

**Hartlepool Board**  
**Thursday 2 April 2026 at 2.30pm**

**Meeting Notes**


**Attendees – Board Members:**


Iain Caldwell – Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership (HOP)  
Christiana Celestine – Hartlepool Diversity Network  
Angela Corner – Thirteen  
Oliver Dixon – Member of Youth Parliament  
Christine Eddowes – Faith Representative  
Scott Gaiety – Headland Parish Council  
Cllr Pamela Hargreaves – Leader of the Council  
Cllr Brenda Harrison – Elected Member  
Haani Hasnain – Business Forum and Vice Chair  
Carl Jorgeson – Hartlepool Sport  
Tom Legg – Cleveland Police  
Cllr Karen Oliver – Chair of Housing, Growth & Communities Committee  
Martin Raby – The Northern School of Art  
Sean Smith – Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Malcolm Walker – Chair

**Other Attendees:**

Tracy Bushnall - Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership (HOP)  
Scott Campbell – Hartlepool Borough Council  
Scott Watson – Hartlepool Borough Council  
Lisa West – Hartlepool Borough Council

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Neil Atkinson, Jonathan Brash MP, Phil Douglas, Darren Hankey, Karen Hawkins, Denise McGuckin, Gemma Ptak, Sue Sharpe, Juli Simons, Matt Storey, and Mark Tilling.  It was noted that Angela Corner was attending as substitute for Kathryn Whittle's, and Tom Legg for Helen Wilson.  Oliver Huermann was formally thanked for the work that he has led on in his capacity as Member of Youth Parliament. Oliver Dixon was then welcomed to the meeting who is the newly elected Member of Youth Parliament for Hartlepool.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  The following conflicts of interest were raised by board members - IC and CJ declared conflicts as trustees for HOP.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes and Actions from the Last Board Meeting</b>  MW asked board members if they accepted the minutes from the previous board meeting, which took place in February, as	

	<p>an accurate representation of the meeting. HH said that he had suggested in the meeting that a Subgroup be established to lead on the Cohesion Strategy, but this was not reflected in the notes. No other comments were made on the minutes.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The formation of a Cohesion Strategy Subgroup will be added to the notes and action log for the Board.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Hartlepool Urban Forest Master Plan</b></p> <p>Scott Watson from HBC gave a presentation on the Tree Equity for Hartlepool Project alongside the Hartlepool Urban Forest Master Plan. He highlighted that areas within Hartlepool have some of the lowest tree equity scores in the UK. The tree equity score combines information from a variety of sources to measure whether neighbourhoods have enough trees to provide crucial health and economic benefits for residents with some areas with a single score from 0 to 100.</p> <p>The Tree Equity for Hartlepool Project is the first of its kind to use the Tree Equity tool comprehensively, to form rigorous plans for change for communities where trees are needed the most. The project is being led by Tree for Cities and is part-funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Linbury Trust. In the last year, the project has utilised this intelligence and consultation with the community to plant over 4,000 trees with the support of 200 volunteers from across Hartlepool.</p> <p>SW then presented on the borough-wide mapping which has been undertaken using the 3-30-300 principle by Treeconomics. This has identified whether every household can see 3 trees from where they live, are in a neighbourhood that has at least 30% canopy cover and live within a 300m walk of a green open space. To secure the legacy of this work, the Hartlepool Urban Forest Master Plan has been developed which provides a strategic, long-term plan and has been funded through the Tree Equity Project.</p> <p>It sets out a clear vision and actionable priorities for the planting, maintenance, and management of trees over the next decade in Hartlepool. SW outlined the current funding position of the Tree Equity for Hartlepool Project. SW asked if board members and organisations can promote the current consultation on the Urban Forest Master Plan.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The link will be shared with board members for the <a href="#">Urban Forest Master Plan Consultation</a>.</p> <p>KO commented that this is a project which she has been involved in and feels that the work is incredibly positive.</p>	 <p>Tree Equity Presentation.pdf</p>

	<p>BH commented there is a need for schools to get involved in the work, which may help reduce anti-social behaviour in areas where trees have been planted. HH added that he is a Governor for HCFE and can provide support with engaging young people, if required.</p> <p>MW and CE both said that they supported increasing the numbers of trees and that it was great to see the planting taking place across Hartlepool.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Board Health including Updated Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>SC advised that members have been sent a copy of the proposed updated Hartlepool Board Terms of Reference.</p> <p>He highlighted some of the key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The governance framework has been strengthened, including clearer definitions between Thematic Advisory Groups, Subgroups, and the Board.</li> <li>• Membership has been enhanced with the introduction of three categories – Statutory Members, Nominated Representatives and Non-Voting Members.</li> <li>• The decision making powers have been detailed, including how these relate to the Council’s statutory responsibilities as Accountable Body.</li> <li>• New dedicated sections provide expectations on transparency, public attendance at meetings, press and media protocols and confidentiality.</li> <li>• Structured processes have been introduced for escalation and resolution of disputes alongside membership changes for the Board.</li> </ul> <p>SC stated that these proposed changes strengthen accountability, clarify roles, and provide a more robust governance structure to provide clear, inclusive, and community-focused decision-making. This reflects where the Board is now at - moving from establishment and development of the Regeneration Plan to long-term delivery and oversight of investments such as Pride in Place.</p> <p>Comments are welcomed on the proposed Terms of Reference which will now be consulted on and will then be brought for adoption at the next meeting of the Board.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> If members can provide any comments on the proposed updated Terms of Reference to SC by close of play on Monday 27 April 2026.</p>	 <p>Terms of Reference.pdf</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Programme Update:</b></p>	

SC shared the news that Hartlepool's 10-year Pride in Place Regeneration Plan and 4-year Investment Plan have just been approved by the Ministry for Housing, Community & Local Government (MHCLG). He added that a 4-year Memorandum of Understanding was recently sent which needs to be signed by both MW as Chair alongside the Council as the Accountable Body.

SC then gave a presentation to update on the emerging themes from the recent Innovation Days. Each session had the same structure with an introduction to Pride in Place followed by insights from a thematic expert, a recap of the community engagement, thematic breakout spaces and then voting on priorities. The sessions were insightful and over 140 people attended across the three Innovation Days.

SC outlined that, for the session on High Street, Heritage, and Regeneration, the thematic lead was Iain Caldwell from NDC Trust. For the Health and Wellbeing session, the lead was HBC Director of Public Health, Chris Woodcock. Finally, for the session on Safety, Security and Cohesion, the expert leads were Helen Wilson from Cleveland Police and Sean Smith from Cleveland Fire Brigade. Some of the key emerging priorities from the feedback and breakouts include:

- Improving communication and access to information
- Repurposing vacant/underutilised spaces such as shops or community assets
- Activating and improving public spaces, parks, beaches, and green areas
- Improving existing infrastructure and facilities
- Empowering communities and providing support in neighbourhoods including Health and Youth Provision

Board members then voted on their two priorities for each theme from the top suggestions from the Innovation Day using Slido. SC said that this process was carried out at the end of each Innovation Day alongside at a recent Elected Members Seminar.

MW said that some of the priorities could be merged together such as opportunities for young people. KO commented on the importance of Housing in the process which was reiterated by MW who shared insights from the Momentum Days which were facilitated by HOP and Hartlepool Community Trust.

SC stated that it is important to remember that only 25% is revenue and the majority of the investment is capital. PH agreed and commented that the £2million a year needs to be used wisely to leverage other investment and to ultimately benefit communities within Hartlepool.




Innovation Days  
Presentation.pdf



Slido Poll Results.pdf

	<p>SC outlined the next steps following the Innovation Days including the role of the Technical Investment Subgroups. They would be led by a board member but would then include wider representative including young people, community, and resident representatives with a focus on assessing proposals and making recommendations to the Board. The leads were agreed including Helen Wilson for Safety, Security &amp; Cohesion theme and then Karen Hawkins and Chris Woodcock for Health &amp; Wellbeing.</p> <p>MW shared insight from New Deal for Communities and highlighted that their thematic groups worked extremely well having community representatives as the Vice Chairs.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Impact Fund: Year 1 Summary</b></p> <p>SC shared an update on the projects through the first year of the Impact Fund which provides £1.5million of capital investment with £750k for 2025/26 and £750k for 2026/27.</p> <p>He outlined the £300k is being invested into play areas and parks across the borough, including outdoor games tables alongside new play equipment in Burn Valley Gardens, Rossmere Park and King Oswy. There was also investment in smaller neighbourhood improvement based on feedback from residents such as footpath works, verge schemes, signage/lining, repairs to public rights of way and off road bike prevention. There is £130k being invested to improve community safety focused on CCTV improvements and three additional mobile CCTV cameras have been purchased alongside two advanced Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR).</p> <p>SC went on to say that £200k was invested in the Hartlepool Community Asset Improvement Grant Scheme. There were over 30 applications received which were assessed by a Grants Panel including technical experts from HBC alongside VCSE and Board representatives. There were 15 applications recommended and discussions are now taking place with the community organisations within Hartlepool.</p> <p>Looking forward to year two of the Impact Fund, there will be a focus on high streets with a business grants scheme just being launched targeting shopfront improvements for businesses in York Road and Raby Road.</p> <p>PH commented that she received an email from a Councillor requesting that the play equipment is as sturdy as possible. SC acknowledged that this has been considered and stated the CCTV improvements will also improve coverage in these areas. KO commented that the Government has announced</p>	

	<p>funding for play areas, and she understands that some of this investment has been awarded to Hartlepool.</p> <p>HH asked if adult outdoor fitness equipment could be funded, as he had recently seen some equipment like this being well utilised in other areas. SG queried why business grants were only offered to York Road and Raby Road, as other areas could feel overlooked. MW said that his understanding was that this could be akin to a 'pilot' area and there would be an opportunity for further grant schemes through the main Pride in Place Programme.</p> <p>CJ commented that highlighting the expense of the play equipment to the public may be a good idea, as people can be unaware of the high cost, and may look after it better if this is understood. This also feeds into all of the feedback on communication within the Innovation Days.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership (HOP) Proposal</b></p> <p>The Chair moved the meeting into a closed session to discuss the next item and the confidential appendix providing the detailed proposal from HOP. At this stage other attendees left the meeting.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposal set out in the exempt and confidential appendix to the report. The appendix contained information not for publication due to commercial confidentiality in line with the Board's Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The full discussion is set out in the exempt minutes of this meeting of the Hartlepool Board.</p> <p>IC presented the proposal and outlined the current position of HOP, including their governance arrangements, use of an external regulated accountant, and compliance with Charity Commission requirements. Members were also informed that HOP has successfully completed the National Association for Voluntary &amp; Community Action assurance process and is now recognised as a Local Infrastructure Organisation.</p> <p>IC provided a summary of performance, confirming that all deliverables from the previous proposal had been achieved. Members were advised that monitoring information is reported regularly and that annual accounts will be published through the Charity Commission. An update was also given on governance arrangements, including the appointment of additional trustees and the recruitment of a new Chair.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposal and its alignment with Government requirements for the Pride in Place Programme. There were questions on governance, monitoring</p>	 <p>HOP Covering Report.pdf</p>

	<p>arrangements, finances, and long-term sustainability. Members also welcomed the progress made by HOP.</p> <p>MW then facilitated a formal vote on the proposal as detailed in the confidential appendix to the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those for: CC, AC, OD, CE, SG, PH, BH, HH, TL, KO, SS and MW</li> <li>• Those against: None.</li> <li>• Those abstaining: None</li> </ul> <p>MW confirmed that the vote has been unanimously approved by the Hartlepool Board.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> HOP will present a 2025/26 annual report at a future meeting of the Hartlepool Board.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The proposed targets and milestones which have been discussed will be added to HOP's Grant Agreement alongside a requirement for quarterly reports to the Board.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 1 May 2026 from 9am to 10.30am at the BIS.</p>	