

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday 10th August 2015

at 10.00am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Ainslie, Barclay, Gibbon, Jackson, James, Loynes and Robinson

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 (previously circulated).

4. **BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

No items.

5. **KEY DECISIONS**

No items.



6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Proposal to Create a Community Orchard on the Rift House Estate –
Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Ward Member Budgets and Civic Lottery 2014/15 – *Director of Regeneration
and Neighbourhoods*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

**Date of next meeting – Monday 7 September 2015 at 10.00 am in Committee
Room B, Civic Centre**



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

10th August 2015



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: PROPOSAL TO CREATE A COMMUNITY ORCHARD ON THE RIFT HOUSE ESTATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek the support of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on a proposal to create a Community Orchard located to the west of Masefield Road on the Rift House estate within the Manor House Ward.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 For a number of years the 'Rift House Community Action Team' (CAT), a local voluntary organisation based in the Manor House Ward, has been working with local agencies to improve the local environment, through area clean-ups, Neighbourhood Action Days, verge improvement works, and dog foul campaigns.

3.2 The Groups current aspirations include the development of a Community Orchard on a site located to the West of Masefield Road on the Rift House Estate which is currently well used by the local community for informal recreational purposes.

3.3 The land in question is classed as informal playing field with well established linkages in the form of footpaths and bridleways towards Summerhill to the North and the Rift House Estate to the South.

3.4 In the summer of 2014 site visits were undertaken at the location with resident members of the CAT Group, Manor House Ward Councillors, and Officers from across the Council including the Community Safety and Engagement Team, representatives from the Councils Horticultural Team, and the Councils Ecologist.

- 3.5 Plans for the development of a Community Orchard (which will include the planting of apple, plum, and pear trees) and how this could be achieved were drawn up and subsequently agreed by the CAT Group.
- 3.6 In addition to enhancing a local asset, it is anticipated that the provision of a Community Orchard at the location identified will help to raise awareness of how to look after the local environment, along with encouraging healthy lifestyles through the provision of fresh fruit for the local community. The project will also compliment the recent meadowing and wild flower planting scheme that lies adjacent to the proposed Community Orchard site.
- 3.7 A map of the area outlined for the proposed Community Orchard is shown as **Appendix A** of this report.

4 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Community Orchard will be developed using Section 106 funding (Green Infrastructure) from the Eskdale Road development, and that assistance in creating the Orchard will be provided by HBC's Horticultural Team.
- 4.2 If the plans for the Orchard are approved, planting will be undertaken in the autumn/winter of 2015. Mature fruit trees approximately 6 ft in height will be planted at 5m spacings, and to mitigate against vandalism and theft the trees will be located on the land to the North and East of the site which is currently lined with trees and overgrown grass. There will be a need to undertake manual pruning of the trees annually to keep them at a suitable compact size and shape for harvesting from ground level. It is his hoped that this could be undertaken with support from community volunteers.
- 4.3 The CAT Group will work to involve the local community in increasing the usage of the space, raising awareness of the ecological features and promoting the usage of linkages to other green spaces to the North and South of the site. This includes working with Hartlepool Borough Council's Countryside Team, and involving local young people in the development of the Orchard. Additional elements will include: Interpretation Boards and the provision of bat and bird boxes for the site.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Section 106 funds (Green Infrastructure) have been secured from the Eskdale Road development. Funds of £4k are to be utilised towards the provision of the Community Orchard and start up costs are covered.
- 5.2 The projected annual maintenance cost associated with this project is £2,000 and will need to be absorbed by the Grounds Maintenance Revenue Budget.

6. RISK

- 6.1 The Community Orchard could result in the need for an additional Council resource to maintain the Community Orchard site.
- 6.2 To mitigate this risk, on the advice of the Councils Horticultural Team, tree species have been chosen on the basis that only a low level of maintenance will be required.
- 6.3 As the CAT Group is a voluntary organisation there is the possibility of developing volunteers to assist in maintaining the site. There are also a number of external funding opportunities that the CAT Group will explore (if the need arises) to assist with the implementation and future maintenance of the Community Orchard from a variety of local, regional and national sources.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The land outlined for the proposed project is owned by Hartlepool Borough Council and the Councils Estates team has been consulted. There are no plans to transfer the land into community ownership, and there are no plans to put in place a formal agreement between the Council and the local community in relation to the future maintenance of the Community Orchard site.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The proposed project will contribute towards equality and diversity outcomes in the Corporate Plan through the provision of equal access to leisure / recreational facilities, enriching the local environment and places where people live, and strengthening the local community

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

- 9.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Neighbourhood Services Committee considers supporting the proposal to create a Community Orchard at the site identified.

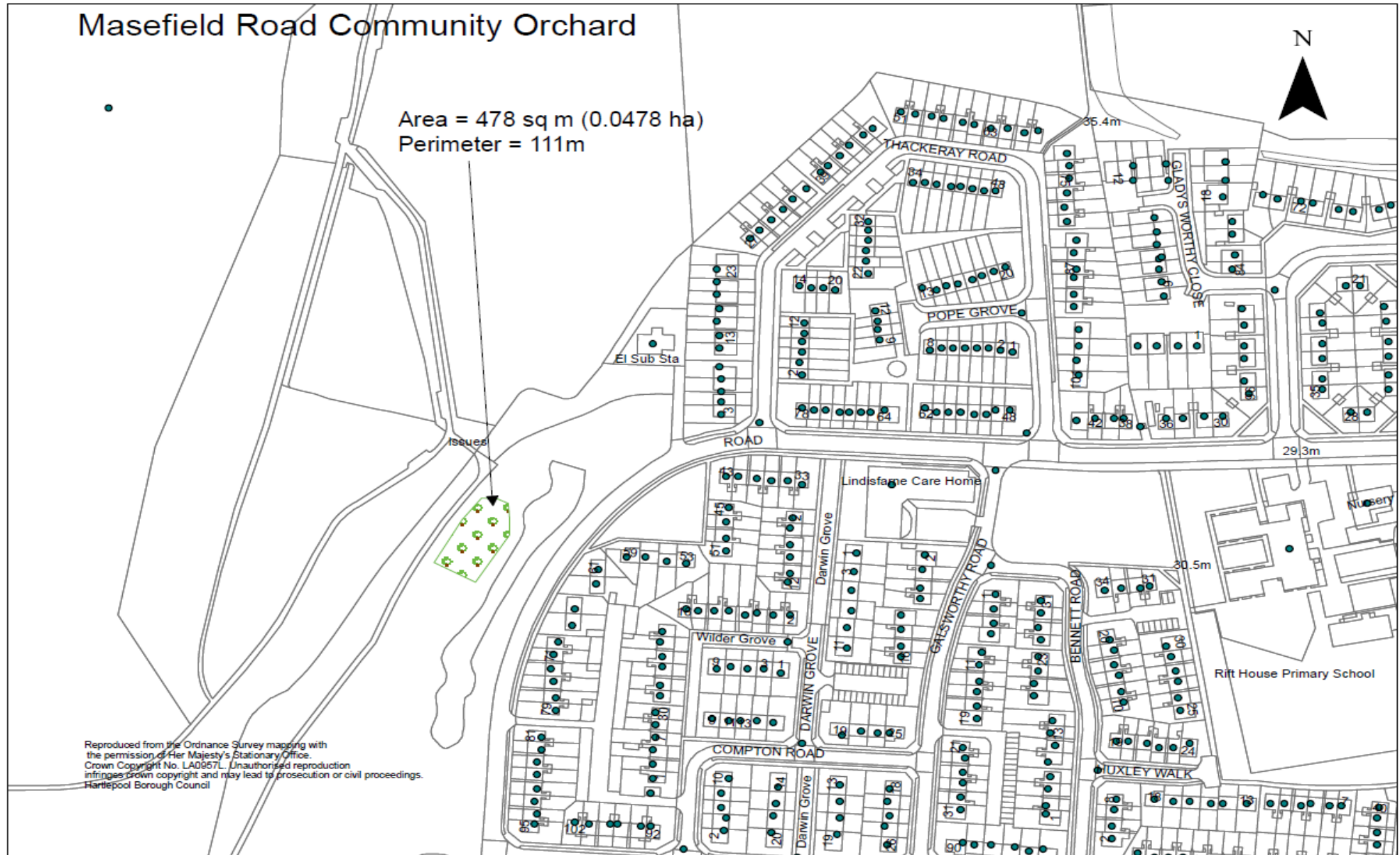
11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The local CAT group has been established for a number of years working with local agencies and residents to improve the local environment.
- 11.2 The Community Orchard will strengthen community involvement, improve access to local recreational facilities, and provide a focal point for the local community to learn about, and participate in looking after and nurturing the local environment.
- 11.3 Set up costs and initial outlay for the development and implementation of a Community Orchard, have been identified through Section 106 funding. The proposed development could potentially result in a budget pressure for the Council due to the ongoing need to maintain the site but to mitigate this risk low maintenance species will be planted and other potential sources of external funding for future development will continue to be explored by the CAT Group.

12. CONTACT OFFICER

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

10 August 2015



Report of: Director (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)

Subject: WARD MEMBER BUDGETS & CIVIC LOTTERY
2014/15

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform Neighbourhood Services Committee of the final outturn for 2014/15 in relation to Ward Member Budgets and the Civic Lottery programme.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 This report provides the Neighbourhood Services Committee with the final outturn for both Ward Member Budgets and the Civic Lottery during 2014/15. **Appendix A** to the report highlights that during 2014/15, £144,274 Ward Member Budget funds were approved with £7,056 remaining unspent, which has been carried over into 2015/16.

3.2 During the same period £16,550 Civic Lottery funding was also approved out of a total allocation of £28,902 with £12,352 remaining unspent. A breakdown of projects supported by Civic Lottery Funding, along with the remaining balance for each Ward Member can be found at **Appendix B**.

3.3 Following a review of the Ward Member Budget and the Civic Lottery approval process by the Neighbourhood Services Committee in March 2015, from April 2015 the Civic Lottery budget has been merged with the Ward Member Budget. Civic Lottery remaining balances from 2014/15 have therefore been merged with the 2015/16 Ward Member Budget allocations, and information on expenditure post April 2015 will be presented to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in future as a Ward Member Budget report only.

4 RISK

- 4.1 Through the implementation of the application and approval framework, a robust and transparent process has been put in place to ensure that the expenditure of Ward Member Budgets and Civic Lottery is for the purpose for which it is intended. This currently includes an annual report to Neighbourhood Services Committee on WMB and the Civic Lottery, with specific reports on Ward Member Budgets including details of the projects supported also considered on a quarterly basis by the Neighbourhood Forums, and available online.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Any unspent funds in relation to WMB have been carried over from 2014/15. Each Elected Member has an additional allocation of £4,000 for 2015/16 to which any underspends have been added.
- 5.2 The Civic Lottery Grants Fund is composed of annual interest earned from the capital investment. Interest is credited to this fund using either the interest rate earned on the Council's investments, or the average interest rate paid on the Council's long term borrowings, depending on which is highest. The total funding available for distribution in 2014/15 was £16,500, and this is a rolling programme. The capital investment (£430,000) remains untouched.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 In line with the 'executive arrangements' outlined in the Local Government Act 2000, a delegation of powers to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)¹ has been awarded in relation to Ward Member Budgets and the Civic Lottery.
- 6.2 Ward Members Budgets must be used for purposes which originally fell within the 'well being powers' enshrined in the Local Government Act 2000 – now repealed and replaced by the 'broader power of competence' under the Localism Act 2011. This gives local authorities an explicit freedom to act in the best interests of the community, unless the local authority is prevented from taking that action by common law, specific legislation or statutory guidance.
- 6.3 Specific criterion relating to the Civic Lottery Grants Fund is prescribed by the Secretary of State. However current restrictions in relation to the Civic Lottery programme apply only to the capital fund. Following the decision by Neighbourhood Services Committee to merge the Civic Lottery with Ward Member Budgets, the annual interest is now expended in line with the Ward Member Budget criteria.

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

7. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 There are no staff considerations in addition to this.

8. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Asset management considerations are not applicable in this instance.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 There are no direct Equality and Diversity considerations in relation to Ward Member Budgets.

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

10.1 There are no Section 17 implications in relation to Ward Member Budgets.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Neighbourhood Services Committee is asked to note the following:

- (i) The 2014/15 outturn for the Ward Member Budgets programme.
- (ii) That £7,057 remains unspent from the 2014/15 Ward Member Budget allocations, which has been carried over into 2015/16.
- (iii) The 2014/15 outturn for the Civic Lottery programme.
- (iv) Civic Lottery remaining balances, which have been merged with the 2015/16 Ward Member Budget allocations.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 When Ward Member Budgets and the associated application framework were approved it was agreed that expenditure would be reported to the relevant Committee on an annual basis. This was extended to the Civic Lottery Grants Fund by the Finance and Policy Committee, as part of the decision to align the Grants Fund with the administration of the Ward Member Budgets.

13 CONTACT OFFICER

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APPENDIX A

WARD MEMBER BUDGET OVERVIEW 2014/15

Ward Councillor	Funding Available 14/15	Funding Approved 14/15	Total Funding Remaining
Burn Valley			
Jonathan Brash	£4,000	£2,890	£1,110
Ged Hall	£4,000	£4,000	-
John Lauderdale	£4,000	£4,000	-
De Bruce			
Rob Cook	£4,000	£4,000	-
Sheila Griffin	£4,000	£4,000	-
*Sylvia Tempest	£667	£662	
Stephen Thomas	£3,338	£3,338	-
Fens and Rossmere			
Steve Gibbon	£4,000	£4,000	-
Alan Clark	£4,000	£4,000	-
Geoff Lilley	£4,000	£4,000	-
Foggy Furze			
Christopher Akers Belcher	£4,000	£3,800	£200
Kevin Cranney	£4,000	£3,800	£200
Kaylee Sirs	£4,000	£3,800	£200
Hart			
Paul Beck	£7,500	£7,500	-
David Riddle	£7,500	£7,100	£400
Jean Robinson	£7,500	£7,452	£48
Headland and Harbour			
Jim Ainslie	£4,000	£4,000	-
Peter Jackson	£4,000	£4,000	-
Robbie Payne	£4,000	£4,000	-
Jesmond			
Keith Dawkins	£4,000	£3,320	£680
Mary Fleet	£4,000	£3,420	£580
** Linda Shields	£667	£420	
George Springer	£3,580	£3,350	£230
Manor House			
Stephen Akers-Belcher	£4,000	£2,775	£1,225
Marjorie James	£4,000	£2,749	£1,251
Allan Barclay	£4,000	£4,000	-
Rural West			
George Morris	£4,000	£3,946	£54
Brenda Loynes	£4,000	£3,946	£54
Ray Martin-Wells	£4,000	£3,946	£54
Seaton			
Tom Hind	£6,943	£6,877	£66
Paul Thompson	£6,943	£6,943	-
Kelly Atkinson	£6,944	£6,944	-
Victoria			

Pamela Hargreaves	£4,000	£4,000	-
Carl Richardson	£4,000	£3,648	£352
Chris Simmons	£4,000	£3,648	£352
TOTAL	£151,582	£144,274	£7,056

*Succeeded by Councillor Stephen Thomas on 22 May 2014. Councillor Tempest' remaining funds re-allocated to Councillor Thomas.

**Succeeded by Councillor George Springer on 22 May 2014. Councillor Shields' remaining funds re-allocated to Councillor Springer.

Please note that Hart Ward Members received an equal share of unspent funds totalling £10,500 from former Councillor Keith Fisher, Hart Ward in addition to the 2014/15 budget allocation. Seaton Ward Members received an equal share of the late former Councillor Cath Hill' remaining balance totalling £8,830.

APPENDIX B

CIVIC LOTTERY OVERVIEW 2014/2015

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Carryover 2013/14	Funding Available 2014/15	Funding Approved	Funding Remaining
Burn Valley					
Jonathan Brash	Hartlepool Families First – furniture for training room	£500	£500	£500	£500
Ged Hall	Hartlepool Art Studio – replacement boiler	£500	£500	£150	£850
John Lauderdale	-	£500	£500	-	£1,000
De Bruce					
Rob Cook	Hartlepool Art Studio – replacement boiler	£500	£500	£150	£750
	St. Hild's Church of England School – after school activity			£100	
Sheila Griffin	Hartlepool Art Studio – replacement boiler	£500	£500	£150	£750
	St. Hild's Church of England School – after school activity			£100	
Stephen Thomas	St. Hild's Church of England School – after school activity	£500 (from former Councillor Sylvia Tempest)	£500	£100	£900
Fens and Rossmere					
Steve Gibbon	-	£267	£500	-	£767
Alan Clark	-	£267 (from former Councillor Alison Lilley)	£500	-	£767

Geoff Lilley	Red Dreams – 3 interns employment for 6 months	£267	£500	£500	£267
Foggy Furze					
Christopher Akers- Belcher	Sequence Social Club – room hire	£500	£500	£250	-
	West View Advice & Resource Centre – Macmillan Benefits Advice project			£500	
	Hartlepool Carers – enhanced DBS checks			£250	
Kevin Cranney	West View Advice & Resource Centre – Macmillan Benefits Advice project	-	£500	£500	-
Kaylee Sirs	West View Advice & Resource Centre – Macmillan Benefits Advice project	£500	£500	£500	£500
Hart					
Paul Beck	St. Mary Magdalene Church – restoration of memorials, stained glass windows and war memorial	£500	£500	£500	-
	Hartlepool Ladies Choir – purchase of sound system			£300	
	Hartlepool Carers – enhanced DBS checks			£200	

David Riddle	St. Mary Magdalene Church – restoration of memorials, stained glass windows and war memorial	£1,000 (from former Councillor Keith Fisher)	£500	£500	-
	Red Dreams – 3 interns employment for 6 months			£500	
	Hartlepool Families First – furniture for training room			£500	
Jean Robinson	Resident Association of Clavering and Hart Station – open access youth facility	£500	£500	£500	£500
Headland and Harbour					
Jim Ainslie	Red Dreams - 3 interns employment for 6 months	£367	£500	£200	£167
	Friends of Claws and Paws – organising and attending events			£200	
	Hartlepool Carers – enhanced DBS checks			£100	
	Hartlepool Youth Ministry – residential weekend			£200	
Peter Jackson	Friends of Claws and Paws – organising and attending events	£367	£500	£200	£667
Robbie Payne	Friends of Claws and Paws –	£367	£500	£200	£667

	organising and attending events				
Jesmond					
Keith Dawkins	-	-	£500	-	£500
Mary Fleet	-	-	£500	-	£500
George Springer	-	£300 (from former Councillor Linda Shields)	£500	-	£800
Manor House					
Stephen Akers-Belcher	Kilmarnock Road Children and Young People Family Resource Centre – modern apprentice salary	-	£500	£500	-
Marjorie James	Kilmarnock Road Children and Young People Family Resource Centre – modern apprentice salary	-	£500	£500	-
Allan Barclay	Kilmarnock Road Children and Young People Family Resource Centre – modern apprentice salary	-	£500	£500	-
Rural West					
George Morris	High Tunstall Community Fitness Centre – classes to target obesity	£500	£500	£467	£333
	Greatham Sports Field Association – provision of			£200	

	water supply on sports field				
Brenda Loynes	High Tunstall Community Fitness Centre – classes to target obesity	£500	£500	£467	£333
	Greatham Sports Field Association – provision of water supply on sports field			£200	
Ray Martin-Wells	High Tunstall Community Fitness Centre – classes to target obesity	£500	£500	£466	£334
	Greatham Sports Field Association – provision of water supply on sports field			£200	
Seaton					
Tom Hind	Red Dreams - 3 interns employment for 6 months	£500 (from the late former Councillor Cath Hill)	£500	£200	-
	Seaton Carew Cricket Club – training costs			£500	
	Seaton Carew Ladies Bowling Club – consortium fees, transport and match fees			£300	
Paul Thompson	Red Dreams - 3 interns employment for 6 months	£500	£500	£200	-
	Seaton Carew Cricket Club – training costs			£400	
	Hartlepool Carers – enhanced DBS checks			£134	

	SD Athletic – league and pitch fees			£66	
	Seaton Carew Ladies Bowling Club – consortium fees, transport and match fees			£200	
Kelly Atkinson	Red Dreams - 3 interns employment for 6 months	£500	£500	£200	-
	Seaton Carew Cricket Club – training costs			£400	
	Hartlepool Carers – enhanced DBS checks			£134	
	SD Athletic – league and pitch fees			£66	
	Hartlepool Ladies Choir – purchase of sound system			£200	
Victoria					
Pamela Hargreaves	Hartlepool Families First – furniture for training room	£400	£500	£334	£164
	Hartlepool Art Studio – replacement boiler			£50	
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir – sound system			£100	
	Friends of Hartlepool Wild Green Spaces – coast and countryside festival			£84	
	Hartlepool Hawks			£84	

	Cheerleading Academy – competition fees, transport and accommodation				
	Friends of North Cemetery – carved seating area			£84	
Carl Richardson	Hartlepool Families First – furniture for training room			£333	
	Hartlepool Art Studio – replacement boiler			£50	
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir – sound system			£100	
	Friends of Hartlepool Wild Green Spaces – coast and countryside festival	£400	£500	£83	£168
	Hartlepool Hawks Cheerleading Academy – competition fees, transport and accommodation			£83	
	Friends of North Cemetery – carved seating area			£83	
Chris Simmons	Hartlepool Families First – furniture for training room	£400	£500	£333	£168
	Hartlepool Art			£50	

	Studio – replacement boiler				
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir – sound system			£100	
	Friends of Hartlepool Wild Green Spaces – coast and countryside festival			£83	
	Hartlepool Hawks Cheerleading Academy – competition fees, transport and accommodation			£83	
	Friends of North Cemetery – carved seating area			£83	
TOTAL		£12,402	£16,500	£16,550	£12,352

Please note that 2014/15 Civic Lottery remaining balances have been merged with the 2015/16 Ward Member Budget allocations.