with decorative timber every 30 metres? It looks lovely, but it's not for performances. If you are going to build such an area, then have an amphitheatre created, this would be for performances.	Noted
	SC350	The building which use to be an old arcade across the road from the block tower need knocking down.	Noted. The Las Vegas arcade will be considered as part of the regeneration plans.
	SC357	Having additional parking will be of great benefit, but maybe a free car park to attract people in and either a viewing platform or a pier	Noted
	SC362	The new promenade is already in a disgusting state with litter strewn everywhere, dog and horse dirt in abundance and	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 9		appears that nothing at all is done to rectify it. I myself actually collect litter from the beach as it's embarrassing to see and hear visitors negative comments. Again this suggestion appears and looks pleasant but my concern is that it will not be maintained and will fall into disrepair like the rest of Seaton.			
	SC367	why not develop the old bus station again and reopen the shops that once was there			Noted
	SC374	I believe it would be interesting if the style was kept the same to keep in touch with hartlepoons rich past.			Noted
	SC375	The idea of a performance area is the wrong type of installation for this area. It will not be used as planned, over time it will become an area where kids will use it for skateboarding and anything else they can think of. Far better to draft up some proposals for a games area for children, where permanent structures can be built for things such as beach volleyball & basketball. Check out on-line the facilities offered by towns along the Dutch coast, they are light years ahead in development of how similar flat coastal areas can be adapted for residents and tourists !			Noted
Q11. What do you see as the three main priorities to be addressed in the Seaton Carew SPD area?					
PRIORITY 1PRIORITY 2PRIORITY 3					
Q11. What do you see as the three main priorities to be addressed in the Seaton	SC001	Cleaning up the area of Coasters/Longscar Hall which is an eyesore and in danger of causing	Improving the commercial/play areas	Not overburdening Seaton with seafront housing	Noted. Addressing the Longscar Building is a key aim of the SPD.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Carew SPD area? Question 11		an accident in its poor state.			
	SC002	Clean environment	Income attracting businesses into area-revenue		Noted
	SC003	Knock down Longscar Hall	The tunnel leading to the Park	More parking	Noted
	SC004	The Front	Former Fairground Site	Seaton Park	Noted
	SC005	Demolish Longscar Hall	Clean pavements	Plant more trees in park	Noted
	SC007	Undercover or indoor protection for adverse weather conditions	Far more parking facilities to welcome visitors	More attractions ie garden flowerbeds/protected from wind. Seating with wind protection and enhance local park.	Noted
	SC008	Getting rid of the eyesore that is Longscar Hall	Making the Front family friendly	Putting in place a decent bus service	Noted
	SC009	Problem of Longscar Hall site	Refurbish or relocate library		Noted. The redevelopment of the library is included within the SPD.
	SC012	Removal of the Longscar Building	Enhanced family/childrens play area		Noted
	SC013	Bring tourism	Provide better	Improve	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11			public facilities	employment opportunities	
	SC014	Removal of unsightly buildings east of the road	New buildings which are easily maintained and kept clean	Good security and cleaning services	Noted
	SC015	Removing Longscar Building			Noted
	SC016	Play/ family area	Commercial zone picture showing 'Bex Hill on Sea' will look great	Beach huts will need security camera to stop vandals	Noted
	SC017	Get rid of Longscar Hall			Noted
	SC018	Demolish Longscar Hall	Sympathetically develop existing historic buildings rather than build new/ more	Retain as much open space as possible	Noted. The SPD aims to enhance Seaton Carew's open space.
	SC019	Waste Tips.	More done by owners.		Noted
	SC020	make the most of the existing heritage - from the village to a seaside resort	make sure a balance is kept that this is also a residential area not just a potential tourist attraction	make sure the local businesses are supported and do not suffer from these plans	Noted. The references to Seaton Carew's Heritage will be strengthened.

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11	SC023	To make the area more appealing	To help existing buisnesses	To attract tourists	Noted
	SC024	OUTDOOR AREAS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES TO PLAY FOR FREE	TOTALLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL FROM YOUNG TO OLDER		Noted. Free play areas are included within the SPD.
	SC025	regeneration as whole as looks shabby	lonscar building	improved transport connections	Noted
	SC030	public transport	littef	reducing gambling arcades	Noted
	SC031	Visual attractiveness	Litter issue		Noted
	SC035	more transport facilities	activities for youth	development of the front and possible market on fairground site	Noted
	SC036	Sort out Longscar Hall	Link the whole of the front from Elizabeth Way to Newburn Bridge to look and feel welcoming.	Develop the old/worn out areas of the front.	Noted
	SC038	No more commercial buildings	No more chalets	Open spaces and play areas	Noted
	SC041	Provide places and activites that people	Regenerate the area for future	Remove unsightly run down facilities	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11		want to visit	generations		
	SC043	get rid of the longscar hall, 50% grass & 50% carpark	maintain the existing amenities, bus station, park, promenade, grassed areas & flower beds.	clean up the dog crap & fine transgressors on a regular basis	Noted
	SC044	Longscar building	Traffic in area if SPD came to fruition	continued maintenance and care for the area if the plan came to fruition	Noted
	SC045	Free parking.	Hi-tech windbreaks on beach for sunbathing.	Clear or repair derelict buildings.	Noted
	SC046	family friendly	access to all	policed	Noted
	SC049	get a grip with speeding lorries on station lane	tidy up longscar hall	enforcement of the 20mph zone	Noted
	SC051	Long scar hall	Sea front		Noted
	SC052	Make Seaton a good place to bring the family	Offer the right facilities	Promote tourism	Noted
	SC053	Clean beach	Remove derelict buildings	Get rid of amusement arcades	Noted
	SC054	creating a bold and imaginative plan	a determination to take Seaton Carew	Suitable provision to support the	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11		based on a quality of provision and appealing in new ways to a more diverse audience	and Hartlepool into a dynamic future, nor trying to cling to past and out-lived glories.	concerns of the substantial numbers of permanent residents of the 'Village'	
	SC055	Empty buildings	Dog mess and rubbish	Anti social behaviour	Noted
	SC056	get rid of the Longscar	support sports and social activities already within the area		Noted
	SC058	Safety	Development of new facilities		Noted
	SC062	Remove old long scar site- today	Develop all of these areas as stated asap	Don't let the full council do what's best for them - it's about the town not their own ego	Noted
	SC064	Longscar building			Noted
	SC065	Longscar Hall demolition	Better parking facilities	More family orientated amenities	Noted
	SC066	An area for Families to use for Recreational Activity	Performance Area	Clean and Tidy environment	Noted
	SC067	Poor buildings	Dirty environment	Safe parking	Noted
	SC069	longscar hall			Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11	SC070	More things for children			Noted
	SC075	purchase of the derelict commercial properties			Noted
	SC077	Support a viable high quality mixed commercial/residential development on the Longscar Centre site.	Support private sector investment.	Increased residential offering.	Noted. Disagree.
	SC078	Consultation on Strategic Road Network where appropriate			Noted
	SC079	1 Facilities to attract families.	2 Commercial centre must be impressive and beautiful.	3 Performance area. Develop and organise event schedule	Noted
	SC080	Restore Victorian elegance	don't allow wind turbines in area	rebuild community facilities	Noted
	SC081	Get rid of the current eyesores	Spruce up some of the current shops/buildings	Some decent food outlets/restaurants	Noted
	SC083	Longscar Centre - its an eyesore	Parking - if the area is developed will there be enough		Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11			parking?		
	SC084	affordable housing that poor people can afford	council housing that poor people can afford		Noted
	SC086	tidy it up	make it user friendly	concentrate on families	Noted
	SC088	To demolish the Longscar Hall	Provide extra parking areas		Noted
	SC089	Longscar pulled down	better bus routes	permanent fair ground	Noted
	SC092	Restore the area but keep it respectful of its history	Provide activities for families, both residents and visitors	Tidy up the area	Noted
	SC093	create a regional draw	economic revival	sports infrastructure	Noted
	SC094	Resolving the Longscar Hall Issue	Ensure sufficient, accessible parking	Provide facilities to make Seaton Carew an all weather destination	Noted
	SC095	Cost	Environmental factors	Appearances	Noted
	SC096	The need for new amenities for young and old			Noted
	SC097	Removal of Longscar building	Enhanced facilities to attract visitors	Include indoor visitor attractions as	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11		as an urgent priority		our weather is not always the best!	
	SC098	Demolition of Longscar Hall	Sustainable amenities that won't quickly fall into disrepair	Provide facilities to replace what has been lost including sports centre and youth centre	Noted
	SC099	Removal of Longscar Hall	Enhancement of visitor facilities, eg seating & play facilities	Enhancement of park facilities and maintenance of existing play facilities	Noted
	SC103	Family friendly	Robust quality features	Adequate car parking	Noted
	SC104	Demolition of Longscar Building	Beach huts will be great if beach is kept pristine	Activities on the beach ie windsurfing, jet ski hire would attract more people	Noted
	SC105	More things for people to do, such as watersports hire / activities as mentioned previously	More parking (free), to encourage people to come from the wider area.	Make things reasonably prices so the average person can afford to use any facilities regularly to keep them viable.	Noted
	SC106	link to heritage and	create areas that	ensure all	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11		properties that are already present	will be used. may need to think how to encourage winter visitors to access those that visit Salthome	change/work can m=be maintained	
	SC108	Removal/renovation of Longscar building	Redevelopment of southern area		Noted
	SC110	coasters	coasters	coasters	Noted
	SC111	Regenerate	enhance	reinvent	Noted
	SC112	Develop Longscar site	Improve visitor facilities	Enhance opportunities for commercial venture	Noted
	SC115	Make it a destination that showcases the town	Dont half arse it, be bold!	Follow through with the design and commit to it!	Noted
	SC117	Improve appreance of the area			Noted
	SC118	Quality of Design / Finished Development	Promotion of high quality seaside environment - aim high!	Enables/supports local businesses and opportunities for active lifestyles/sport	Noted. A reference to the quality of design will be included within the SPD
	SC120	Demolition of Longscar Building	Planting of grassed area on Coronation drive with paths etc to make joined up	Possibility of building further small business units in the area to offer	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11			walkway into the town	visitors more shopping ideas and installation of more modern shower/toilets	
	SC122	Seaton may be a conservation area but it needs to keep moving with the times. A lot of the improved shop fronts make a visual difference	Provide indoor/ out of season activities/ attractions	keep as much parking as possible without compromising on the development of the area	Noted
	SC123	Removal of ugly delapidated building	Increase aesthetics of area	a place to be relaxed and want to visit regularly	Noted
	SC124	To make Seaton moreFamily friendly	Smart appearance	Enhance what is already there	Noted
	SC125	Activities to keep people entertained	Clean and tidy	To be the best seaside town in the north east	Noted
	SC127	Traffic flow	Cleanliness	Parking	Noted
	SC128	Long scar centre removal	As above	As above	Noted
	SC129	longscar hall needs to be sorted	make it tidy and attract people to it	get more for family and children	Noted
	SC130	Main priority should	Play Area/New		Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11		be demolition of Longscar Centre.	amenities		
	SC131	Sorting out the Longscar hall.	Maintaining traffic flow-throughput so people are not in their cars for too long.	Making a family friendly atomsphere as well as minimising opportunities for vandalism.	Noted
	SC132	Entertainment to attract visitors	Plenty sheltered places to sit	Something to do when wet	Noted
	SC133	KEEPING HAS MUCH OLD ARCHITECTURE AS POSS	LEARNING FROM PAST MISTAKES	MAKING GOOD USE OF THE UNUSED SPACE AND LEAVE AS MUCH PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AS POSS AND REMEMBER THE SEA FRONT STRETCHES THE FULL LENGTH OF THE BEACH NOT THE SOUTH PART	Noted
	SC134	Keep buildings so they bloend in rather dominate the areas	Make it an 'attraction' to visitors to the area	Where the housing will be built seems to fit in with the present site	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11	SC135	Little thought has been given to main road through	servicing Seal Sands including heavy plant and lorries	Whole site is cut in half by traffic and so dangerous	Noted
	SC143	Sorting out the empty buildings	Cleaning up the area	Adding new amenities	Noted
	SC145	safety	enterprise zone	more activities for children	Noted
	SC146	community center	sports hall	clean up of tips	Noted
	SC147	removal of Longscar Hall or improving it	more seating	improving the paddling pool example seating roundabout it	Noted
	SC148	An attraction to bring people into Seaton	Parking	Somewhere to go in inclement weather	Noted
	SC149	Open up a clean area to encourage more visitors	This will encourage economic growth & visitors to spend		Noted
	SC151	Coasters	Preservation of the bus shelter	A facelift for Seaton Front shops	Noted
	SC154	Childrens amenities			Noted
	SC156	It is largely rundown and disused	Parking/road safety	Access for residents	Noted
	SC157	to get better tourism	to upgrade the look		Noted
	SC158	Improved	Improved aesthetics	Job creation	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11		amenities/facilities for residents			
	SC159	Longscar centre	Car parking	Fun for the kids	Noted
	SC160	longscar hall	free children's play area	how about a putting green/ crazy golf	Noted
	SC161	It will inject vibrancy into Seaton	It will bring in more visitors	More visitors means economic growth	Noted
	SC162	Quality not quantity.	Forest along Coronation Drive and trees to mask Domes too.	Submarine rides from the North Gare.	Noted
	SC163	putting the plan into place before it is changed again	putting the plan into place before it is changed again	putting the plan into place before it is changed again	Noted
	SC165	Replace Coasters	Play areas; quality landscaping	Parking for the hordes of visitors these improvements will encourage!	Noted
	SC169	Retention of existing character	Prevention of commercial clutter	Enhancing economic growth without compromising the above.	Noted
	SC171	Clean beaches as that is paramount	Remove black seacoal from Mainsforth terrace end of beach.	Encourage more visitors	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11	SC174	Derelict and poorly maintained buildings repaired or removed.	Clean, safe environment free from dog mess.	Mess caused by nearby landfill sites.	Noted
	SC175	Sort out waste trucks through The Front	Do something with that pigeon infested monstrosity		Noted
	SC176	hospital	hospital	hospital	Noted
	SC177	flatten the longscar centre , and make the owners payfor it..	replan the drawings to accomodate the seawall changes made..		Noted
	SC178	eliminate the dilapidated buildings (Lanscar Hall)	Make full use of the available space	Consider the whole life of the development and future maintenance	Noted
	SC180	Improved appearance and environment			Noted
	SC186	longscar regeneration	childrens area	shops	Noted
	SC188	Destinations to bring people in to Seaton Carew. Gladys tearoom is an example of something that	Family friendly environments. Seaton pubs are outdated and not family friendly. Pool is old, more	Farmers markets, craft fairs/food markets as apposed to tat stalls. Provide cheap fun for kids along with	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11		brings more footfall to the area.	play areas needed on the front	something classy for adults	
	SC190	Build indoor facilities were visitors can escape the weather	Designers should visit Amsterdam	Knock down all amusement arcades	Noted
	SC191	Get rid of Longscar Centre	Provide more parking	Encourage more businesses	Noted
	SC192	Residents	Visiting families	Commercial events	Noted
	SC193	MORE FUN AREAS FOR CHILDREN	TOURISTS COMING	BETTER PLACE TO VISIT	Noted
	SC195	Tourism	Cleanliness	promotion of local crafts	Noted
	SC196	Better facilities to attract visitors and local residents and adequate parking	Consistent high quality maintenance of present and new areas	Regenerate history and heritage of the 'village' and use as a theme to attract visitors and economic nvestment	Noted
	SC197	Play area for children	Extra car parking	Events in event areas to attract public	Noted
	SC198	Develop community spaces without increasing Anti social behaviours			Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11	SC199	Attracting sustainable businesses	Ensuring there are plenty of things to do and see	Planning for the upkeep of the items in future	Noted
	SC201	durability	sustainability	cost	Noted
	SC202	Better transportation links	Easy to be keep clean and tidy	Encourage economic regeneration	Noted
	SC203	the bus station	the front		Noted
	SC207	Longscar Hall	Commercial regeneration	Family scheme	Noted
	SC209	children	families	tourism	Noted
	SC210	Flatten Longscar Hall	More police patrols	Advertise/promote the area	Noted
	SC211	the seafront area	ensuring adequate and appropriate parking		Noted
	SC212	Play area between Seaton Lane and Longscar Hall	Commercial area	Entertainment area	Noted
	SC213	more proper toilets in family and park areas			Noted
	SC217	Children's safety	Family orientated	Alcohol free	Noted
	SC218	Demolish the eyesore of the building opposite Talk of the Town	Clean up the main beach, its full of rubbish and stones		Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11		and build something appropriate			
	SC219	Recreation links to 'a day out at the beach'	Link the 'high street' and other commercial ventures to the beach	Make the whole area more welcoming	Noted. References will be included within the SPD to link the "high street" and other commercial ventures with the beach.
	SC220	Clear, Tidy or at least consolidate amusements	Have budget available for supervision of area	Then renew	Noted
	SC222	Demolish the Longscar Hall eyesore.	Grass over the levelled site and leave open this seaview.	Then stop and leave well alone.	Noted
	SC223	Deal with constant litter	Deal with vast numbers of birds now in evidence and their mess	provide catering other than fish and chips	Noted
	SC226	better facilities	more activities for families and children	music and dance	Noted
	SC228	develop the area adjacent to the demolished Longscar Hall	keep the beach clear of sea coal	continue to improve Seaton Park	Noted
	SC230	Creating an area to attract visitors	Creating a family friendly space	Being a jewel in the hartlepool crown	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11	SC231	Redevelopment of derelict buildings	Activites for local people and visitors	Parking	Noted
	SC232	Longscar Buildings	Contiued cyclical maintenace of the Clock Tower	Any bulidngs on the front that are in a state of disrepair	Noted
	SC233	Removal of the old Longscar Hall building	Create a watersports facility for all ages	Link the area with the Marina	Noted
	SC234	Clean and safe Picnic Area	Attractive and appealing things to do like mini golf and quality up to date restaurants/cafes	Family friendly activites and areas	Noted
	SC237	maintain the character of the area	activities/shelter when weather is poor	events area	Noted
	SC238	litter	dog fouling	anti social behavior	Noted
	SC241	clear derelict buildings (longscar hall site)	get rid of the tips each end of area	more events	Noted
	SC242	Get rid of or refurbish the Long Scar Center	Modernize	Have more family facilities, maybe a modern community center for a range of activities (exercise classes, toddler/baby	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11				groups, craft sessions...)	
	SC243	Clean the place up ie litter, clean facilities, clean beach	Redevelop the kids playing areas but not excessively	Try not to whitewash the place by going over the top. Don't get carried away building unnecessary buildings that detract from the character of Seaton.	Noted
	SC244	Leisure	Leisure/play	Leisure/play	Noted
	SC245	The area needs to be cleaned up and maintained	park needs improving	new buildings need to be in keeping with the old ones	Noted
	SC247	Free parking			Noted
	SC249	smartening up a derelict area	making it a more usable environment	making it more popular to locals and visitors	Noted
	SC253	More upmarket/tasteful appearance	Nice cafes & shops - less chip shops!		Noted
	SC258	Commercial area,	family area	performance area	Noted
	SC259	Longscar hall demolition	more amenities to bring people into the area	have more family friendly amenities and things for	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11				youngsters to do	
	SC260	support and increase local economy and jobs	upgrade the area but maintain the historic features	create a family atmosphere	Noted
	SC262	Remove lonscar hall	Remove lonscar hall	And yet again remove lonscar hall	Noted
	SC263	Cater to the people who visit in all climates.	Allow only individual commercial outlets. Not multi as Longsacr is.	Find some way to stop dog fouling. and also treat horse fouling in a robust fashion.	Noted
	SC264	DEMOLISH COASTERS ASAP	Current area to be cleaned up and repaired	Not to lose sight of Seaton Carew's Victorian past	Noted
	SC265	get seaton carew back to a family place to take you, r kidd,s			Noted
	SC267	Remove grot spots	prevent anti social behaviour	keep it family friendly	Noted
	SC271	Demolition of the old longscar centre	Some sort of attraction on the old fairground car park	Possibly extend the resort in some way towards the newburn bridge end of seaton	Noted
	SC273	Any new buildings in harmony with	Any new buildings do not obscure sea	Make sure there is adequate parking	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments			Policy Response
Question 11		existing structures	view of residents	for residents and visitors	
	SC275	Getting rid of the Longscar centre & replacing with usable space	Better parking & seating for visitors	Preserving historic features eg bus station	Noted
	SC276	Ensure the relationship between shops/businesses & new sea front isn't severed by an over trafficed road & on street car park.	Reduce motor vehicle dependency	Provide safe segregated facilities for cyclists to access Seaton Carew.	Noted
	SC277	Better community facilities for residents before visitors.	Encourage heavy vehicles not to pass through the village by pedestrianising The Front..	Time we had our public art like the Angel of the North, considering we manufacture it.	Noted
	SC279	No houses on the seaward side of the coast road			Noted
	SC280	Beach cleanliness	Derelict Buildings	Dog Fouling	Noted
	SC281	nothing to go to the beach for dirty sands with sea coal all over nothing to	bring things people want not what the council say we have to have	make it a fun place to be	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11		do			
	SC282	longscar hall demolished	no more houses	a senior school!	Noted
	SC285	Clean friendly environment	Protect and enhance heritage	Encourage local business	Noted
	SC292	tidying up the area to make it more appealing	have more facilities available for tourists		Noted
	SC293	appearance & public safety	to be able to have an updated ' good old day out at the seaside'	affordability/access to public	Noted
	SC294	Demolish Longscar Hall	Fun activities for visitors	Promote commercial enterprise	Noted
	SC297	beach	walkway	pool	Noted
	SC299	Longscar building removed/repared	No more fairs close to residents/residents to be consulted/considered more	Bus service to run between Marina & Seaton along front or mini "train" to link the two	Noted
	SC304	Attraction for tourism	Excisting businesses to keep their property fronts updated	Keep Beaches Clean	Noted
	SC305	Safe environment	Family friendly	Attractions	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11	SC306	Regeneration of Longscar Hall/Coasters	Keeping beach and prom clean and looking good	Upgrade of facilities and amenities	Noted
	SC308	Coasters / Longscar	Coasters / Longscar	Coasters / Longscar	Noted
	SC309	seacoal removal	church bells curfew	visitor attractions	Noted
	SC311	Fun for families	facilities for children	smarten up the area	Noted
	SC312	Lonscar hall			Noted
	SC314	FINAL capping of landfill sites and NO MORE tipping	Demolition and clearance of Longscar buildings	Better car parking, street lighting and road crossings	Noted
	SC315	Sort out the buildings that are currently closed / boarded up	local parking	designs in keeping with the current buildings	Noted
	SC317	Demolish the longscarr hall	family friendly areas	no more arcades	Noted
	SC320	Live music at the longscar			Noted
	SC322	longscar hall building demolished or refurbished and remodelled	more carparking	a decent coffee shop.	Noted
	SC327	Longscarr Hall	Funfairs	Family Areas	Noted
	SC329	Disused buildings	Parking		Noted
	SC330	Commercial Improvement	visitor improvements	improve car parking	Noted
	SC331	Longscar Hall	further develop	improve play	Noted

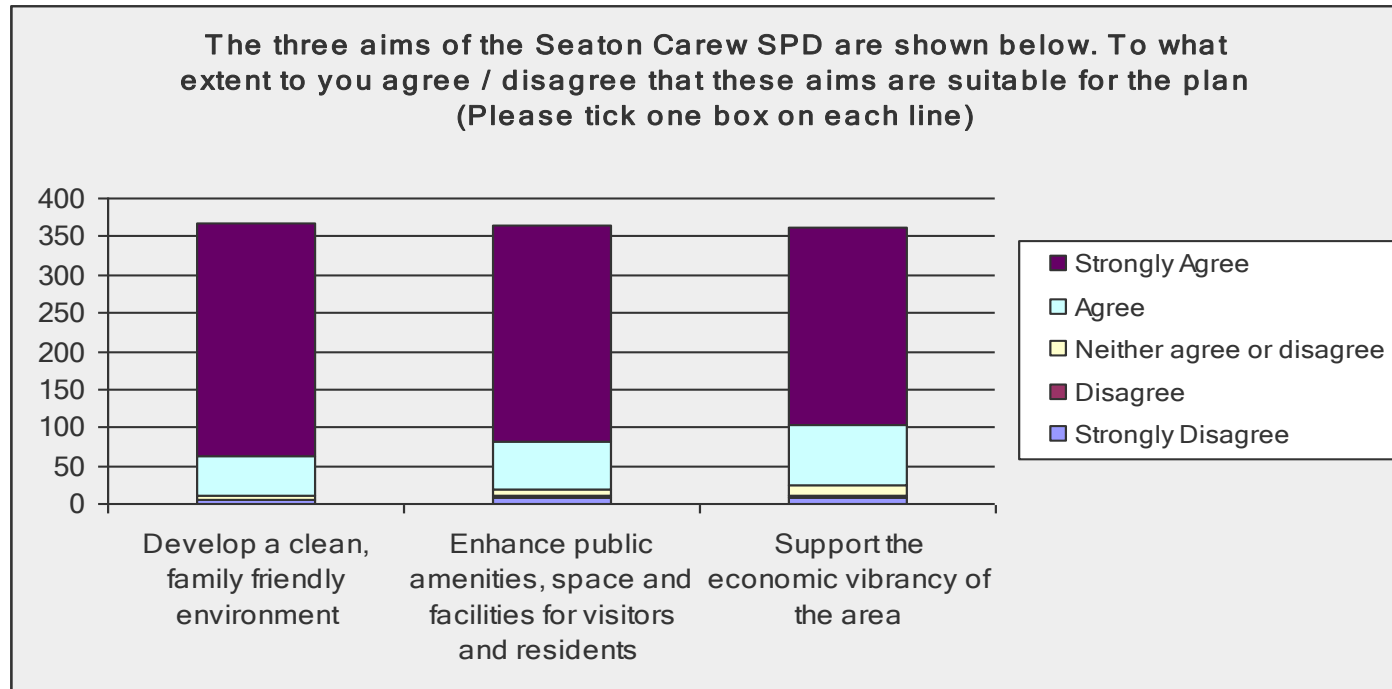
Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11			retail opportunities	facilities	
	SC336	commerce	cleanliness	road safety	Noted
	SC342	Demolish present Longscar building which is an eyesore.	provide up to date facilities to bring in visitors from local areas and beyond, as has been done at Redcar.	support local businesses who are making their own efforts to revitalise Seaton	Noted
	SC343	Play area	Update the front	Fix up the shopping area that's needs a face lift	Noted
	SC346	demolish eyesore coasters	work with local businesses	ongoing maintenance	Noted
	SC347	Please, no additional retail	Ampitheatre for performances	Skate park for the kids	Noted
	SC348	Regenerate or knock down Coasters	New attractions required	Upgrade all amenities	Noted
	SC350	The seafront: old coasters building is an eyesore	Enhance for children not pubs	Regenerate the current buildings and heritage	Noted
	SC352	More things for kid and adults	More parking		Noted
	SC353	toilets and easy to access places for disabled people	Nice and clean beach	attractive spots for tourists coming to visit for the first time	Noted
	SC355	Longscar Hall	amusement Arcade	Community centre	Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11			Frontage	for residents	
	SC357	Clean up the area	Bring new businesses in	Bring in tourists	Noted
	SC358	get rid of coasters	more dog poo bins and to provide poo bags	more carparking	Noted
	SC359	Clean	Family environment	Fin	Noted
	SC360	Economic growth	Facilities for visitors	General attractiveness for local residents	Noted
	SC361	more things for children	prevent vandalism		Noted
	SC362	Maintenance of CURRENT facilities.	once and for all addressing the unsightly Longscar Hall.	Addressing the terrible problem of animal fouling.	Noted
	SC364	Cole	Fitness	Shops	Noted
	SC367	family orientated	good facilities	clean and safe	Noted
	SC372	Parking - even with the expanded car park, there will be insufficient parking. At present, on a nice sunny day, there is insufficient parking and with the expected growth,			Noted

Question Number	Organisation (including ref number)	Comments	Policy Response		
Question 11		Seaton Carew will be totally overwhelmed			
	SC374	Create family friendly area.	Enhance facilities such as toilets and shops.	Create interest in the whole area.	Noted
	SC375	Remove the Longscar Hall in its entirety	Adapt the site of the former Longscar Hall so it is not left to be grassed over	Improve visitor attractions for day trippers and for locals to use their own beach front areas.	Noted
	SC376	Longscar	Parking	Weather	Noted

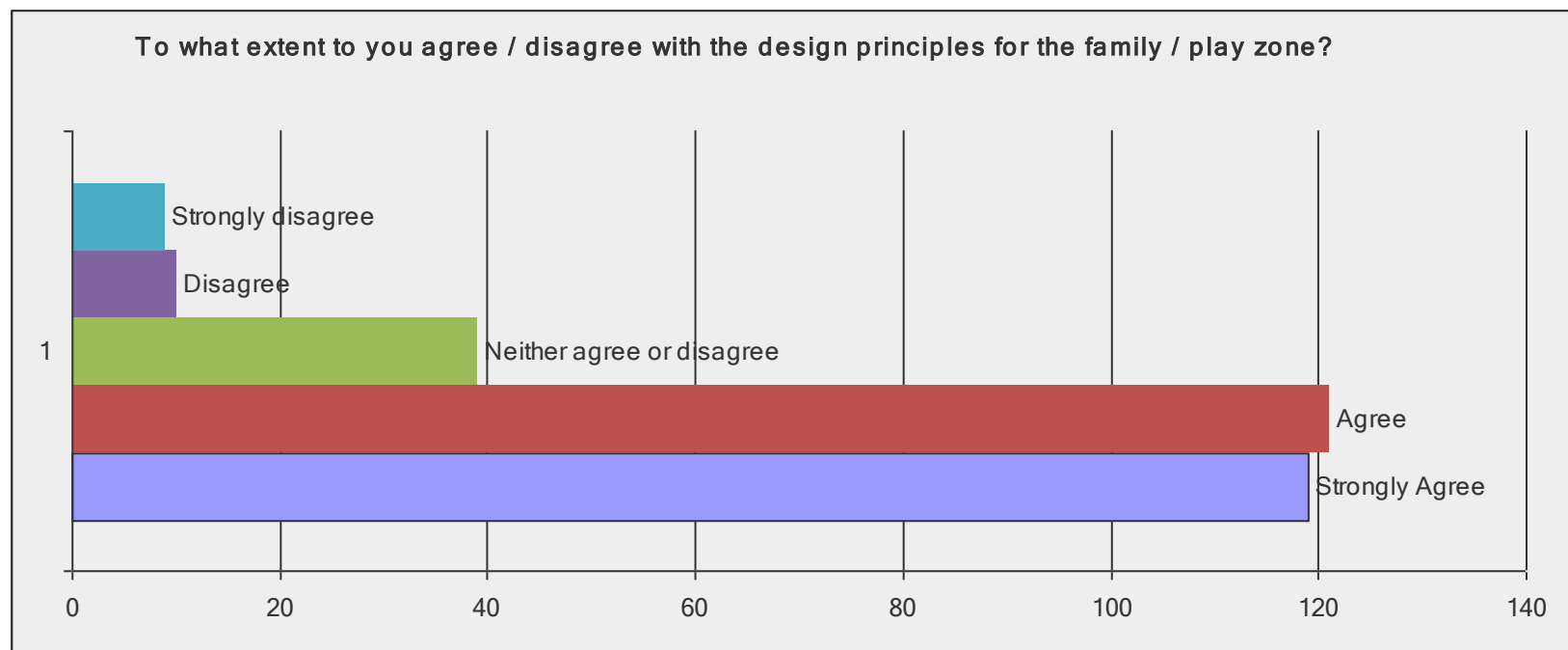
Q2. The three aims of the Seaton Carew SPD are shown below. To what extent to you agree / disagree that these aims are suitable for the plan (Please tick one box on each line)

Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Count
Develop a clean, family friendly environment	304	51	5	0	6	366
Enhance public amenities, space and facilities for visitors and residents	283	62	9	3	7	364
Support the economic vibrancy of the area	259	78	15	3	7	362
<i>answered question</i>						367
<i>skipped question</i>						11



Q4. To what extent to you agree / disagree with the design principles for the family / play zone?

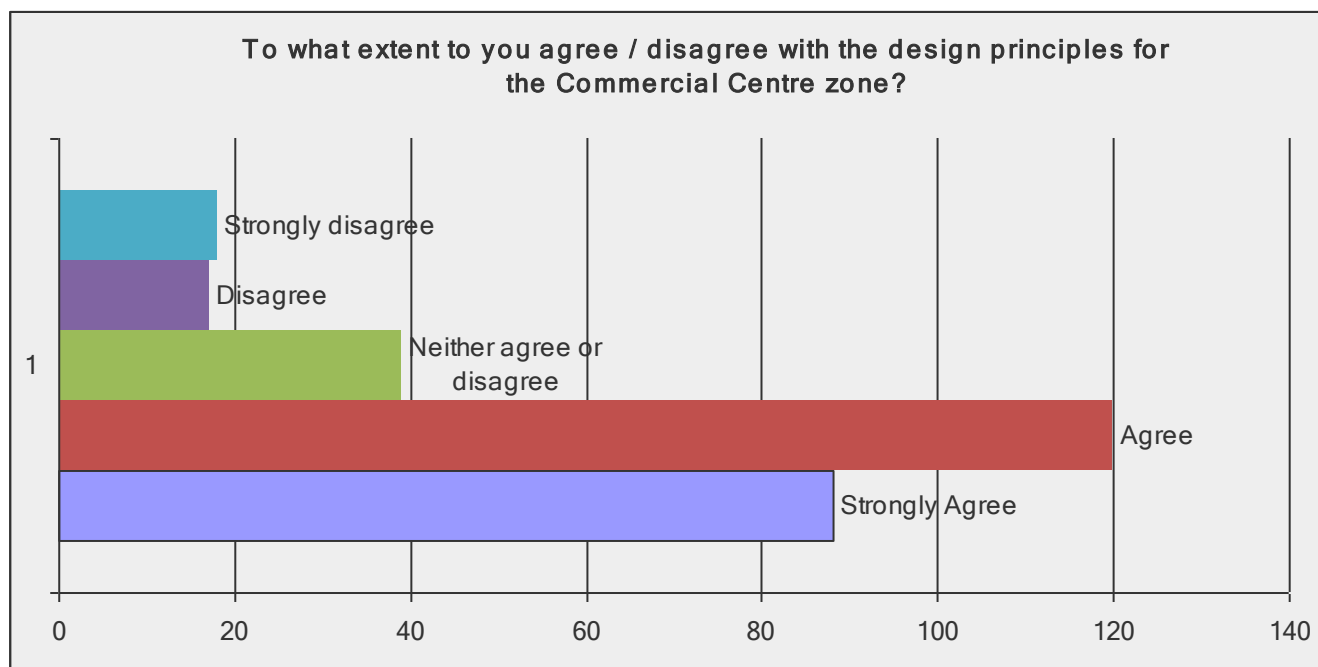
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
	119	121	39	10	9	1.89	298
<i>answered question</i>							298
<i>skipped question</i>							80



Consultation statement relating to the Local Plan.

Q6. To what extent to you agree / disagree with the design principles for the Commercial Centre zone?							
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
	88	120	39	17	18	2.14	282
<i>answered question</i>							282
<i>skipped question</i>							96

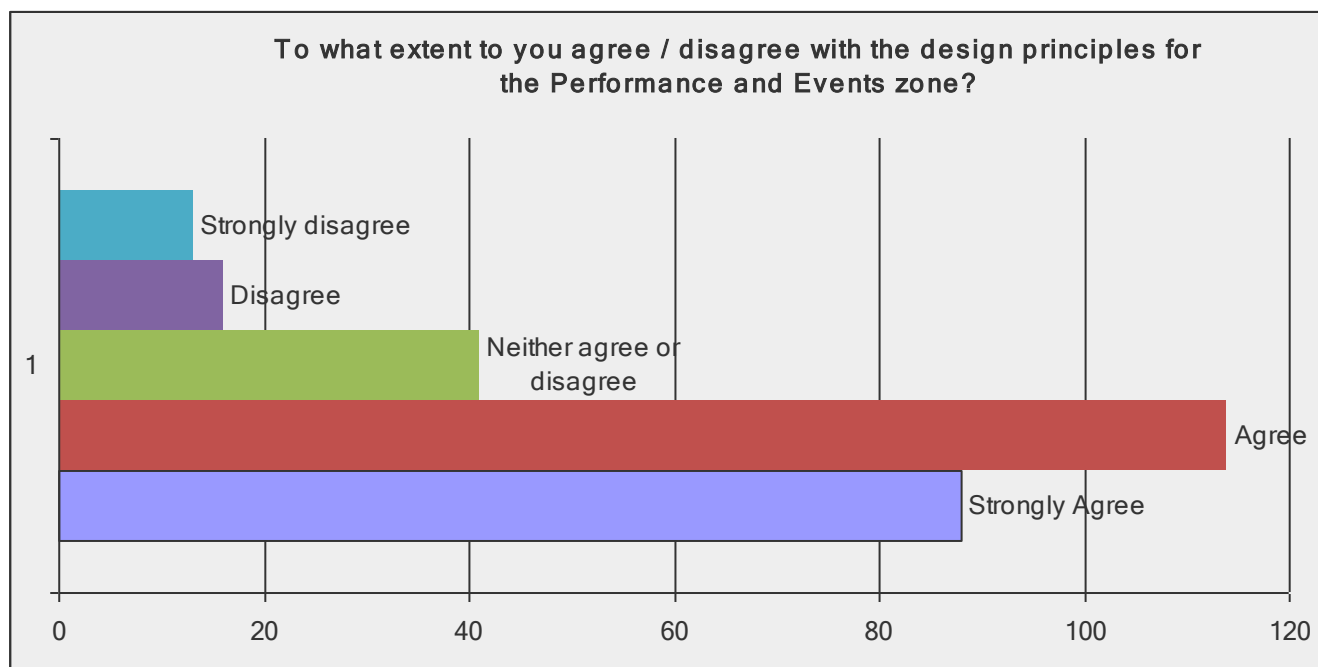
Consultation statement relating to the Local Plan.



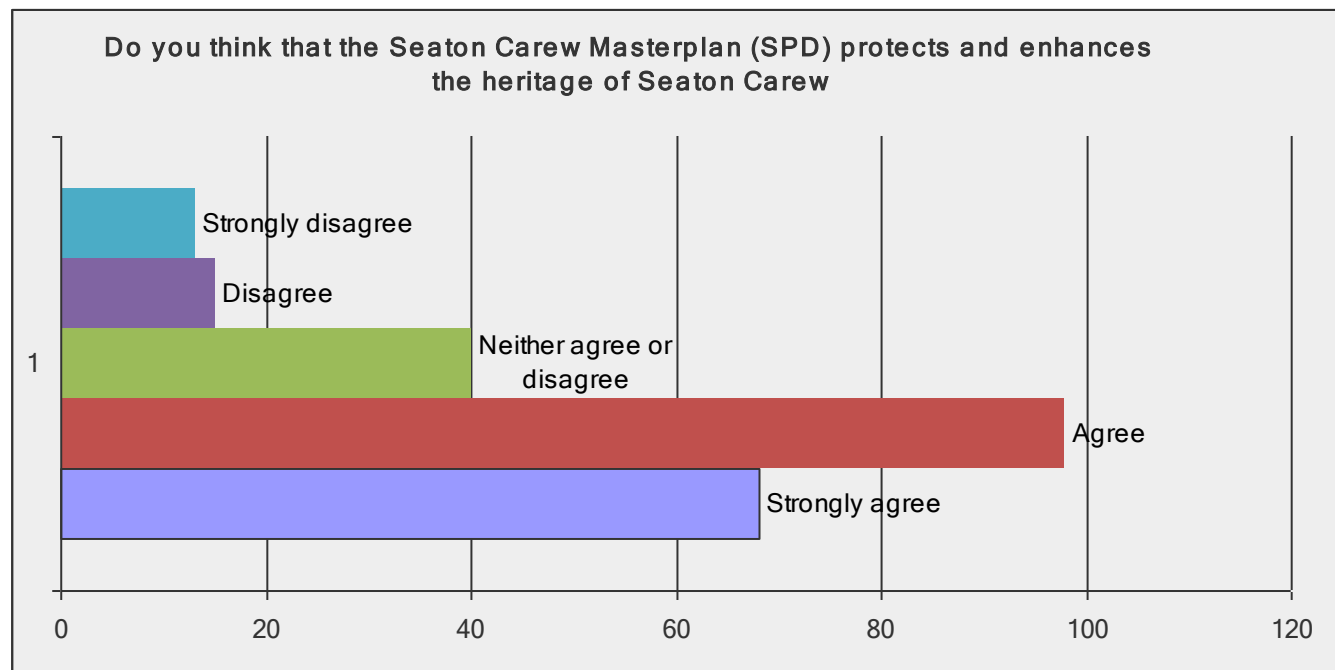
Q8. To what extent to you agree / disagree with the design principles for the Performance and Events zone?

Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
	88	114	41	16	13	2.09	272
<i>answered question</i>							272
<i>skipped question</i>							106

Consultation statement relating to the Local Plan.



Q10. Do you think that the Seaton Carew Masterplan (SPD) protects and enhances the heritage of Seaton Carew							
Answer Options	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Average	Response Count
	68	98	40	15	13	2.18	234
<i>answered question</i>							234
<i>skipped question</i>							144



Habitats Regulations Assessment Seaton regeneration master plan

Introduction

This report is a Habitats Regulations Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations), of the Seaton regeneration master plan.

Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations states:

61.—(1) *A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—*

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment is a step-by- step process. The first stage in this process is screening for a likely significant effect. Screening evaluates the potential for a project, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, to have a significant effect on the interest features for which a European site is designated. However where it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the plan or project will have a significant effect on the site, then the assessment will need to proceed to the next stage, to what is termed the appropriate assessment. The way in which an appropriate assessment is carried out is not specified but it is taken to mean that it is appropriate to its purpose of assessing the implications of the proposal in respect of the site's conservation objectives.

In carrying out the Habitats Regulations Assessment process on a plan or project, it is necessary to assess any potential effects on European sites in terms of the interest features for which they are designated and the vulnerabilities of those sites.

The Seaton regeneration master plan involves sites close to the European site of Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA. The Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast European site is also listed as a Ramsar site. The Ramsar site and the European site share a boundary and interest features though the numbers of qualifying birds are lower for the Ramsar site.

The interest features and vulnerabilities of the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA/ Ramsar

List of interest features	<p>ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <p><i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding) 1.7% of the population in Great Britain Four year mean for 1995 to 1998</p> <p>On passage the area regularly supports:</p> <p><i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa)</p> <p>6.8% of the population in Great Britain Five year mean for 1988 to 1992</p> <p>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <p><i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe)</p>
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	<p>1.6% of the population Five year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96</p> <p>On passage the area regularly supports:</p> <p><i>Tringa tetanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering) 1.1% of the East Atlantic Flyway population 5 year peak mean, 1987 - 1991</p> <p>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC):</p> <p>AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <p>21312 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/03/2000)</p> <p>Including: <i>Calidris canutus</i> .</p>
Vulnerability	<p>The natural incursion of coarse marine sediments into the estuary and the eutrophication of sheltered mudflats leading to the spread of dense Enteromorpha beds may impact on invertebrate density and abundance, and hence on waterfowl numbers. Indications are that the observed sediment changes derive from the reassertion of natural coastal processes within the context of an estuary much modified by human activity. An extensive long-term monitoring programme is investigating the effects of the Tees Barrage, while nutrient enrichment from sewage discharges should be ameliorated by the planned introduction of improved treatment facilities and the Environment Agency's acceptance of Seal Sands as a candidate Sensitive Area to Eutrophication.</p> <p>Aside from the eutrophication issue, water quality has shown considerable and sustained improvement, leading to the re-establishment of migratory fish populations and the growth of cormorant and common seal populations. The future development of port facilities in areas adjacent to the site, and in particular of deep water frontages with associated capital dredging, has the potential to cause adverse effect; these issues will be addressed through the planning system/Habitats Regulations, as will incompatible coastal defence schemes.</p> <p>Other issues on this relatively robust site include scrub encroachment on dunes (addressed by Site Management Statements with owners) and recreational, bait-gathering and other disturbance/damage to habitats/species (addressed by WCA 1981, NNR Byelaws and the Tees Estuary Management Plan).</p>

Seaton regeneration master plan

The Seaton regeneration master plan involves four elements:

- Demolition of the library in Seaton Park and its redevelopment as a community centre;
- Regeneration of a section of Seaton Front to improve recreational facilities including parking and the paddling pool;
- Residential development of up to 38 units on the Old Fairground site.
- Residential development of up to 140 units on land bounded by Coronation Drive and Warrior Park Drive

The Fairground site is approximately 150m north of the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA/ Ramsar (SPA) with the proposed Seaton Front redevelopment commencing approximately 100m further north. Both are immediately adjacent to the inter tidal area of Seaton Sands, which has no nature conservation designation but which is used by birds which form part of interest feature of the assemblage of wintering waterfowl (SPA birds).

Seaton Library is approximately 700m north of the SPA and separated from the inter tidal area by the A178 and a row of properties.

The Warrior Park site is 1.5km from the SPA but as close as 100m from the West Harbour & Carr House Sands LWS, which is designated because it supports significant numbers of SPA birds, notably >5% of the citation Ringed Plover population. However it is separated from the inter tidal area by the A178 coast road

The location of each of the elements of the Masterplan is shown in Appendix 1.

Screening

The library in Seaton Park is a small, discrete unit within an existing park and adjacent to an existing residential area and is separated from the inter tidal area by the A178. The proposal for this element is just for a replacement building providing wider facilities. Therefore this element is considered not likely to have a significant effect on the SPA.

The regeneration of Seaton Front would be limited to improvements or amendments to existing facilities, such as parking, the paddling pool and landscaping elements. It is anticipated that it would make this part of Seaton Front more attractive to visitors, but it is not introducing any major new attractions which would significantly change the current pattern or numbers of visitor use. Therefore this element is considered not likely to have a significant effect on the SPA.

The Warrior Park site is unlikely to impact directly on the SPA as it is 1.5km distant. It is likely that a proportion of residents of the new properties would be dog owners who would walk their dogs on the beach element of West Harbour and Carr House Sands LWS and thereby potentially cause disturbance to SPA birds.

The Fairground site is the closest element to the SPA and could involve the creation of up to 38 residential units. Several factors associated with this feature of the master plan have been identified as potentially having a likely significant effect on the SPA, these are:

- An increase in recreational disturbance on the SPA and to SPA birds on adjacent areas, not least as a number of the residents would be anticipated to be dog owners who would walk their dogs on the beach and dunes;

- An increase in predation of SPA birds due to cat ownership of properties close to the European site;
- An increase in noise and visual construction
- Noise and visual disturbance, including from lighting, during construction;
- Visual disturbance from lighting during use of the properties;
- Run-off onto the SPA during construction;
- Run-off onto the SPA during use of the properties.

Appropriate Assessment

This appropriate assessment considers the likelihood of each of the factors identified through screening to have a significant effect on the SPA. It also considers the likelihood of in-combination effects between this plan and other plans and projects.

Background information on SPA bird usage of the adjacent inter tidal areas

Data sources

Data from the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)* and a number of Hartlepool Borough Council SPA bird surveys was interrogated in order to provide an assessment of the scale of use of the adjacent areas by SPA birds.

The location of each of those surveys in relation to the Warrior Park and Fairground sites is shown in Appendix 1.

The following WeBS data was obtained from the British Trust for Ornithology: Core Counts of the Seaton Sands and North Gare Sands sector (from the southern edge of Little Scar to North Gare breakwater and from North Gare breakwater to Seaton Channel respectively); Low Tide counts for sectors DT004 and DT008 (from the southern edge of Little Scar to North Gare breakwater and from North Gare breakwater to the Zinc Works Road respectively). Core Counts are monthly counts at all months of the each year, undertaken at high tide. Low tide counts are undertaken monthly from November-February for a single winter. Core Count data was obtained for all months from 2009/10 to 2013/14. Low Tide data was obtained from 2012/13.

Hartlepool Borough Council has conducted the following SPA bird surveys that are relevant to this HRA.

1. Six hours of surveys of the inter tidal area between North Gare breakwater and the Zinc Works Road from October 2009 – January 2010. This is the same area as DT008 in the WeBS Low Tide counts. The surveys recorded recreational activity and any resulting disturbance.
2. Six hours of surveys of the inter tidal area between North Gare and the Pumping Station at Seaton Carew from October 2009 – January 2010. The surveys recorded recreational activity and any resulting disturbance.
3. A series of 24 surveys, totalling 11.5 hours observation, from September 2010 to March 2011. The surveys were undertaken at various stages of the tide and covered the area of foreshore from opposite Seaton Lane in the north to approximately 300m south of the Pumping Station. The surveys recorded recreational activity and any resulting disturbance.

4. A series of 31 surveys of the inter tidal area between North Gare breakwater and the Zinc Works Road from July 2012 – February 2013. As with survey 1, this is the same area as DT008 in the WeBS Low Tide counts. Surveys were undertaken at various stages of the tide but mainly at low tide. These surveys included nine hours recording recreational activities and any resulting disturbance.
5. A series of 31 surveys of the inter tidal area between North Gare and the Pumping Station at Seaton Carew from July 2012 – February 2013. Surveys were undertaken at various stages of the tide but mainly at low tide. Recreational activity was not recorded.
6. Six counts at low tide of the inter tidal area between North Gare and the Pumping Station at Seaton Carew in July-August 2014. Recreational activity was not recorded.
7. Data for the WeBS Low Tide counts for sector DT003 for 2012/13. This data was collected by Hartlepool Borough Council and supplied to WeBS, so is included here rather than with the WeBS data. This sector runs from Little Scar to Newburn Bridge.

Data results

WeBS data

(NB the following summaries exclude birds using the sub-tidal areas as it is considered that they would not be affected by any aspects of the Seaton Regeneration master plan)

Seaton Sands

Over the five year period of the Core Counts only four SPA bird species had an average monthly total in excess of one bird. The highest monthly average for each of those bird species and the month in which this was recorded was as follows:
Oystercatcher, 18 (March); Ringed Plover, 3 (Sep); Sanderling, 9 (Jan); Sandwich Tern, 7 (Aug).

Over the same period, the peak monthly count of those SPA bird species whose peak exceeded five birds was:
Oystercatcher, 35 (March); Ringed Plover, 14 (Sep); Knot, 32 (Jan); Sanderling, 47 (Jan); Dunlin, 32 (Sep); Redshank, 7 (Jan); Turnstone, 7 (Jan); Sandwich Tern, 13 (Aug).

Oystercatcher was the only SPA bird species recorded during the Low Tide Counts at Seaton Sands with a peak count of 20 birds and a mean count of six.

North Gare Sands

Over the five year period of the Core Counts the following SPA bird species had an average monthly total in excess of one bird:
Oystercatcher, 422 (Sep); Ringed Plover, 9 (Mar); Golden Plover, 6 (Mar); Grey Plover, 99 (Feb); Lapwing, 17 (Jan); Knot, 593 (Feb); Sanderling, 3 (Feb); Dunlin, 259 (Sep); Bar-tailed Godwit, 14 (Mar); Curlew, 18 (Dec); Redshank, 26 (Jan); Turnstone, 7 (Jan); Sandwich Tern, 13 (Aug).

The species with a peak monthly count of more than five birds were:
Oystercatcher, 707 (Aug); Ringed Plover, 145 (Aug); Golden Plover, 44 (Sep); Grey Plover, 113 (Feb); Lapwing, 77 (Jan); Knot, 1801 (Feb); Sanderling, 14 (Sep); Dunlin, 620 (Dec); Bar-tailed Godwit, 67 (Mar); Curlew, 80 (July); Turnstone, 13 (Jan); Redshank, 99 (Nov); Little Tern, 6 (Aug); Sandwich Tern, 41 (June).

Over the Low Tide surveys, only the following species were recorded as more than a single bird; peak and mean figures are given in brackets. Oystercatcher (4/2); Golden Plover (6/2); Curlew (55/14); Redshank (5/3)

Hartlepool Borough Council data

The data for the seven surveys is summarised in Table 1 below

Table 1. Hartlepool Borough Council – Seaton SPA bird surveys summary

Survey	No. of surveys	Location	Mean total of all SPA birds	Peak Count SPA birds	Mean no of the main SPA species
1	6	North Gare	7	13	RK 3; KN 3 OC2
2	6	Seaton Sands	2	6	All species <1
3	24	Seaton Sands North	15	121	OC 12; RP 2; SS 1
4	31	North Gare	2	13	RK 1
5	31	Seaton Sands	9	90	TE 6; OC 1 RP 1
6	6	Seaton Sands	1	8	TE 1
7	3	Carr House Sands	26	55	OC 18; RK 6; SS 3

Species Key: OC = Oystercatcher; RK = Redshank; KN = Knot;
SS = Sanderling; TE = Sandwich Tern; RP = Ringed Plover

For Seaton, the WeBS and HBC data are broadly similar in the number of SPA birds present. The numbers of SPA birds at Seaton are generally low with the exception of the HBC survey 3 of Seaton Sands North, where the numbers are higher although still moderate. By far the majority of SPA birds in HBC survey 3 were found on the lower shore, 280 compared with 78 on the upper shore. Most of the total on the upper shore was provided by a flock of 32 Oystercatcher on one occasion and a flock of 38 Ringed Plover on another. Also it should be noted that while HBC survey No 5 gave a figure of six Sandwich Terns when averaged across the full suite of surveys, Sandwich Terns weren't present for much of the survey period and for the peak period of July-August the mean number of Sandwich Terns was 16.

For North Gare, there is a large disparity between the WeBS Core Counts on the one hand and both the WeBS Low Tide counts and the HBC data for North Gare on the other, although the latter two surveys, which both covered the same area, are of a similar magnitude. The reason for this is that the large numbers of SPA birds roost at high tide on the far south east of North Gare, around Seaton Snook at the entrance to Seaton Channel whereas the HBC surveys and WeBS Low Tide surveys only covered the first kilometre south from North Gare. The high numbers of SPA birds are therefore concentrated some 3km from the area covered by the Seaton Regeneration master plan.

Although there is only a small amount of data for Carr House Sands, the indication is that numbers of SPA birds are generally slightly higher than on Seaton Sands. Anecdotal observation would tend to support this and might be expected as this sector includes Little Scar rocks. The majority of the SPA bird interest of West Harbour & Carr House Sands LWS is however further north outside of the WeBS sector and associated with a high tide roost north of Newburn Bridge and with inter tidal mud flats in West Harbour.

Assessment of individual factors for likely significant effect

Fairground site

Recreational disturbance

Four of the Hartlepool Borough Council studies also recorded levels of recreational activities and the extent to which those activities caused disturbance to SPA birds. These are summarised in Table 2 below. Disturbance was classed as any event where SPA birds walked or flew, apparently in response to recreational activity.

Table 2. Levels of recreational activity and associated disturbance

No	Location	Events/ hr	Main events/ hr	Disturbance / hr	Main disturbance activities/ hr
1	North Gare	11	DW 6.6; W 2.2; SR 0.8	3.6	DW 2 Ball Game 1
2	Seaton Sands	10	DW 6.8; W 2.6	0.4	DW 0.4
3	Seaton Sands (north)	34	DW 24; W 8; R 1.5	1.8	Not recorded
5	North Gare	12	DW 7; W 3; KS 0.5	0.4	DW Cat 0.1 Bait Collector 0.1 Bird Watcher 0.1

Key: DW = dog walking; W = walking; SR = sand reclamation; R = runner; KS = kite surfer

While it isn't possible to accurately predict the potential increase in disturbance that might be caused by the proposed residential development it is considered that the following rationales would define the likely parameters. The residential development would result in a maximum of an additional 38 households close to the SPA or areas of foreshore used by SPA birds. The existing number of properties in Seaton is approximately 3,000 therefore this is a relatively small increase of approximately 1.3%. It is not known what proportion of the recreational events at Seaton would be from visitors from further afield but a study for the European Marine Site management group (Simpson, 2011) found that of visitors to the nearby North Gare, only 30% were from the local area, with a similar percentage when averaged across six intertidal sites in Hartlepool and Redcar. Assuming this is representative of Seaton then only 30% (10.2) of the 34 recreational events per hour would be due to Seaton residents. An increase of 1.3% in residents would therefore be expected to increase the recreational activity by 1.3% of 10.2 events per hour thereby increasing the total to around 34.1 events per hour. This is likely to be the minimum increase in recreational activity resulting from this proposal.

However as the proposed properties would be closer to the SPA than other properties in Seaton then it is likely that owners use the intertidal area more regularly than other residents or visitors. In particular it is reasonable to assume that one in four of the new households would have a dog and that they will walk the dog twice a day. If all of the dog walks are on the inter tidal area then as a worst case scenario this would result in approximately another 20 recreational events per day. Assuming dog walking is during daylight and assuming ten hours of daylight then this is an increase of two recreational events per hour for that period of each day. Using the data from the HBC survey 3, which includes the area directly in front of the Fairground site, this would result in an increase of approximately 6% of recreational events over that 10 hour period. Assuming the rate of disturbance is proportional to the rate of recreational events then this worst-case scenario would result in a 6% increase in disturbance events per hour, ie an increase of 0.1 per hour, which over the 10 hour daylight periods equates to around one additional disturbance event every day on Seaton Sands. As SPA birds will walk or fly numerous times each day, regardless of disturbance, this increase in energy expenditure for the SPA birds is considered to be *de minimus* in terms of its effect on the SPA and its interest features. In addition, since the 2011/12 surveys on Seaton Sands north, a large information board has been put in place in the car park adjacent to the

Fairground site as part of the European Marine Site (EMS) management scheme. This sign informs people of the importance of the EMS and SPA and asks people to avoid disturbing the SPA birds. This is assumed to be having some effect in reducing the amount of disturbance below the level calculated above.

As noted above, there are much higher numbers of SPA birds at North Gare, however these are almost all situated around 3km south of the Fairground site. It is unlikely that residents of that site would walk their dogs a round distance of 6km on a regular basis therefore it is unlikely that there would be a significant increase in disturbance to the birds in that location due to development on the Fairground site.

Predation by cats

Assuming that cat ownership in the proposed properties would also be in line with the national average, it is predicted that approximately one in four of the properties would own a cat. Domestic cats are known to catch birds, including those up to the size of any of the SPA bird species that have been recorded as using the intertidal area in front of Seaton. However cats are stealth predators and unlikely to use, let alone hunt over, very open areas such as a beach. It is worth noting that no cats have been recorded on any beach areas in Hartlepool during several hundred surveys, totalling in excess of 200 hours survey effort, by Hartlepool Borough Council. In the surveys of the intertidal area in front of Seaton, SPA birds were found predominantly on the tide line on the lower shore, a distance which would generally be between 100-200m from any housing. Therefore it is considered unlikely that SPA birds would be subject to predation by cats in this location.

Potential effects during construction

Factors such as an increase in noise and light pollution and run-off from the construction site onto the SPA have been identified as potentially having an effect during the construction process. All of these factors can be controlled by condition if necessary. For example construction could be limited to periods of the year when SPA birds are not present. In terms of run-off, this would be expected to be prevented by the implementation of standard control practices for construction sites. These will be considered in a suitable level of detail in the HRA of any subsequent project proposals; for the purposes of this HRA of the plan it is considered sufficient to record that suitable control measures are available and would be expected to be implemented to the required extent.

Light pollution during use of the residential properties

Residential use would be likely to result in an additional use of light from the new properties. However the residential properties would be some 150m from the SPA and around 100m from the areas of inter tidal habitat, outside of the SPA, that are regularly used by SPA birds. The increase in lux on those areas would be negligible, not least in comparison to existing light sources along the beach front at Seaton. In any case light levels and the direction of light could be controlled by conditions on any planning permission if considered necessary.

Run-off onto the SPA during the use of residential properties

The potential for run-off from the properties onto the SPA or adjacent inter tidal areas would be expected to be strictly controlled through the planning process. For the purposes of this HRA of the plan it is considered sufficient to record that suitable control measures are available and would be expected to be implemented to the required extent.

Warrior Park site

Residential development on this site would result in a maximum of an additional 140 households within 100 – 300m of areas of foreshore used by SPA birds. This would be an increase of approximately 5% on the existing number of properties in Seaton. As this development would be adjacent to existing housing and west of the A178 it is assumed that residents would access the inter tidal areas at the same levels as existing residents.

There is no data on the amount of recreational use of this area or the levels of disturbance on this sector. It is likely that the recreational use is lower than the 34 events per hour on Seaton Sands as it is further away from the main tourist area however the inter tidal area on this stretch of coast is slightly narrower than that at Seaton Sands, so taking both factors into account it is not unreasonable to assume that disturbance levels would be similar, ie c2 per hour. A five per cent increase would therefore increase disturbance levels to c2.1 events per hour. Assuming that recreational activity occurs principally over approximately ten hours of daylight during winter then this would equate to one additional disturbance event per day.

As with the assessment of the increase in disturbance resulting from housing on the Fairground site, which was of the same quantum, the increase in disturbance from the Warrior Park site is considered, in isolation, to be *de minimus* in terms of its effect on the SPA and its interest features.

Assessment of In-combination effects

The increase in disturbance from each of the 38 dwellings on the Fairground site and the 140 dwellings on the Warrior Park site has been estimated to result in one additional disturbance event per day. It is anticipated that only one of these options for housing would be developed as part of the masterplan but assuming that both are developed then as a worst case scenario this would result in two additional disturbance events per day to SPA birds on the inter tidal area in front of Seaton Carew.

Since the 2009/10 bird and recreational surveys were undertaken, the only other housing that has been approved in Seaton is 276 houses close to the Mayfair Centre. This is an increase of approximately 9% in residential properties in Seaton, though as the Mayfair Centre housing is on the outskirts of Seaton it is considered that residents of those houses are no more likely to access the intertidal area than other residents of Seaton. Again assuming that only 30% of the 34 recreational events at Seaton are due to local residents, this would be a 9% increase on the current 10.2 recreational visits per hour due to local residents resulting in an increase from 10.2 to 11.1 recreational visits.

Taking into account the worst-case scenario above of an increase of two recreational events per hour from the Seaton regeneration this would potentially give an in-combination increase from the two developments of 2.9 recreational events per hour, ie an increase of almost 10% on the baseline figure of 34 recreational events per hour and a concomitant 10% increase in disturbance from the current 1.8 to around 1.96 disturbance events per hour. The predicted increase in disturbance from the Warrior Park site development as assessed above would result in a further 0.1 disturbance events per hour. Taking all three developments into consideration and without mitigation this would be an increase of 0.3 disturbance events per hour and again assuming that recreational activities causing disturbance are largely confined to 10 hours of daylight, this would be an additional three disturbance events per day.

In terms of mitigation, the appropriate assessment for the Mayfair Centre development considered that the development would not result in a significant increase in recreational disturbance to the SPA because the access point to the SPA closest to the Mayfair development directs visitors along a surfaced bridleway which is bounded on each side by fencing. This fenced bridleway separates visitors from birds thus minimising disturbance and it was anticipated that most additional visitors from the Mayfair Centre housing estate would use this same access. Therefore disturbance from the Mayfair Centre is likely to be less in

practice than in the above calculation. Also as noted above an EMS information sign is in place next to the Fairground site which is likely to have some effect in reducing disturbance.

Nevertheless from all three developments combined the increase in disturbance is still predicted to be in the region of one to three events per day based on existing mitigation. There is currently no mitigation in place for the Warrior Park site. It is recommended that further mitigation is put in place to reduce the potential for recreational disturbance from that site. As the increase in recreational disturbance is predicted to be relatively low this could be in the form of additional information boards at either end of Coronation Drive, along the same lines as the EMS sign next to the Fairground site. With all of the above mitigation measures in place it is considered that any in-combination increase in disturbance would be *de minimus*.

Conclusion

The Seaton regeneration master plan has been considered in terms of its likely significant effect on the European site of Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA/ Ramsar. Impacts have been screened out from all aspects of the master plan except for the residential schemes at both the Fairground and Warrior Park sites. It is likely that only one or other of these two residential schemes will come forward but they have been considered as if both were to be developed.

It is considered that most of the potential effects, other than recreational disturbance, from the proposed new dwellings at the Fairground site can be suitably controlled through the planning process should a project come forward.

The parameters for the potential increase in disturbance due to additional recreational events as a result of residential schemes at the Warrior Park and Fairground sites have each been calculated both in isolation and in combination with each other and an existing housing development at the Mayfair Centre.

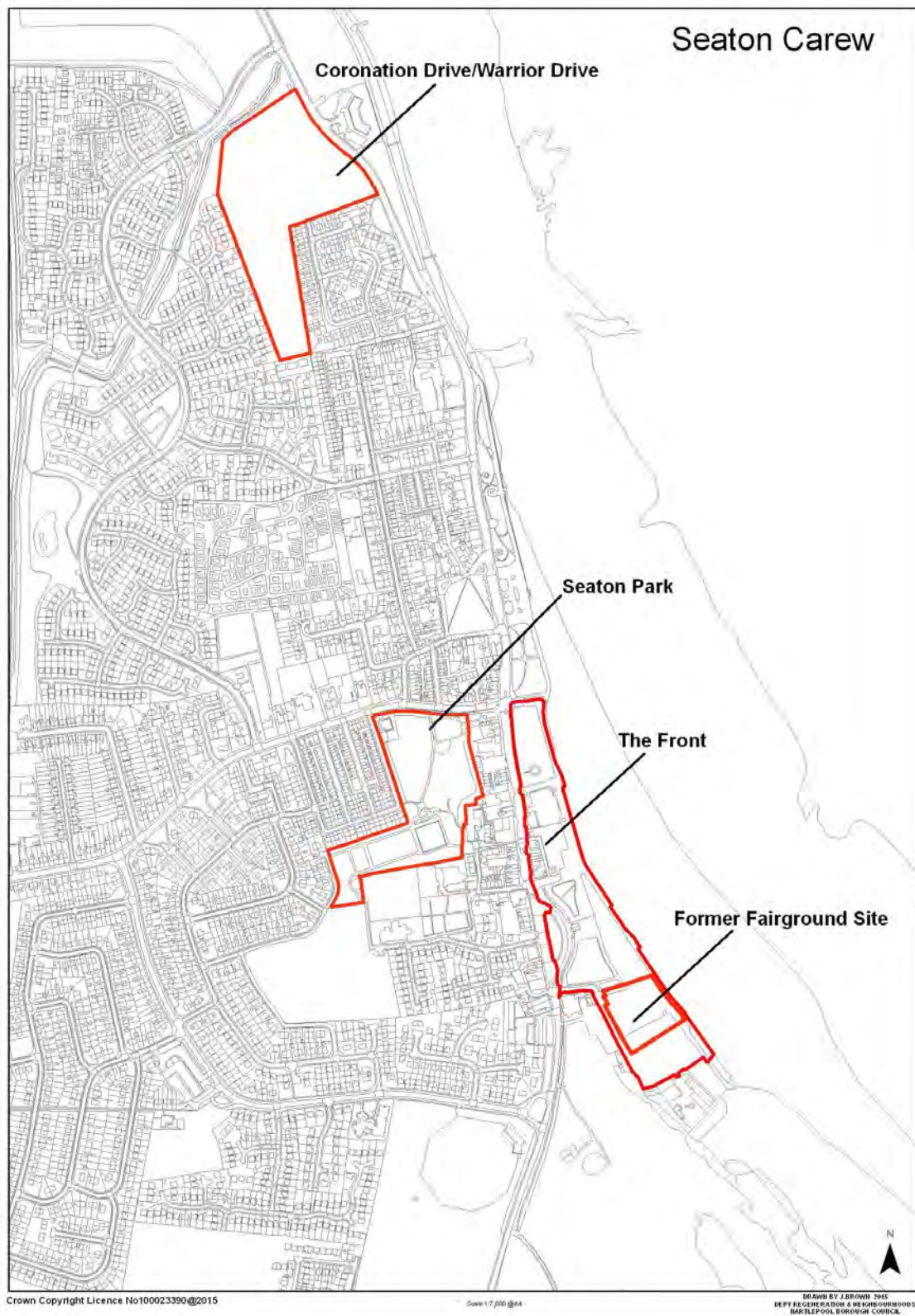
It is considered that in isolation each of the schemes would be *de minimus* in terms of its effect on the interest features of the SPA and that either of the Fairground site and Mayfair Centre or the Warrior Park and Mayfair Centre schemes would be *de minimus* in combination. However if all three schemes are developed it is predicted that disturbance events would increase by between one and three per day. In such a scenario, additional mitigation in the form of information boards about the SPA, placed at either end of the promenade at Coronation Drive, will be provided.

References

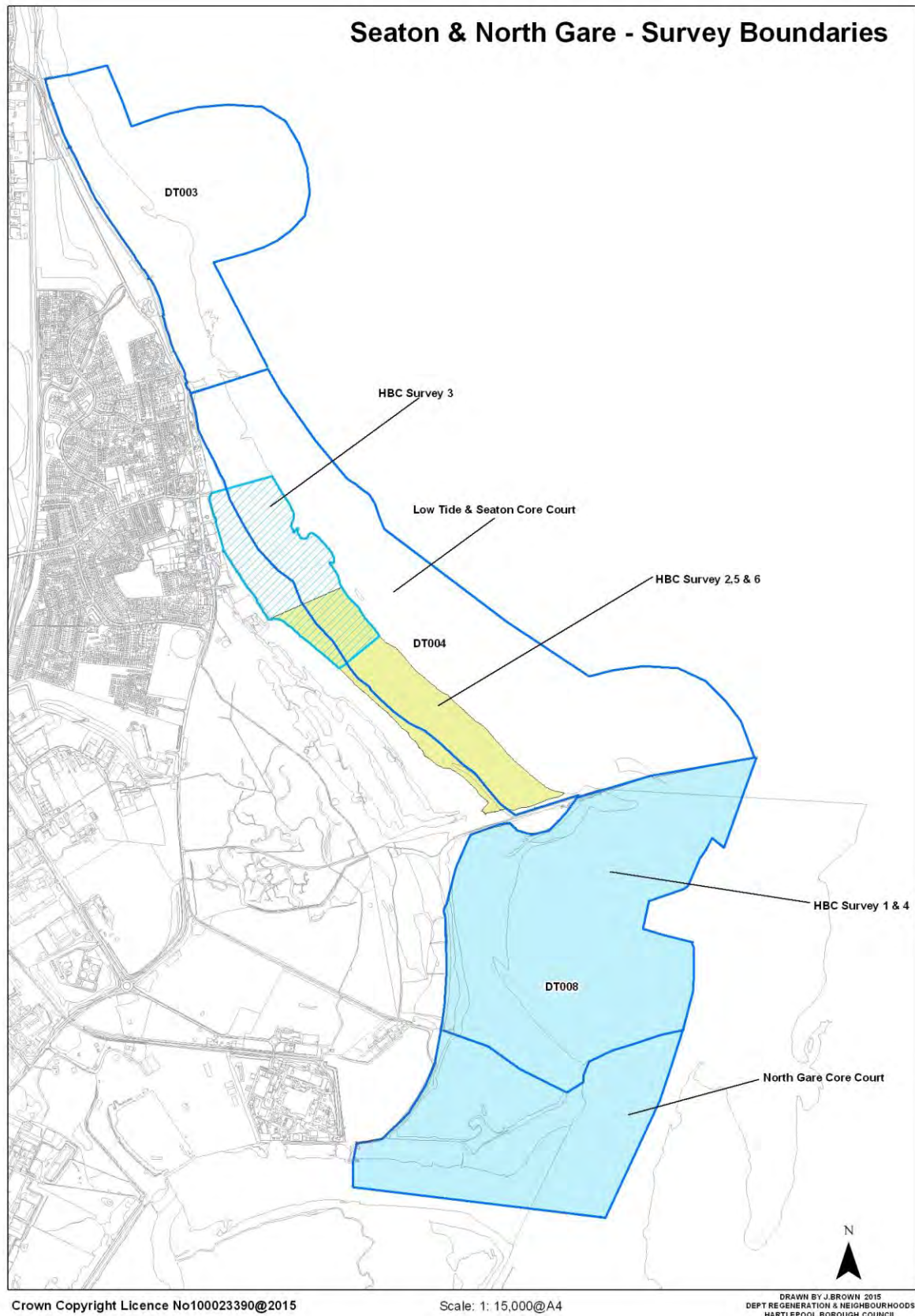
Simpson K. (2011) *Implementing an Ecosystem Approach: The case of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site*. MSc Thesis, University of York

* "Data were supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage and the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland) in association with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust"

Appendix 1. Location of master plan elements



Appendix 2. Survey locations



COUNCIL
17 September 2015



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT

1. COUNCIL MOTION – 26 FEBRUARY 2015

The Finance and Policy Committee, at its meeting held on 28 August 2015, considered a report (**Appendix 1**) which set out a number of potential considerations arising from the following Motion agreed by Council on 26th February:-

“That the principal of introducing a formal Appraisal Scheme for Elected Members be endorsed”.

The report set out details of options which had been investigated in relation to an appraisal scheme for Members. A number of Councils had been contacted together with colleagues at the Local Government Association for their thoughts on such an arrangement. It had not been possible to identify a Council that operated an appraisal system for Elected Members which offered a structured assessment of both actual performance and achievement of objectives, allied with an assessment against core role competencies and identified training needs. It was highlighted that this Council had a range of options for Member Development which were managed through Member Services. Such arrangements were available for all members and were made available to new and returning members after elections. The arrangements for member development varied significantly between councils and in all of the arrangements that had been identified, it had not been possible to identify an appraisal system for Members which included the key aspects of such a system. In addition to the nature of any potential system, it was highlighted that the operation of it would require significant development and there were no current resources available to do this.

Views were expressed at the meeting that elected members were ‘appraised’ by the electorate when they were due for re-election. It was considered, therefore, that an appraisal scheme for Members should not be pursued although the Chair expressed the view that a more robust system for publishing Member attendances was required.

Council is requested to note that the Committee considered the various arrangements identified in the report and determined that no additional arrangements be made for a member appraisal system.

2. COUNCIL MOTION – 25 JUNE 2015

The Finance and Policy Committee, at its meeting held on 28 August 2015, considered my report (**Appendix 2**) and recommendations required by the following Motion agreed by Council on 25 June 2015:-

“The Policy Committee system, which this Council has developed, provides a role for all members. The public are encouraged to attend Policy Committee meetings and forums to voice their views. Our Policy Committee system has been recognised as a model of good practice and a number of other Councils are considering implementing this model of governance.

We propose that action is taken to ensure that Council business is conducted with dignity and in a way that supports open, transparent and effective democracy. We therefore resolve that the Chief Executive be instructed to compile a report, which incorporates proposals for the management and filming by the Council, of Full Council meetings and for the publication of the unedited video on the Council website. To this end, a report will be presented to an early meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee

The Report drafted by the Chief Executive should, where possible embrace, act upon and follow explicitly the recommendations, suggestions and guidelines of good practice as outlined verbatim in the document entitled “The openness of local government bodies regulations of 2014”.

The report considered by the Finance and Policy Committee highlighted that there were a number of potential considerations arising from the Motion, both direct and indirect. Accordingly, the report addressed the following issues:-

- Filming of Council Meetings including web based broadcasting of all public meetings which had been the subject of a petition.
- Quality of audio / Council microphone system
- Standards of Behaviour
- Rules of debate
- Sanctions for inappropriate behaviour
- Role of the Ceremonial Mayor
- Standing for the Mace
- Timings of Council meetings

A summary of the potential implications of each of the issues was presented as follows:-

Item	Capital	Revenue (ongoing costs)
Single point of filming for Council Meetings	£2.5K	None
Web broadcasting of all council meetings	£50K	£30K
Placement audio system	£1K per set of speakers – total cost of £5K; or £30K for a replacement microphone system	None

The Committee noted that there was currently no budget provision for the options identified. The equipment for the single point of filming could be accommodated from within existing budgets as the equipment could be used for other Council based projects and activity. In relation to the web broadcasting of all council meetings and the replacement audio system there were both capital and ongoing revenue costs to these over and above current budget provision. There were significant costs and it was not recommended to pursue these. Should members determine to agree to such changes then for any ongoing revenue costs the implications of these would need to be factored into a greater deficit than that already considered by members and for any capital costs consideration would need to be given in respect of the projected outturn.

Members debated issues arising from the report and expressed support of issues which had been raised in the report to the Committee. The view was expressed that the timing of Council meetings was an issue which should be considered by the Neighbourhood Forums.

The Committee recommended the following to Council:-

- Agree to officers of the Council filming and uploading the film of Council meetings
- Not to pursue the streaming of all meetings.
- Not to consider the replacement microphone system at this stage but for officers to consider the options of replacement speakers in the first instance and should this be unsuccessful to revisit this issue.
- Note and endorse the proposed approach for the Chief Executive (as Head of Paid Service) and the Monitoring Officer in terms of Standards of Behaviour
- Consider and agree the proposal for the development of locally agreed arrangements for sanctions for inappropriate behaviour by Elected Members
- Note the considerations in respect of the role of the Ceremonial Mayor.

- Agree to the reinforcement of the requirements in respect of the Mace.
- Refer the options available for the timing of Council Meetings to the Neighbourhood Forums.
- Agree to the Monitoring Officer making any required incidental changes to the Constitution following the resolutions of Council.

A further report will therefore be submitted to Council following consideration of the timing of Council meetings by the Neighbourhood Forums.

The recommendations of the Finance and Policy Committee are based on the recommendations made in my report to the Committee and I commend the recommendations to Council.

3. CHANGE OF COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The schedule of Ordinary Council meeting dates, for the municipal year 2015/2016, was formally approved at the Council meeting on 25 June 2015. Council will be requested to consider devolution proposals later in the year. The timescale is not known at this time but it is likely that Council will be requested to consider proposals at the beginning of November. A Council meeting is scheduled for 29th October. It is proposed that the date of that Council meeting is changed from 29th October to 12 November to allow consideration of the proposals at that meeting. Council is requested to approve the change of date of the Council meeting.

4. TEES VALLEY JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Following the appointment to Outside Bodies made at the meeting of Council held on 26 May 2015, the Audit and Governance Committee considered the various appointments at its meeting on 6 August and agreed the appointments to the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee subject to Councillor Ainslie replacing Councillor S Akers-Belcher on the Committee.

Council is requested to approve the change in membership to the Committee.

5. RESPONSE TO REFUGEE CRISIS

As the refugee crisis unfolded over August and has now reached an unprecedented scale, Council's have been approached by different bodies to find ways in which they could work with the UN, Central Government and community and faith based organisations to offer sanctuary for desperate families and unaccompanied children who have no safe home to return to. Early in August the Council responded to a request from Kent County Council to offer placements for unaccompanied asylum seeker children and we responded positively to this request. More recently we received a request from the Bishop of Durham on behalf of Citizens UK requesting

authorities to commit to resettling up to 10 refugee families (a maximum of 50 individuals).

In consultation with the Leader of the Council I have written to Central Government indicating Hartlepool's willingness to work with partner organisations and with our community and faith based organisations to help resettle vulnerable refugee families and children. Throughout its history Hartlepool has a strong track record of responding to international refugees crises and I am confident that we can put the practical arrangements in place to enable us to play our part in responding to this current humanitarian crisis.

Council is requested to note and endorse the action taken.

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

28th August 2015



Report of: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Subject: REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL (COUNCIL MOTION FROM 26th February 2015)

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non Key Decision

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To follow up on the motion to council on 26th February 2015.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The motion passed at council on 25th June 2015 was as follows :

“That the principal of introducing a formal Appraisal Scheme for Elected Members be endorsed.”

3.2 The motion above was passed after the consideration of the question (and response) shown below.

“Can the Chair of Finance and Policy Committee briefly explain how HBC appraises its staff?”

“The Chair of Finance and Policy Committee responded that Council had an appraisal scheme that applied to all council employees, with the exception of teachers (who have their own separate scheme) and those employed for less than 12 months in any one period of continuous service. The scheme was based on a competency framework designed to develop individuals and improve performance, the framework was relevant to all areas of the Council and comprised of a number of core competencies which were applied to every employee, in addition there were further competencies that were selected based on their relevance to a particular role. The Chair added that in order to ensure that all employees were afforded the opportunity of participating in the appraisal process, a condensed version of the scheme had also been developed. The condensed version was based on the principles of the standard version however, it could only be applied to posts, identified by departments where assessment was required solely against the

core competencies, this tended, though not exclusively to operate in former blue collar areas. The Appraisal Scheme required appraisals to be undertaken on an annual basis and followed up by a 6 monthly review. Some areas of the Council do monitor completion rates for appraisal. This was not monitored corporately in terms of implementation but was a recognised part of management and staff development arrangements.

Following the response, Councillor Brash advised that he had no issue with the appraisal scheme. Reference was made to debate earlier in the meeting regarding the 'worth' of Elected Members and it was highlighted that those Elected Members did not have an appraisal."

3.3 It was agreed at the meeting that a report would be required based upon the principle of implementing a scheme.

3.4 There are a number of potential considerations arising from such a motion (both direct and indirect) in respect of this matter.

4 STAFF APPRAISAL

4.1 The staff appraisal system is undertaken as outlined in the response to the question above. Appraisals are undertaken by Line Managers as part of their professional roles and combine an assessment of performance, core competencies and achievement of planned objectives and outcomes (which are in a significant proportion of cases derived from the Council plan or other underpinning plans). As part of the process of appraisal an assessment and discussion are held, in a confidential setting, in respect of potential training needs based either on planned service developments, the competency assessment, performance or a potential need / desire for development from the individual as part of their professional development.

5 INVESTIGATION OF OPTIONS

5.1 This Council has, to the best of my knowledge, never operated an appraisal system for members. On this basis I have contacted a number of Councils and colleagues at the Local Government Association for their thoughts on such an arrangement. As it stands I have not been able to identify a Council that operates an appraisal system which I would describe as such.

5.2 Currently at the Council there are a range of options for Member Development which are managed through Member Services. Such arrangements are available for all members and are made available to new and returning members after elections.

5.3 A number of Councils have in place schemes for member development but these are not appraisal systems. Those arrangements which are in place operate in one of 4 ways (and these are essentially simplified examples);

- Structured Assessment (1) - Member Development Officers or equivalent resource undertake a structured assessment, hand-in-hand with

members on their training and development needs. From this a development plan is agreed. Take up and commitment to these arrangements varies significantly from Council to Council.

- Structured Assessment (2) – there are few examples of this that I could find but these are examples where the leader of each political group undertakes a similar assessment to that identified above with the members of their groups.
- Member Annual Reports – a small number of Councils require each elected member to produce an annual report of activity in the year. The production of such reports is aligned to the payment of increased allowances when recommended by the Independent Remuneration Committee. A review of these has identified that they are very generic and relate to meetings attended and very broad descriptions of activities undertaken.
- Informal political group based arrangements – such arrangements tend to have some structure around them but are based on each political groups internal management arrangements (obviously such arrangements do not take into account Independent members). It is unclear the extent to which these are appraisal systems and appear to be more internal group support arrangements. I have not attempted to investigate these further as they are politically based arrangements.

5.4 The arrangements for member development vary significantly between councils and in all of the arrangements I have managed to identify I cannot find an appraisal system for members which includes what I would define to be the key aspects of such a system. Namely that it offers a structured assessment of both actual performance and achievement of objectives, allied with an assessment against core role competencies and identified training needs to support current performance and ongoing development.

5.5 In addition to the nature of any potential system the operation of it would require significant consideration. I have outlined a range of points for consideration below.

- An appraisal system for Elected Members should not involve Officers. It would be inappropriate for officers to have any involvement in the appraisal arrangements other than in supporting the potential delivery of training requirements identified through the process.
- I can find no examples of what I would describe as an appraisal system for Elected Members.
- Whatever arrangement may be considered I cannot identify an appropriate way to make it work other than to utilise the arrangements within political groups. On this basis the assumption would be that group leaders would appraise group members but I do not believe it is appropriate for Council (or an officer such as myself) to determine group management arrangements. This is rightly an issue for groups to determine themselves.
- Not all Elected members are members of Political groups
- In the light of the significant pressures the Council faces financially and those which are currently placed on officers I would not recommend

further investigation of this matter to be a good use of staffing resource in the Council.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The basis for employee appraisal is a dialogue between a line manager and the member of staff based on a set of agreed competencies and objectives (or targets) which are linked to Council objectives. This results in an assessment of performance which is shared between these individuals and, where appropriate, the identification of suitable development or training.
- 6.2 Arrangements for member development vary between councils but I can find no working appraisal systems for Elected Members which offer a structured assessment of both actual performance and achievement of objectives, allied with an assessment against core role competencies and identified training needs to support current performance and ongoing development.
- 6.3 Any such system, where it agreed, would require significant development and there are no current resources available to do this. At this stage I have not attempted to quantify and resource implications as the nature and operation of any scheme (including any internal resources to support its development would significantly affect this and I have not been able to identify this from another authority as I cannot locate a comparable appraisal system.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Committee –
- a) Note the content of this report;
 - b) Consider the various arrangements identified in the report;
 - c) Determine whether there should be -
 - a corporately mandated approach to the appraisal of Elected Members,
 - an arrangement for political groups to determine such arrangements as they may see as being appropriate,
 - no additional arrangements made for a member appraisal system;
 - d) Should it be decided that there be a member appraisal system developed the costs for development and ongoing operation will need to be identified and provided for.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The report considers options and other arrangements in place in other Councils, in so far as these have been identified. In doing so whilst there are member development arrangements in place in a number of councils , including this one, I can find no examples of appraisal systems which offer a structured assessment of both actual performance and achievement of objectives, allied with an assessment against core role competencies and identified training needs to support current performance and ongoing development

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers

10 CONTACT OFFICER

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FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

28th August 2015



Report of: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Subject: REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL (COUNCIL MOTION FROM 25th June 2015)

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non Key Decision

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To consider the report and recommendations required by the Motion agreed by Council on 25th June 2015

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The motion passed at council on 25th June 2015 was as follows

“The Policy Committee system, which this Council has developed, provides a role for all members. The public are encouraged to attend Policy Committee meetings and forums to voice their views. Our Policy Committee system has been recognised as a model of good practice and a number of other Councils are considering implementing this model of governance.

We propose that action is taken to ensure that Council business is conducted with dignity and in a way that supports open, transparent and effective democracy. We therefore resolve that the Chief Executive be instructed to compile a report, which incorporates proposals for the management and filming by the Council, of Full Council meetings and for the publication of the unedited video on the Council website. To this end, a report will be presented to an early meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee

The Report drafted by the Chief Executive should, where possible embrace, act upon and follow explicitly the recommendations, suggestions and guidelines of good practice as outlined verbatim in the document entitled “The openness of local government bodies regulations of 2014”.

- 3.2 There are a number of potential considerations arising from such a motion (both direct and indirect) in respect of this matter.
- 3.3 It is important as part of any considerations around such matters that we recognise the status and importance, in a democratic society, of the ability to express views in an environment of mutual respect, and in a manner that encourages debate. It is in the best interests of this Council that matters of importance can be constructively debated in the Council Chamber. It is to this end that we have the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-opted Members (Part 5 of the Constitution) and have identified people's responsibilities (Part 2, Article 3, 3.02 of the Constitution).
- 3.4 In this context the Council and our partners face unprecedented challenges. Over the past 5 years the council has had to manage a 39% (£30.4M) cut in Government funding and faces some of the most extreme challenges in relation to tackling the causes and consequences of social and economic disadvantage. Over the next five years the Council and our partners will face further budgetary challenges as austerity continues and important decisions will need to be considered as respond to these pressures and shape the future of the Borough. The Council will also have to manage the financial impact of a significant reduction in the rateable value of the Power Station.
- 3.5 Rising to these challenges will require the Council to enable local people to be engaged in understanding the choices we face and in helping to shape solutions. It will also require debate in the Council Chamber to be conducted in an atmosphere of respect and in a way that facilitates all members to participate in debate on the important issues and questions that matter and enables the public to observe the debate through attendance at meetings or by accessing good quality footage.
- 3.6 Over the past 12 months concerns have been expressed from both Elected Members and members of the public in respect of the conduct of Council meetings in the Chamber. This has been a matter of concern to myself and the Monitoring Officer. These concerns relate to the balance between the time spent on Council business as opposed to questions and Motions, the way in which debate is conducted, and on occasions the level of disruptive behaviour. In addition concern has been expressed about the quality and posting of footage on social media and to a lesser degree the quality of the audio system in the Chamber.

4 OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- 4.1 There are a number of elements to consider as part of this report. Any considerations or recommendations have been identified in the light of The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which make provision for members of the public to 'report and commentate' on local authority meetings. This 'reporting' allows for the filming of proceedings and for the use of a 'wide range of methods including social media'.

4.2 Filming of Council Meetings

- 4.2.1 The motion makes specific reference to the filming of meetings of Full Council and in addition a petition has been received which calls for the Council to consider the web based broadcasting of all its public meetings.
- 4.2.2 In dealing with the two aspects above separately, and considering the motion agreed at Council first.
- 4.2.3 Filming of the business of Full Council meetings can be undertaken at limited addition cost (essentially staff time) and from a fixed point in the Council chamber using one camera before being uploaded to be viewable via the Council's website. Sound quality is important and various options have been considered to ensure a standard which ensures that proceedings can be clearly heard. The filming would commence with the entry of the Mace and cease as the Mace leaves the Chamber. Uploaded films would be unedited. Any options which consider more than a single point of filming have not been costed. This provision does not exclude members of the public from making their own recordings of proceedings. The cost for this is one off and whilst some additional work is required the required budget of £2500 has been identified for suitable equipment should this be agreed.
- 4.2.4 The second element, the web based broadcasting of all public meetings has also been investigated. In the last Municipal year there were almost 300 meetings held which would be covered by the terms of the petition received. All of the meetings which are encompassed by this are in the public domain (although they may have elements which are covered by confidential "Pink Papers" the provisions for which apply to all councils). Such a move would require significant investment in equipment and infrastructure across the Council Chamber and Committee rooms. Initial investigations into web broadcasting all public meetings have identified an upfront capital cost of approximately £50K (equipment and adaptations for all 5 rooms) and then annual costs of £30K per annum. At this stage these are estimates as detailed specifications and requirements have not been determined and the model above is based on minimal Council staff input due to current resource constraints.

4.3 Quality of audio / Council microphone system

- 4.3.1 There have been some concerns raised about the quality of the audio in the Council Chamber (though less so in committee rooms). Whilst these have been limited I have taken the opportunity to look into options and potential costs of change.
- 4.3.2 The current system is a wireless system which can be used very flexibly from one room to another as it requires no hard wiring in any of the rooms and this allows for various set up options.
- 4.3.3 A number of alternatives have been considered and advice sought from a number of potential suppliers. In simplistic terms the suppliers have all

commented that the current system is of high quality and whilst the Council may wish to consider a replacement system this would largely be on a like for like basis, the costs of this would be in the region of £30K. A suggestion has been made by one of the suppliers that some of the issues may relate to the speaker system and the low quality of the current speakers. This can be investigated further should members wish. (the cost, should this option be pursued, is approximately £1k per set equating to £5k in total)

4.4 Standards of Behaviour

4.4.1 Full Council is the only meeting attended by all Councillors. It makes decisions on a range of key and important strategies, and policy decisions of the Council (which aren't the subject of individual policy committees). Further, those matters which form part of the Budget and Policy Framework (not least the budget itself) and the place for the consideration of motions and questions.

4.4.2 The Constitution identifies the role and scope of Council and the various participants in such meetings (Councillors, the public and officers – primarily myself and the Monitoring Officer). The Constitution also identifies a Code of Corporate Governance, Code of Conduct for Councillors and an Officer / Member protocol. All of these aspects of the Constitution are designed to support a model of effective governance, undertaken in the context of mutual respect but with clearly defined roles and expectations around support, advice and appropriate challenge. Such codes and protocols between members (and between officers and members) have previously been underwritten with statutory frameworks for codes of conduct and actions. The former 'sanctions' that could be imposed for breach of the Code of Conduct are no longer in place and hence that degree of robustness has disappeared. Members may wish to give consideration to those matters and it has been suggested that a non statutory 'local sanctions' framework could be developed, provided all members were prepared to commit and regulate their behaviour through such a process. This is an initiative that together with training will be progressed with members through the Monitoring Officer and is identified further on in this report.

4.4.3 Rules of debate

4.4.4 Council Procedure Rule 15 provides an explanation as to the proper process to be followed in dealing with Council Motion's and the 'rules of debate'. It is also important to understand and recognise that it is the Chair of the meeting who regulates proceedings and preserves order at that meeting. A Motion or any amendment thereto, should not be discussed unless the matter has been formally proposed and seconded. It also assists the conduct and propriety of the meeting if a Motion, where notice has not been given, is written down so that an accurate record of the proceedings can be established and that all Councillors (and members of the public attending) are fully conversant with the content of that Motion.

- 4.4.5 It is permissible for a Member to reserve his/her speech until a later stage of the debate, but this needs to be openly declared, accepted by the Chair and not form the basis for the Member having the ability to essentially repeat what they have already stated earlier in the debate, to the detriment of the rules on debate and the general conduct of the meeting. The Procedure Rules also outline the permitted length of a speech, being ten minutes for the mover of a Motion and four minutes in all other cases and Members should endeavour to accord with this requirement, unless the Chair directs otherwise. If a Member reasonably believes that they need to address the meeting on a 'Point of Order' (an outline of the breach of a Procedure Rule or the law being required) or on a 'Personal Explanation' (to correct a misunderstanding) they should be guided by the Chair and any advice provided to the Chair from the statutory officers. Members should address such points through the Chair and recognise the authority vested in the Chair to conduct the meeting in a fair, impartial but also in a manner that effectively and efficiently transacts the business of that meeting.
- 4.4.6 Members should be conversant with the Council's Code of Conduct and the general principles that underpin the conduct expected of individuals exercising public functions. Equally, they should be aware that comments made in a Council meeting, accepting the political environment, can cause or have the potential of causing financial and reputational damage to the Council. Indeed, such behaviour can have immeasurable and lasting effect and damage on a local authority. Members need to be aware that they have only qualified privilege on statements made in formal Council meetings. If they make a remark which is defamatory and the same is seen to be malicious, then they will lose that 'privilege' and not be indemnified for any resulting action taken against them.
- 4.4.7 As indicated, in the Constitution at Part 2, Article 3, 3.02 (Peoples Responsibilities) there are expectations in respect of both responsibilities and the behaviour of members of the public. It is clear from this that participation is encouraged in its broadest sense in terms of registering and exercising their ability to vote. By the same token it identifies that
- People are expected to behave in a manner that contributes to the wellbeing of the Borough
 - People must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Councillors or Officers.
- 4.4.8 A proposal is made below in relation to the possible options in respect of inappropriate behaviour by Elected Members. Inappropriate behaviour by Officers is already the subject of a defined process.
- 4.4.9 The procedure for dealing with Disturbance by the Public requires further consideration to ensure that standards are maintained and the ability for full and unencumbered debate is enabled.
- 4.4.10 There are generally recognised standards of behaviour for a range of settings and for a Council meeting this should exclude heckling and any form

of intimidation. I should make it clear that my intention in this regard is not to stifle debate, but debate on the floor of the Council is for Elected Members and that debate, whilst it may be robust should not become either heated or rowdy.

- 4.4.11 On this basis and in line with my own expectations of how such meetings should operate the Monitoring Officer and myself will take appropriate action through appropriate advice to the Chair where standards of behaviour are not satisfactory. This will include but not be limited to the ejection of those behaving inappropriately, the temporary adjournment of the meeting and in extreme cases (and I would hope that this would never be necessary) the involvement of the Police.

4.5 **Sanctions for inappropriate behaviour**

- 4.5.1 Whilst the 'Standards for England' (formerly 'The Standards Board for England') and other associated elements of the frameworks for the sanction of members for inappropriate behaviour have been removed there is no reason why members cannot agree to the establishment of a locally determined framework for sanction consistent with the adopted Code of Conduct and its principles. Such an arrangement (with the explicit agreement of all members to be part of such a model) could be developed to be agreed by members through the Monitoring Officer. Such a framework would need to include the necessary procedural aspects in conjunction with agreed sanctions. If this is to proceed it is important that all members are committed and that there is universal and unqualified support to such a framework.

4.6 **Role of the Ceremonial Mayor**

- 4.6.1 The Ceremonial Mayor is the Chair of Council and has a number of roles as outlined in Part 2 Article 5 of the Constitution. Not least of these roles (and this is not exhaustive) are;
- To be first citizen of the Borough
 - Preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of Members and the interests of the community
 - Ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and a place at which Members can ask questions of the Chairs of Committees and Sub – Committees
- 4.6.2 It is important that all participants in Council meetings recognise the position of the Ceremonial Mayor and behave with due and appropriate respect to enable the business of Council to be transacted in a positive manner which reflects well on the Council.

4.7 Standing for the Mace

- 4.7.1 The Mace is a symbol of the Council. Standing for the Mace is recognition of the role of Council. Whilst it may be perceived as purely ceremonial it is an important part of the democratic process and agreed convention is that Elected Members, the public and officers stand for the Mace when it enters and leaves the Council chamber. It is also recognised convention that this is done with appropriate deference. It is recommended that all concerned are reminded of this protocol.

4.8 Timings of Council meetings

- 4.8.1 Currently Council meetings are held at 7pm and this is incorporated in Part 4 of the Constitution. Previously Council meetings operated an alternate cycle of 2pm and 7pm. This cycle was changed a number of years ago. There are considerations in respect of both options for the timings of meetings in terms of accessibility and ability for individuals to attend which mean that there is no simple or correct answer. Members may wish to consider options in relation to the timing of Council meetings. In the absence of any strong argument either way it may be appropriate to leave meeting times as they are.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The majority of the considerations in the report do not carry with them any direct financial implications.
- 5.2 Members will be well aware of the significant financial pressures facing the Council and these also relate to staffing resources to support new activity and it is for this reason that it is not intended to restate them but for members to consider these as part of their deliberations.
- 5.3 A summary of the potential implications is shown below

Item	Capital	Revenue (ongoing costs)
Single point of filming for Council Meetings	£2.5K	None
Web broadcasting of all council meetings	£50K	£30K
Placement audio system	£1K per set of speakers – total cost of £5K; or £30K for a replacement microphone system	None

- 5.4 As is stated in the report there is currently no budget provision for the options identified. The equipment for the single point of filming can be accommodated from within existing budgets as the equipment can be used for other Council based projects and activity.

- 5.5 In relation to the web broadcasting of all council meetings and the replacement audio system there are both capital and ongoing revenue costs to these over and above current budget provision. They are significant costs and it is not recommended to pursue these. Should members determine to agree to such changes then for any ongoing revenue costs the implications of these will need to be factored into a greater deficit than that already considered by members and for any capital costs consideration would need to be given in respect of the projected outturn. In respect of the projected outturn and the MTFS members have already considered reports recommending the utilisation of any such monies to support the increasing budget deficit and issues from the power station revaluation.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the Committee recommends to Council the following;
- 6.1.1 Agree to officers of the Council filming and uploading the film of Council meetings
- 6.1.2 Not pursue the streaming of all meetings.
- 6.1.3 Not to consider the replacement microphone system at this stage but for officers to consider the options of replacement speakers in the first instance and should this be unsuccessful to revisit this issue.
- 6.1.4 Note and endorse the proposed approach for myself (as Head of Paid Service) and the Monitoring Officer in terms of Standards of Behaviour
- 6.1.5 Consider and agree the proposal for the development of locally agreed arrangements for sanctions for inappropriate behaviour by Elected Members
- 6.1.6 Note the considerations in respect of the role of the Ceremonial Mayor.
- 6.1.7 Agree to the reinforcement of the requirements in respect of the Mace.
- 6.1.8 Consider the options available for the timing of Council Meetings.
- 6.1.9 Agree to the Monitoring Officer making any required incidental changes to the Constitution following the resolutions of Council.

7 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations detailed in the report reflect the requirements of the Motion agreed at Council and other considerations I have identified for consideration.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers

9 CONTACT OFFICER

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CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

26 JUNE 2015



PRESENT:

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Rob Cook, Ray Martin-Wells

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Ronald Arundale, Shamal Biswas, Jan Brunton, Teresa Higgins,
Naweed Hussain, Tom Mawston

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Billy Ayre, Norah Cooney, Ray Goddard, Mary Lanigan, Bob Norton,
Mary Ovens

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Gillian Corr, Paul Kirton, Jean O'Donnell, Stephen Parry, Mick Stoker,
William Woodhead

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Director of Corporate Services, Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer,
Treasurer

BRIGADE OFFICERS

Head of Corporate Support

**APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE:**

Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher, Marjorie James – Hartlepool Borough
Council

The Director of Corporate Services (DCS) welcomed new Members; Councillors Cook and Akers-Belcher from Hartlepool Borough Council, Councillors Arundale and Higgins from Middlesbrough Council, Councillors Ayre, Lanigan and Norton from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Councillor Parry from Stockton on Tees Borough Council to Cleveland Fire Authority.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Director of Corporate Services sought nominations for the position of Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2015/16. Councillor Jan Brunton was subsequently proposed and seconded whereupon nominations were closed.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Jan Brunton be appointed Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for the ensuing year.

Councillor Brunton in the Chair.

The Chair placed on record the Authority's thanks to Brian Briggs, ex Chair of the Authority, George Dunning, Robbie Payne, Dale Quigley and Steve Walmsley for the commitment and support they gave during their time as Members of Cleveland Fire Authority.

The Chair thanked Members for their nomination and stated that she is looking forward to working with Members and Officers in the coming year.

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no Declarations of Interests were submitted to the meeting.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair to Cleveland Fire Authority for 2015/16. Councillor Jean O'Donnell was proposed and seconded whereupon nominations were closed.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Jean O'Donnell be appointed as Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for the ensuing year.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting on 27 March 2015 be confirmed.

5. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 15 May 2015 be confirmed.

6. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

Peter Holland, Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser - Honours And Awards
Shehla Hussain, DCLG - Local Government Transparency Code 2015

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

7. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Business Report 2015/16

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) sought Members' views regarding the principles to the Corporate Governance framework outlined at paragraph 3 and the Corporate Governance Framework outlined at Appendix A which detailed the following:

- CFA Membership 2015/16
- Calendar of Meetings 2015/16
- Terms of Reference
- Committee Structure
- Delegation Scheme
- Financial Procedure Rules
- Standing Orders of the Authority
 - Standing Orders in Respect of Proceedings
 - Contract Procedure Rules
- Code of Corporate Governance
- Members Allowance Scheme

He highlighted to Members the change of sequencing regarding the rotation of Chair and Vice Chair positions (paragraph 3.1 refers), following the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair earlier in the meeting.

The LAMO sought nominations for the ensuing year for Committees, Outside Bodies and Member Champions.

7.1 Business Report 2015/16 (cont)

A vote was undertaken as three nominations were received for the two remaining positions on the Executive Committee. Councillors Corr and Ovens were appointed.

Following appointments the LAMO drew Members' attention to paragraph 3.5 of his report and asked Members to note that some Members were appointed to both the Overview & Scrutiny and Audit Governance Committees, which moved away from the usual practice of Audit & Governance membership being independent of Overview & Scrutiny.

The LAMO highlighted Member attendance of the Fire Improvement Group and Cleveland Fire Support Network.

Members were asked to consider and comply with the Ethical Governance Framework outlined at Appendix B. This included the revised Code of Conduct adopted by the Authority on 7 June 2013, through the requirement for Cleveland Fire Authority to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its Members, under Section 27 of the Localism Act, 2011. The LAMO reminded Members of the requirement to ensure that their Register of Interest was returned/updated within 28 days of joining the Authority.

Councillor O'Donnell queried if it was possible to write and confirm that there had been no change since the previous submission of a Register of Interest. The LAMO confirmed that this would be acceptable.

Members were also asked to consider the Member Development Framework 2015/16 at Appendix C.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Corporate Governance Framework principles as outlined at paragraph 3 be approved.
- (ii) That the Corporate Governance Framework as outlined at paragraph 4 and Appendix A be approved.
- (iii) That the Code of Conduct as outlined at paragraph 5.3, and Appendix B, be adopted and approved.
- (iv) That the Ethical Governance Framework of the Authority as outlined at paragraph 5 and Appendix B be approved and complied with.
- (v) That the Member Development Framework which includes the Role of Members outlined at paragraph 6 and Appendix C be approved.
- (vi) That the Member attendance at the associated meetings as outlined at Paragraph 7 be noted.
- (vii) That Member appointments to committees and outside bodies (as outlined in the table below) be approved.
- (viii) That the change in sequencing regarding the rotation of Chair and Vice Chair be noted.
- (ix) That the change of practice that members can be appointed to both Audit & Governance and Overview & Scrutiny be noted.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4-1-1-1

LAB	BRUNTON	CHAIR
LAB	O'DONNELL	VICE CHAIR
LAB	JAMES	HARTLEPOOL
LAB	GODDARD	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
LD	OVENS	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CONS	WOODHEAD	STOCKTON ON TEES
IND	CORR	STOCKTON ON TEES

7.1 Business Report 2015/16 (cont)

TENDER 2-1

LAB	BRUNTON	CHAIR
LAB	STOKER	STOCKTON ON TEES
CONS	WOODHEAD	STOCKTON ON TEES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4-1-1-1

LAB	PARRY	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	BISWAS	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	KIRTON	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	HIGGINS	MIDDLESBROUGH
CONS	COONEY	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
IND	LANIGAN	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
IND	MAWSTON	MIDDLESBROUGH

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 4-1-1-1 PLUS 2 INDEPENDENT PERSONS

LAB	AKERS-BELCHER	HARTLEPOOL
LAB	STOKER	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	HUSSAIN	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	AYRE	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CONS	GARDNER	STOCKTON ON TEES
IND	LANIGAN	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
IND	MAWSTON	MIDDLESBROUGH

APPEALS COMMITTEE 4-1-1-1 (AD HOC)

LAB	BISWAS	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	KIRTON	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	NORTON	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
LAB	AKERS-BELCHER	HARTLEPOOL
CONS	ARUNDALE	MIDDLESBROUGH
IND	LANIGAN	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
IND	MAWSTON	MIDDLESBROUGH

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 4-1-1-1

LAB	BRUNTON	CHAIR
LAB	O'DONNELL	VICE CHAIR
LAB	NORTON	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
LAB	COOK	MIDDLESBROUGH
CONS	COONEY	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
IND	LANIGAN	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
IND	MAWSTON	MIDDLESBROUGH

REPRESENTATIVES FOR OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

LGA FIRE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE	Cllr BRUNTON
Substitute	Cllr O'DONNELL
REDCAR & CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE	Cllr GODDARD
STOCKTON SAFER PARTNERSHIP REPN	Cllr KIRTON

7.1 Business Report 2015/16 (cont)

MEMBER CHAMPIONS 2015/16

IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY CHAMPION	Cllr BISWAS
SAFER COMMUNITIES CHAMPION	Cllr NORTON
PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE	Cllr PARRY

FIREFIGHTERS PENSION SCHEME LOCAL PENSION BOARD

Cllr BISWAS

8. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

8.1 Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions

The DCS advised that the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions had been considered by the Executive Committee on 15 May 2015 and Members were requested to ratify their decision to approve the proposed CFA policies on the discretions that apply to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 as set out at Section 4 of the report. These being:

Funding of Additional Pension – for which it was proposed that CFA may, in exceptional circumstances contribute to shared cost. However, there must be a financial and/or operational advantages to CFA by doing so and CFA must have the ability to fund all costs.

To apply the 85 Year Rule before age 60 – for which it was proposed that CFA may, in exceptional circumstances, ‘switch on’ the 85 Year Rule. However it must be clear that there are financial and/or operational advantages to CFA by doing so and CFA must have the ability to fund all costs.

Flexible Retirement – for which it was proposed that CFA will consider all applications for flexible retirements on their merits. However it must be clear that there are financial and/or operational advantages to CFA by doing so and CFA must have the ability to fund all costs.

Waiving of Actuarial Reduction – for which it was proposed that CFA will consider whether to waive, in whole or in part, actuarial reduction on benefits. However, it must be clear that there are financial and/or operational advantages to CFA by doing so and CFA must have the ability to fund all costs.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the recommendation of the Executive Committee be ratified and the proposed CFA policies on the discretions that apply to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 as set out in the table at Section of the report be approved.

8.2 Information Pack

- 8.2.1 Fire and Rescue Service Monthly Bulletins
- 8.2.2 Employers Circulars
- 8.2.3 National Joint Council Circulars
- 8.2.4 Campaign Launches

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted

9. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

9.1 Information Pack

Councillor Biswas outlined the areas scrutinised by the Audit & Governance Committee at the 22 May 2015 meeting.

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted

10. 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 paragraphs 1 & 3 below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as mended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006”, namely information relating to any individual and namely information relating to any financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information.

11. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority on 27 March 2015 be confirmed.

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON
CHAIR**

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2015.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E(Chairman), Cllr Charles Rooney(Vice-Chairman) Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr George Dunning, Cllr Ian Jeffrey, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Bernie Taylor, Cllr Brenda Thompson

Officers: David Bond, Steve Hume, Margaret Waggott, Peter Kelly, Graham Birtle, Peter Mennear (SBC)

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Iain Spittal (Cleveland Police), Michael Porter, Simon Dennis, Joanne Hodgkinson (Commissioner's Office)

Apologies: Cllr Chris Abbott, Cllr Christopher Akers-Belcher, Cllr Paul Thompson, Gwen Duncan

PCP 43/14 Evacuation Procedure/Mobile Phones

The Chairman presented the Evacuation Procedures and reminded those present to turn off, or turn to silent, any mobile phone, or similar device, they might have with them.

PCP 44/14 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest as his son was a security guard.

PCP 45/14 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

PCP 46/14 Minutes of the Complaints Sub Committee

The minutes of the Complaints Sub Committee held on 16 October 2014 were noted.

PCP 47/14 Members' Questions to the Commissioner

Reference was made to an incident that involved social media and a re-tweet coming from the Commissioner's office which some had suggested was of a party political nature. It was explained that the Commissioner's office did have a social media policy, however, this incident had been human error, the error had been spotted very quickly and dealt with immediately. In response to some press reports of the incident, the Chairman, pointed out that, should any members of the Panel make any comments to the press on any issue, they should make it clear that those comments were their own personal views and not the views of the Panel as a whole.

RESOLVED that the issue raised, and the response from the Commissioner, be noted.

PCP Task and Finish Scrutiny Review - Review of Commissioner's Priorities

Members considered a report that presented the findings of a review that had included the scrutiny of Commissioner's priorities.

The report presented a number of comments, findings and recommendations and these were supported by the Panel. Recommendations had included:

- that standard and consistent terminology be adopted by the Office of the PCC to avoid future misunderstanding.
- that communication with agencies could still be improved and the PCC objective should be reviewed to ensure this was addressed.
- that the PCC's objective be explicit about communication with the public as well.
- that the PCC and the Police and Crime Plan 2015-18 makes clear the Commissioner's commitments and objectives to residents who see anti social behaviour as a priority.
- that a clear definition of neighbourhood policing feature in the updated Police and Crime Plan and other relevant documentation to provide clarity for residents and all other interested bodies.

RESOLVED that the recommendations, findings and comments be agreed.

Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2015-2017

As part of the Commissioner's planning processes the Commissioner had revised his Police and Crime Plan to ensure it reflected current crime and antisocial behaviour issues. Members of the Police and Crime Panel were asked to note the attached draft Police and Crime Plan 2015-2017.

It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner's objectives and commitments would remain unchanged for the duration of the plan.

The plan's appendices would be updated once the precept had been agreed and an updated copy of the plan circulated to all Police and Crime Panel members.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland's Police and Crime Plan was a statutory document.

The Commissioner had a duty to keep his plan under review and in particular to review the plan in the light of any changes in the SPR and any report or recommendations made to the PCC by the Police and Crime Panel.

This reports sets out the findings from the PCCs review of the Police and Crime Plan 2015-2017.

The Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 was published on 1 April 2013 in accordance with the requirements set out in the legal framework. Since then, the PCC had undertaken a number of activities in reviewing the Police and

Crime Plan, including:

- SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats)
- Reports showing 1st and 2nd years in office showing progress against the plan as reported to the Home Office, APACE and the Police and Crime Panel.
- Monthly monitoring of progress against objectives.
- PCC and Deputy Chief Constable consultation presentations regarding the budget to each of the four local authorities.
- Briefing to the Cleveland MPs.
- Consultation event with partners.

Observations and findings from the review were shown below.

The PCC objectives would remain the same for the period of the PCCs current term of office:

Retain and develop neighbourhood policing.
Ensure a better deal for victims and witnesses.
Divert people from offending, with a focus on rehabilitation and the prevention of reoffending.
Develop better coordination, communication and partnership between agencies to make the best use of resources.
Working for better industrial and community relations

Review findings showed that the objectives continued to reflect the vision of the PCC and that their wording was sufficiently broad enough to support legal requirements. No changes to objectives were planned.

It was noted that the Panel had agreed the contents of the Task and Finish Group's Review of the Commissioner's Priorities and some members referred to events they had attended where they had had an opportunity to feed comments in to the consultation on the Plan.

A draft copy of the Plan was circulated and discussion on it has been summarised below:

- it was noted that under Retaining and developing neighbourhood policing the first sentence provided a good definition of Neighbourhood Policing ' Neighbourhood policing aims to provide communities with access to policing services through a named point of contact, influence over local policing priorities and feedback on local issues and solutions.
- reference was made to customer satisfaction ratings that had dropped. It was noted that the Commissioner had scrutiny processes in place where concerns were discussed and this matter had been raised.
- the Commissioner was committed to working with partners in diverting people from offending and to helping with the austerity affecting residents.

RESOLVED that the Plan and discussion be noted and the report prepared by the Panel's Task and Finish Group, that undertook a review of Commissioner Priorities, be forwarded to the Commissioner for consideration as part of the overall consultation process for the Cleveland Police and Crime Plan 2015-18.

**PCP
50/14**

Task and Finish Scrutiny Review - Review of Overall Budget Strategy

Members considered a report of the Panel's Task and Finish Group looking at the Overall Budget Strategy. The Group found that:

- the savings plans for 2014-16 were well advanced and set to be achieved overall. This should ensure a balanced budget for that period. Using the information available, General Fund reserves would be used to balance budget in 2016-17 and further savings would need to be identified to address a gap of £2.6m in 2017-18 rising to £6.5m in 18-19. The overall financial position therefore remained challenging;
- to partly address the budget gap for 2015-16, the PCC proposed a 1.99% precept rise;
- the Police Office and PCSO staff numbers had stabilised ahead of schedule, and to avoid further reductions in frontline capacity, future savings would increasingly need to come through collaboration, and better ways of working, including estates and technology. The demand on the police continued to evolve and the Group was conscious of the ever increasing pressure on resources, including non-'visible' police activity;
- the process for allocating community safety funding/ PCC Initiatives had further developed, and there was scope for partners including Community Safety Partnerships to develop programmes on a multi-year basis, subject to the submission of a business case. The Group reiterated its support for the community safety work undertaken through use of this funding and its importance to the achievement of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan, and local Community Safety Plans.

The Panel discussed the report and specific reference was made to sickness levels. It was accepted that there was a significant cost associated with this and there was a great deal of work being undertaken to improve the Force's performance in this area.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
51/14**

The 2015/16 Precept Proposal

A report and notification from the Commissioner, regarding the proposed precept for the financial year 2015/16 were considered by the Panel.

The Commissioner indicated that he had taken into account the following in making his proposal on the precept for 2015/16:-

- the financial impact on the people of Cleveland
- the financial needs of the organisation as currently projected both for 2015/16

and in the future

- the offer of a grant from the Government if he chose to freeze the precept
- the limits proposed by the Government on a precept increase before a referendum would be triggered in Cleveland
- the advice of the Chief Finance Officer in terms of the realistic options that he had

The Commissioner also indicated that he had discussed his proposals with the Chief Constable and had engaged and consulted with a wide partner base and the public's representatives.

The Commissioner also emphasized the need for the continued delivery of high levels of Policing and Crime services within the Cleveland area and that in light of his discussions with the Chief Constable and wider partners, he believed that a precept increase of 1.99% for 2015/16 best served the needs of the communities of Cleveland. He therefore proposed a precept increase of 1.99% for 2015/16.

Panel members asked various questions about the report and made a number of comments regarding the Commissioner's proposal. The Panel then concluded by agreeing that the proposal should be supported.

RESOLVED that the Panel supports the Commissioner's proposed precept of 1.99% for 2015/16.

**PCP
52/14**

Quarter 3 Monitoring Report on Progress against the Police and Crime Plan

Members considered a report that provided an update of performance scrutiny undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland to support the delivery of the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan for the third quarter (October - December) of 2014-15.

During consideration of the report there was discussion that has been summarised below:

- the Panel noted the Commissioner's support for the Living Wage campaign and congratulated him for Cleveland PCC's accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation.
- there was concern at increasing rates of recorded sexual offences. It was noted that the whole of the country was seeing an increase in these crimes and this was considered to be positive in the sense that people were more confident in reporting. Some crime was historical and work had been undertaken to identify this. The Commissioner referred to the work that was being undertaken to deal with violence against women and girls and a 20 point plan that was being implemented. Members were reminded of the work of the Tees Sexual Violence Strategic Group.
- members noted the increase in some crimes and it was explained that crime for the year would have increased, however, improvements in crime recording would also have been responsible for the increase.

- it was explained that, in terms of deployment of resources, prevention of personal harm was a priority.

- there was a discussion on Domestic Abuse and it was suggested that the Panel receives a report at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted/actioned where appropriate.

**PCP
53/14** **Decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland**

Members considered a report that provided an update in relation to the decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner between 1 October 2014 and 31 December 2014.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
54/14** **Programme of Engagement for Police and Crime Commissioner**

Members considered a report that provided a brief update in relation to meetings attended by the PCC from October to December 2014

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
55/14** **Appointment Process for Non Political Independent Members**

Members considered a report that proposed a process for the appointment of a non-political member, in light of the resignation of one of the existing two non-political independent members.

RESOLVED that

1. the Panel agree the arrangements for the appointment of a replacement non-political independent member as detailed in the report at paragraph 5.

2. delegated authority be given to the Director of Law and Democracy (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to amend and finalise the arrangements and associated documents, detailed in the Appendix and paragraph 4 of the report, should it be considered necessary to do so.

3. the following members be appointed to serve on the appointment Panel:

Cllr Paul Thompson
Cllr Ian Jeffreys
Cllr Terry Laing
Cllr Norma Stephenson
Cllr Bernie Taylor

**PCP
56/14**

Public Questions

The Panel received a report relating to Public Questions.

Members were reminded of the agreed procedure for considering questions, on notice, and noted that no such questions had been received for this meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
57/14**

Dates of future meetings

The Panel considered a report that proposed changes to the months when scheduled meetings of the Panel would take place, for 2015/16 onwards.

RESOLVED that for 2015/16 onwards the Panel holds scheduled meetings during the months of July, September, November and February.