

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 11th March 2015

at 2.00 pm

**in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors Ainslie, Atkinson, Beck, Cook, Dawkins, Fleet, Griffin, Hind, Jackson, Payne, Riddle, Robinson, Springer, Thomas and Thompson

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

4. MINUTES

4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2015

4.2 Matters arising.

5. ASK THE POLICY CHAIRS

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)

7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

None



8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

- 8.1 Hartlepool Power Station Update – *Station Director*
- 8.2 Consultation on the Housing Strategy 2015-2020 – *Assistant Director (Regeneration)*

9. WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

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

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed



NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES

14th January 2015

The meeting commenced at 10 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair: Councillor Jim Ainslie - Headland and Harbour

Vice Chair: Councillor Paul Beck - Hart

Councillor Rob Cook - De Bruce

Councillor Sheila Griffin - De Bruce

Councillor George Springer - Jesmond

Also Present

Councillors Marjorie James and Chris Simmons

Public: Reuben Atkinson, Malcolm Husband, Bill Keen, Evelyn Leck, Sue Little, Mrs S Nicholson, Bob and Joan Steele, Cath and Liz Torley, Charlene Twidale, Alan Vale and Dennis Wilson

Police Representatives:

Inspector Mal Suggitt

Officers:

Clare Clark, Community Safety and Engagement Manager
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North)
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South)
Kate Ainger, Environmental Projects Officer
Tracy Rowe, Community Regeneration Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Keith Dawkins

24. Declarations of Interest

None

25. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2014

The minutes were approved with the following amendment:

Public Question Time – De Bruce – regarding the road layout in the town centre the resident had not asserted that a number of lanes previously used by buses had been turned into left turn lanes. Of the three unused bus lanes (none of which had ever been used by buses) one had been changed to a right turn lane and one to an ahead only lane. The resident had also suggested that the third unused bus lane travelling from York Road to Park Road be turned into an ahead only lane. The Chair confirmed that the minutes would be amended and a response to this suggestion would be forthcoming from officers.

26. **Matters Arising**

None

27. **Ask the Policy Chairs**

Councillor Carl Richardson, Chair of Adult Services Committee, submitted his apologies for the meeting. Councillors Marjorie James and Chris Simmons (Chairs for Neighbourhood Services Committee and Children's Services Committee respectively) were in attendance.

There were no questions for the policy chairs.

28. **Public Question Time and Ward Issues**

Vehicular access to the beach

A resident raised the ongoing issue of unauthorised vehicles gaining access to the beach at various points from the Headland to Crimdon Dene. He highlighted that at a meeting of the Sea Coal Working Group on 1st May 2014 the Council's Insurance and Risk Manager had confirmed that under a crown estates lease the only mechanical vehicles permitted to drive on the foreshore were emergency vehicles and council vehicles carrying out maintenance work. By allowing other vehicles to gain access the Council were being negligent in their duty to enforce the terms of the lease and may be liable for potential claims. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee advised that it was the Council's duty to prevent access to the beach and this was adhered to by padlocking all entry points. However if locks were being broken and access gained this was trespass and a police matter. A resident indicated that the lock at the Brus Tunnel entrance had been broken. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator was aware of this and a replacement lock would be fitted as soon as possible. Unfortunately officers had so far been unable to identify the culprits via the CCTV recordings. Inspector Suggitt urged residents to contact the police if they saw any vehicles being ridden on the beach, preferably with the identity of the perpetrator as lack of police resources meant it was extremely difficult

to catch them 'in the act'. Anyone identified as having been riding a vehicle on the beach would have said vehicle confiscated. The Chair advised those present that Neighbourhood Services Committee would be considering a report on sea coaling at their meeting on Monday 19th January and urged anyone that might be interested to attend.

Replacement LED lighting

A resident requested an update. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee confirmed that phase 1, the replacement of all lights across Hartlepool, had been completed. Phase 2, removing concrete columns and making alterations to areas where the light was felt inadequate, was due to commence.

Dog fouling

A Councillor asked whether a dog fouling patrol could be despatched to the Burn Valley. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator confirmed that this area was patrolled regularly. The Councillor queried whether dog owners could be required to provide DNA samples for their pets so the culprits could be traced more easily. The Chair assured the Councillor that this issue was taken very seriously while the Community Safety and Engagement Manager advised that although there were currently only 3 officers able to issue fines for dog fouling there were in the process of merging the car parking enforcement and environmental enforcement teams so more officers would be able to issue fines for dog fouling in the future. Inspector Suggitt confirmed that the PCSOs could also issue fines for dog fouling but had not done so for some time as resources were limited and this was not deemed a priority.

Brompton Walk

A resident advised that shrubbery was overhanging the grass verge but this was not visible to pedestrians from a distance. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator advised that cutting back this shrubbery was part of the regular winter maintenance schedule but could be brought forward. A Councillor referred to a request that rosa rugosa be planted. He was advised that there was no ward budget available for this and it was suggested that his ward budget be utilised

29. Cleveland Police Update

Inspector Mal Suggitt gave a brief presentation on the work of Cleveland Police, specifically Hartlepool's Integrated Neighbourhood Team. Figures showed that there had been a slight decrease in non-domestic burglary between October and December 2014 when compared to the same period in 2013. However there had been increases in domestic burglary, criminal damage & arson, theft and anti-social behaviour. Details of individual crime

figures by ward were also provided. Inspector Suggitt highlighted increases in specific areas and the reasons behind these while generally noting the recent loss of 400 officers had impacted upon these figures. A 16% increase in crime was being projected but this information needed to be weighed against crime reducing year on year for the previous decade and the relatively small numbers involved. Inspector Suggitt also gave details on the team's core responsibilities and policing priorities which included anti-social behaviour and retail crime. The number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) had reduced considerably over the previous 12 months but the Police and Crime Commissioner had recently announced plans to recruit more PCSOs in 2015. In addition 24 police officers had recently been recruited and were currently undergoing training with further recruitment drives expected in the near future.

The following issues were then raised by those present:

Hartlepool Police Station

There were reports that this would be closing and staff being moved to Stockton Police Station. Inspector Suggitt was not aware of any plans to close Hartlepool's station in the future. Large numbers of staff were still based there.

Retail crime

Why were police officers patrolling supermarkets and the shopping centre? Shouldn't retail owners be taking responsibility for the security of their premises? Inspector Suggitt advised that it was ultimately the responsibility of the police to prevent crime. If officers were not present instances of shop lifting would rise massively resulting in retailers putting their prices up which would impact on shoppers. A resident suggested they should be asked to contribute but Inspector Suggitt noted that they paid taxes and rates and were therefore entitled to a service from the police.

PCSOs

What had the reduction in PCSO numbers been? Inspector Suggitt estimated it as an approximate reduction from 50 to 28. New recruitment numbers were unavailable at the moment.

Crime rates

Crimes would often go unreported leading to an apparent decrease in crime rates and the subsequent loss of officers as had happened with the PCSOs. If the police were not made aware that crimes were being committed there was nothing they could do about it. Inspector Suggitt agreed and urged people to report all crimes or incidents no matter how trivial and not assume that someone else would do it. This information helped the police to identify 'hot spots' and target resources effectively.

Community engagement

A door knocking exercise had recently been undertaken in Bishop Cuthbert the results of which had been very successful and led to the appointment of 2 voluntary community champions. Could something similar be done in

other areas of Hartlepool? Inspector Suggitt confirmed that community engagement had taken place in a number of guises (Neighbourhood Walkabout, Operation Clean Sweep) for many years and had proven to be successful.

Youth groups

Would officers be able to attend community youth groups in order to interact with young people? Inspector Suggitt confirmed that officers would love to attend but this had to be balanced with their other priorities. They were encouraged to attend wherever possible however. There were also concerns that officers had stopped going into schools to discuss anti-social behaviour with youngsters. Inspector Suggitt accepted that this had reduced due to other priorities taking centre stage. However if any problems were identified involving pupils of a particular school officers would react accordingly.

Hospital march

Officers were praised for their organisation and marshalling of attendees at the Hospital march the previous weekend.

The Chair thanked Inspector Suggitt for attending the meeting and answering questions.

30. Ward Member Budgets (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Members were informed of the current position relating to Ward Member Budget in the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum area. In April 2012 members had been allocated £5,500 each by Cabinet to be used for the benefit of the community in their wards. A further £5,000 had been approved by Council in February 2013 and February 2014, however the latter approval was top sliced by 20% to allow the continuation of the Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme for a year, leaving £4,000 available to each member. All submissions were subject to delegated approval by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods. In February 2014 Council had agreed that any unspent funds from the 2012/13 and 2013/14 allocations be set aside and utilised to continue the Ward Member budget programme post 2014/15. Appendices were attached giving a breakdown of the current spend to date and the current running total for each ward member with remaining budgets.

Decision

That the report be noted

31 Any other business which the Chair considers urgent

The Chair informed those present that Alderman Bentley had passed away the previous day. He paid tribute to his years of unstinting service, describing him as a mentor and 'a real gent'

The Chair also advised that local historian Bill Hunter had passed away the previous week. Some of his work had recently formed the centrepiece on the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the bombardment. His funeral would take place the following Monday at St Hilda's Church.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am.

CHAIR

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**14 January 2015****Issues Raised / Action Sheet**

Wards & Issue Raised	Action Taken	Responsible Officer
<p>Jesmond Ward</p> <p>Jesmond Gardens School Traffic Signage facing wrong way.</p> <p>Lancaster Road Ward member raised the issue regarding a planting scheme at Lancaster road</p>	<p>An Audit of the area has taken place and all signage realigned</p> <p>A quote to supply and plant Approximately 60mts of Rosa Rugosa has been supplied to ward members.</p>	<p>G Jones</p> <p>G Jones</p>
<p>Hart Ward</p> <p>Clavering play area new lighting</p>	<p>Orders have been raised for new lighting around Clavering skate park, work has now started.</p>	<p>B Golightly</p>
<p>Headland Harbour</p> <p>Otterpool Close carriageway pot holes</p>	<p>Highway inspectors have inspected the area and all actionable defects have been marked for repairs Otterpool close has also been added to the Highways programme for a Rating assessment.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>

South & Central Neighbourhood Forum

14 January 2015

Issues Raised / Action Sheet

<p>Manor House</p>		
<p>Marlowe road remains of bonfires still on field.</p>	<p>Are to be inspected and all debris to be removed.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Masefield road Vehicles parking on grassed area.</p>	<p>Site visit has taken place and options to alleviate the problem are still been discussed.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Burn Valley</p>		
<p>Overgrown shrubs and sight line issues, Stockton. Road</p>	<p>A site meeting has taken place to look to address all issues.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Foggy Furze</p>		
<p>Vehicles overriding play area at top of oxford road</p>	<p>A full consultation with residents has taken place and it has been agreed that raised grass mounds with be constructed along the play area field to prevent vehicles overriding the area.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>
<p>Fens & Rossmere</p>		
<p>Elderly resident being locked in Rossmere park</p>	<p>There is an NES signs on all exit gates with a 24 hours Security number displayed on both sides of the gate. Where there is an isolated incident with a person unfortunate enough to be 'locked in' they could ring the number displayed and security would return to open the gate.</p>	<p>G Jones</p>

<p>Speeding issues on Brierton Lane.</p>	<p>The guard drives around the park with a beacon lights flashing. This protocol has been followed for over 10 years. Security cannot 100% guarantee all users leave the park but they do park vehicle for a few minutes to make sure anyone left in has enough time to exit the park.</p> <p>Highways to carry out a traffic Survey</p>	<p>P Hepburn</p>
<p>Rural West</p> <p>Residents concerned about a cull of parrots in the area.</p> <p>Problems with mainly school children cycling though ward Jackson park.</p> <p>Victoria Ward</p> <p>Damaged footpath outside Civic Centre entrance Overgrown shrubs obscuring sight lines</p>	<p>Deffra have identified an issue with Quaker parrots that are causing problem in areas in the southern part of the country, The species that we have in the ward Jackson park area are not a problem therefore there is no programme to cull in this area.</p> <p>Options to improve signage in the area to be investigated</p> <p>Order placed for repairs to be carried out.(Complete)</p>	<p>G Jones</p> <p>G Jones</p> <p>G Jones</p>

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

11 March 2015



Report of: Assistant Director (Regeneration)

Subject: CONSULTATION ON THE HOUSING STRATEGY
FOR 2015-2020

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In October 2014 the Forum was informed about how the new Housing Strategy for 2015-2020 is being developed and was advised about the public questionnaire which was available on-line and in paper format from mid October 2014 to 10th January 2015.

4. CONSULTATION TIMETABLE

4.1 As previously advised, consultation on the new Housing Strategy is being undertaken in various stages.

4.2 **Stage 1** - During September 2014, 3 consultation workshops were held at the Civic Centre and these were attended by Members, the Housing Partnership, Council Officers, Registered Providers, Private Landlords, Developers and the voluntary sector. The aim of the workshops was to identify themes and issues affecting housing across all tenures.

4.3 **Stage 2** – Public consultation took place between mid October 2014 and January 2015. Residents in Hartlepool were asked to complete a questionnaire giving them the opportunity to prioritise the issues that are important to them.

- 4.4 **Stage 3** - The results from the 3 workshops and the on-line public consultation has been used to develop the 1st draft of the Housing Strategy for 2015–2020. This will be formally consulted on during March and April 2015 with all Members, the Housing Partnership, workshop attendees, Council Officers, residents and external partners.
- 4.5 **Stage 4** – following the consultation stages outlined above the 2nd draft of the Housing Strategy and an Action Plan for delivery will be developed during May 2015 and is expected to be presented to Committee for approval in June 2015. The final Strategy will reflect the formal feedback received and the views, suggestions and issues that are raised at public events.

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS

- 5.1 In total, 273 people completed the on-line questionnaire. Of which, 46% were female and 54% male.
- 5.2 The majority of respondents were between 45 and 64 (59%) and 99.54% indicated their ethnicity to be white with 0.46% mixed race.
- 5.3 Responses were received from people living in all wards in Hartlepool, although the majority were received from people living in Rural West (20%), Fens and Rossmere (13%), Burn valley (12%), Hart (12%) and Seaton (11%)
- 5.4 85% of respondents said that they own their own home, 4% are living in the private rented sector, 10% rent from a social landlord and 1% part rent, part own their home.
- 5.5 13% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability.
- 5.6 The questionnaire asked respondents to prioritise all the issues identified at the 3 workshops and the results for each objective are as follows:

Objective 1 – New Homes / New & Sustainable Communities

The top 5 priorities that were identified were:

- Need to tackle social problems in low demand and declining neighbourhoods
- Use local employment and local suppliers in new developments
- Look at the impact of new builds on empty properties and on housing in low demand 'central' areas of the town
- Build new affordable housing
- Cater for the needs of an ageing population including the aspiration for bungalows

Objective 2 – Existing Homes / Ensuring Sustainable Communities

The top 4 priorities that were identified were:

- Deal with difficulties with enforcing against anti social behaviour
- Need to manage social issues and people's behaviour adopting a Neighbourhood Management approach
- Deal with disrepair and poor condition with owner occupation
- Work with landlords with low expectations in areas of deprivation

Objective 3 – Meeting Specific Needs

This was divided into 3 parts and people were asked to identify their priorities for homelessness, independent living and BME housing needs.

The top priorities that were identified for homelessness were:

- Multi agency approach to homelessness
- Lack of single person accommodation
- Improve information sharing between agencies
- Impact of Welfare Reform

The top priorities that were identified for independent living were:

- Best model for dementia care – accommodation and facilities
- Deal with lack of substantially adapted houses
- Sustain investment in adaptations through Disabled Facilities Grant and housing providers' funding

The top priorities that were identified for BME housing needs were:

- Need to build relationships and engagement with communities
- Deal with possible creation of communities within communities

5.7 The 1st draft of the new Housing Strategy has considered the priorities that have been identified through the consultation to date. Five new objectives have been proposed for the new strategy:

Objective 1 – Delivering suitable new homes, including affordable homes and older person accommodation;

Objective 2 - Making the best use of existing homes; improving quality, conditions and the environment

Objective 3 - Bringing long-term empty homes back into use

Objective 4 - Improving health and wellbeing; promoting sustainability by supporting people with specific housing needs

Objective 5 - Preventing homelessness and providing options

- 5.8 Outcomes for the delivery of these objectives have been developed with consideration to the priorities raised through the consultation to date. The following outcomes have been proposed for the new strategy:

2015-2020 Housing Strategy 1st draft priorities and outcomes
<p>Delivering suitable new homes, including affordable homes and older person accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver new homes that will meet current and future housing needs • Ensure new affordable homes are high quality with good standards of design and construction • Support employment through development
<p>Making the best use of existing homes; improving quality, conditions and the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve management standards, housing quality and choice in the private rented sector • Improve management standards, housing quality and choice in the social rented sector • Improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty across tenures • Improve neighbourhoods and the environment • Assist owner occupiers to maintain and improve their homes
<p>Bringing long-term empty homes back into use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to reduce the number of long-term empty homes • Prevent homes from becoming long-term empty • Work with partners to explore and access funding opportunities
<p>Improving health and wellbeing; promoting sustainability by supporting people with specific housing needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to facilitate independent living and improve housing options for people with disabilities • Increase supported housing options for vulnerable people, including the provision for older people and people with dementia • Understand the needs and aspirations of the minority ethnic groups and ensure services are responsive to their needs
<p>Preventing homelessness and providing options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a multi agency approach to homeless prevention • Prevent homelessness wherever possible through high quality advice and assistance

- Minimise the impact of welfare reform on residents
- Improve and promote access to social housing

5.9 The 1st draft of the Housing Strategy for 2015–2020 will be consulted on with all Members, the Housing Partnership, workshop attendees, Council Officers, residents and external partners. A hard copy of the draft will be made available upon request.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum are asked to note the contents of the report and to respond to the 1st draft consultation questionnaire.

10. CONTACT OFFICER

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NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

11 March 2015



Report of: Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

Subject: WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Forum of the current position in relation to Ward Member Budgets in the North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum area, encompassing De Bruce, Hart, Headland and Harbour, Jesmond and Seaton wards.

3. BACKGROUND

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

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

4. APPROVED SCHEMES

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

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 On 14 February 2013, Council approved a recommendation from Members (4 February 2013) allocating a total of £165,000 for 2013/2014 for Ward Member budgets, equating to £5,000 per Elected Member. As part of this decision, it was also outlined that any underspend remaining from the 2012/2013 allocation would be carried forward by each individual Ward Councillor for their use in the new financial year.
- 6.2 On 19 September 2013, as part of the 2014/15 budget proposals, Finance and Policy Committee recommended allocating £165,000 from the reserves review to continue Ward Member budgets in 2014/15 (i.e. £5,000 per Member). It was subsequently recommended by Finance and Policy Committee on 19 December 2013 that the Ward Member budget allocation for 2014/15 be top sliced by 20% (£1,000 per Ward Member) for the continuation of the Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme, and that any unspent funds from the 2012/13 and 2013/14 allocations be set aside and utilised to continue the Ward Member budget programme post 2014/15. This was agreed by Full Council on 6 February 2014.
- 6.3 On 30 June 2014, Finance and Policy recommended that the unspent funds of £19,333 from 2012/13 and 2013/14 were returned to the Hart and Seaton Ward Members (£10,500 and £8,833 respectively) for the benefit of their wards. This was agreed by Full Council on 3 July 2014.

- 6.4 On 24 November 2014, Finance and Policy Committee recommended that members receive a budget of £4,000 each for 2015/16, in line with previous years and this was subsequently approved by Council at its meeting on 18 December 2014. However in line with previous years there is a limit placed on the level of expenditure for each ward member prior to the election in May ie all members will only be allowed to spend 1/12th of their 2015/16 budget between 1st April 2015 and the election. In addition, where members carry over funds from the current financial year into 2015/16 the same 1/12th restriction will apply.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations for the Forum's attention in this case.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

**11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998
CONSIDERATIONS**

11.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The North and Coastal Neighbourhood Forum are asked to note the contents of the report outlining Ward Member Budget spend to date.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

14. CONTACT OFFICER

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APPENDIX A

Ward Member Budget Spend 2014/15

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Date Approved	Funding Approved
De Bruce			
Councillor Rob Cook	Hartlepool People Centre (Running Costs)	05.05.14	£100
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Sound Equipment)	05.05.14	£500
	St. Luke's District Infant Welfare Mothers Club (Outings)	05.05.14	£100
	Kensington Court Social Group (Outing - Transport Cost)	05.05.14	£74
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Macmillan Benefits Advice Service)	05.05.14	£500
	Hartlepool Youth Ministry (Outdoor Education Project)	06.05.14	£367
	Boys Brigade Camp	25.06.14	£100
	Hart / De Bruce Fun Day	04.07.14	£300
	West View Project (Summer Playscheme)	08.07.14	£300
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Activities)	05.08.14	£200
	West View Baptist Church (Children's' Activities)	07.10.14	£75
	Saxon Juniors FC (Storage Container)	14.10.14	£317
	Kensington Court Social Group (Christmas Party)	17.10.14	£72
	Hartlepool Fairtrade Town Steering Group (Publicity)	04.11.14	£50
	West View Dog Fouling Campaign	01.12.14	£300
	St. John Vianney Luncheon Club (Outing)	10.12.14	£133
RACHS (Residential Weekend)	18.02.15	£512	
Councillor Sheila Griffin	Hartlepool People Centre (Running Costs)	05.05.14	£100
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Sound Equipment)	05.05.14	£500
	St. Luke's District Infant Welfare Mothers Club (Outings)	05.05.14	£100
	Kensington Court Social Group (Outing - Transport Cost)	05.05.14	£74
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Macmillan Benefits Advice Service)	05.05.14	£500

	Hartlepool Youth Ministry (Outdoor Education Project)	06.05.14	£367
	Boys Brigade Camp	25.06.14	£100
	Hart / De Bruce Fun Day	04.07.14	£300
	West View Project (Summer Playscheme)	08.07.14	£300
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Activities)	05.08.14	£200
	West View Baptist Church (Children's' Activities)	07.10.14	£75
	Saxon Juniors FC (Storage Container)	14.10.14	£317
	Kensington Court Social Group (Christmas Party)	17.10.14	£72
	Hartlepool Fairtrade Town Steering Group (Publicity)	04.11.14	£50
	West View Dog Fouling Campaign	01.12.14	£300
	St. John Vianney Luncheon Club (Outing)	10.12.14	£133
	RACHS (Residential Weekend)	18.02.15	£512
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Macmillan Benefits Advice Service)	05.05.14	£500
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Sound Equipment)	05.05.14	£100
	Kensington Court Social Group (Outing - Transport Cost)	05.05.14	£62
Councillor Stephen Thomas	Boys Brigade Camp	25.06.14	£100
	Hart / De Bruce Fun Day	04.07.14	£300
	West View Project (Summer Playscheme)	08.07.14	£300
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Activities)	05.08.14	£200
	West View Baptist Church (Children's' Activities)	07.10.14	£75
	Saxon Juniors FC (Storage Container)	14.10.14	£317
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Sound Equipment)	14.10.14	£400
	Friends of West View Community Centre (Re-decoration works)	30.10.14	£579
	Kensington Court Social Group (Christmas Party)	17.10.14	£72
	Hartlepool Fairtrade Town Steering Group (Publicity)	04.11.14	£50
	West View Dog Fouling Campaign	01.12.14	£300
	St. John Vianney Luncheon Club (Outing)	10.12.14	£133
	RACHS (Residential Weekend)	18.02.15	£512

Hart			
Councillor Paul Beck	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Sound Equipment)	05.05.14	£500
	RACHS (CCTV Camera Repair)	04.07.14	£100
	Hart / De Bruce Fun Day	04.07.14	£400
	Friends of North Cemetery (Path Project)	04.07.14	£500
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Macmillan Benefits Advice Service)	04.07.14	£300
	Hart PCC (WWI Project)	30.07.14	£700
	Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme	19.08.14	£3,102
	Tree with guard (Harrier Close, Bishop Cuthbert)	19.08.14	£200
	Clavering Youth Project (Christmas Fayre)	07.10.14	£300
	Hart PCC (Fireworks Event)	20.10.14	£100
	Hartfields Residents Association (Christmas Fayre)	22.11.14	£100
	RACHS (Residential Weekend - Throston Youth Project)	25.11.14	£198
	Friends of North Cemetery (Carved Seating Refurbishment)	09.12.14	£1,000
	Councillor David Riddle	Hart PCC (WWI Project)	30.07.14
1st Hartlepool Brownies (Room Hire)		07.10.14	£450
Hart PCC (Fireworks Event)		20.10.14	£100
Hartfields Residents Association (Christmas Fayre)		22.11.14	£1,000
Hart PCC (WWI Project Extension)		22.11.14	£500
Hawks Cheerleading Academy (Travel Costs)		27.01.15	£250
Hartfields Resident Association (Dementia Project)		30.01.15	£2,000
Hart PCC ('Party in the Park')		23.02.15	£300
Aeronauts Trampoline Club (Running Costs)		23.02.15	£1,000
Councillor Jean Robinson	Hart / De Bruce Fun Day	04.07.14	£300
	Hart PCC (WWI Project)	30.07.14	£700
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Macmillan Benefits Advice Service)	07.08.14	£1,000
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Activities)	11.08.14	£250
	Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme	19.08.14	£3,102
	Tree with guard (Harrier Close, Bishop Cuthbert)	19.08.14	£200
	Clavering Youth Project (Christmas	07.10.14	£300

	Fayre)		
	Hart PCC (Fireworks Event)	20.10.14	£100
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Sound Equipment)	22.11.14	£500
	Hartfields Residents Association (Christmas Fayre)	22.11.14	£100
	Hart PCC (WWI Project Extension)	22.11.14	£300
	Rossmere Primary School (Forest School Project)	05.02.15	£600
Headland and Harbour			
Councillor Jim Ainslie	Boys Brigade (Annual Camp)	23.06.14	£100
	Seagull Signage	26.06.14	£60
	Gaiety's Bar FC (Pitch and League Fees)	26.06.14	£167
	Lite House Group Contribution	02.07.14	£83
	Hartlepool Community Studio Contribution	02.07.14	£100
	Burbank Back Alley Environmental Project	02.07.14	£50
	Burbank Youth Drop-in (Running Costs)	13.10.14	£833
	Burbank Community Cafe (Room Hire)	04.11.14	£500
	Bridge Community Association (Running Costs & Community Activities)	16.12.14	£500
Councillor Peter Jackson	Boys Brigade (Annual Camp)	23.06.14	£100
	Seagull Signage	26.06.14	£60
	Gaiety's Bar FC (Pitch and League Fees)	26.06.14	£167
	Lite House Group Contribution	02.07.14	£83
	Hartlepool Community Studio Contribution	02.07.14	£100
	Burbank Back Alley Environmental Project	02.07.14	£50
	Burbank Youth Drop-in (Running Costs)	13.10.14	£833
	Burbank Community Cafe (Room Hire)	04.11.14	£500
	Bridge Community Association (Running Costs & Community Activities)	16.12.14	£500
Councillor Robbie Payne	Boys Brigade (Annual Camp)	23.06.14	£100
	Seagull Signage	26.06.14	£60
	Gaiety's Bar FC (Pitch and League Fees)	26.06.14	£167
	Lite House Group Contribution	02.07.14	£83
	Hartlepool Community Studio Contribution	02.07.14	£100

	Burbank Back Alley Environmental Project	02.07.14	£50
	Burbank Youth Drop-in (Running Costs)	13.10.14	£833
	Burbank Community Cafe (Room Hire)	04.11.14	£500
	Bridge Community Association (Running Costs & Community Activities)	16.12.14	£500
Jesmond			
Councillor Keith Dawkins	34th Hartlepool Guides, Brownies and Rainbows Units	16.04.14	£420
	Springwell School (Solar Panels)	23.05.14	£500
	Dyke House Sports & Technology College (Costumes)	23.05.14	£400
	Throston Primary School (Cookery Club Project)	22.11.14	£1,000
	Wiltshire Way (further 5 trees)	22.11.14	£1,000
Councillor Mary Fleet	34th Hartlepool Guides, Brownies and Rainbows Units	16.04.14	£420
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Macmillan Benefits Advice Service)	17.07.14	£500
	Hartlepool People Centre (Running Costs)	17.07.14	£500
	Springwell School (Solar Panels)	18.07.14	£500
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Activities)	21.07.14	£200
	Rossmere Primary School (Forest School Project)	03.11.14	£500
	The Hartlepool Guild of Bellingers (St. Oswald's Church Bells Repair)	03.11.14	£500
	Hartlepool Town Pastors (Running Costs)	03.11.14	£300
Councillor Linda Shields	34th Hartlepool Guides, Brownies and Rainbows Units	16.04.14	£420
Councillor George Springer	The West Hartlepool Technical Day School Old Boys RUFC	03.11.14	£500
	Hartlepool Town Pastors (Running Costs)	03.11.14	£200
	Wiltshire Way (further 5 trees)	22.11.14	£1,000
	The Annexe (Christmas Activities)	12.12.14	£300

	HVDA (Running Costs)	02.02.15	£500
Seaton			
Councillor Kelly Atkinson	Friends of Seaton Park (August Fun Day)	12.05.14	£750
	Dyke House Sports & Technology College (Costumes)	29.05.14	£250
	Jutland Road Community Hub (Summer Programme)	22.08.14	£200
	Seaton Park Benches	22.08.14	£617
	Groundwork NE (Seaton Park Play Sessions)	24.09.14	£300
	Hartlepool Sports Council (Annual Awards Ceremony 2015)	24.09.14	£100
	Holy Trinity Church (Lead Replacement)	09.10.14	£1,000
	Hartlepool Families First (Transport Costs)	28.01.15	£900
	Teesmouth Field Centre (Science by the Seashore Project)	30.01.15	£1,788
	Hartlepool Families First (Transport Costs)	02.02.15	£500
	Friends of Seaton Park (Various Projects)	02.02.15	£539
Councillor Thomas Hind	Friends of Seaton Park Contribution	07.08.14	£1,000
	Jutland Road Community Hub (Summer Programme)	22.08.14	£500
	Seaton Park Benches	22.08.14	£617
	Groundwork NE (Seaton Park Play Sessions)	24.09.14	£500
	Hartlepool Sports Council (Annual Awards Ceremony 2015)	24.09.14	£100
	Seaton Ladies Bowling Club	07.01.15	£500
	Seaton Carew Ladies FC	08.01.15	£2,000
	Holy Trinity Church (Clock Mechanism Repair)	14.01.15	£500
	Hartlepool Chinese Association (Chinese New Year 2015 Celebrations)	29.01.15	£245
	Rossmere Primary School (Forest School Project)	04.02.15	£400
Councillor Paul Thompson	Friends of Seaton Park (August Fun Day)	12.05.14	£750
	Dyke House Sports & Technology College (Costumes)	29.05.14	£250
	Jutland Road Community Hub (Summer Programme)	22.08.14	£200
	Seaton Park Benches	22.08.14	£617
	Groundwork NE	24.09.14	£300

	(Seaton Park Play Sessions)		
	Hartlepool Sports Council (Annual Awards Ceremony 2015)	24.09.14	£100
	Holy Trinity Church (Lead Replacement)	09.10.14	£1,000
	Seaton Carew Tigers Under 11's FC (Running Costs)	23.01.15	£750
	Teesmouth Field Centre (Science by the Seashore Project)	30.01.15	£1,788
	Friends of Seaton Park (Various Projects)	02.02.15	£1,188

APPENDIX B

Ward Member Budget Overview 2014/15

Ward Councillor	Funding Available 14/15	Funding Approved 14/15	Total Funding Remaining
De Bruce			
Councillor Rob Cook	£4,000	£4,000	£0
Councillor Sheila Griffin	£4,000	£4,000	£0
Councillor Steven Thomas	£4,000	£4,000*	£0
Hart			
Councillor Paul Beck	£7,500	£7,500	£0
Councillor David Riddle	£7,500	£7,100	£400
Councillor Jean Robinson	£7,500	£7,452	£48
Headland and Harbour			
Councillor Jim Ainslie	£4,000	£2,393	£1,607
Councillor Peter Jackson	£4,000	£2,393	£1,607
Councillor Robbie Payne	£4,000	£2,393	£1,607
Jesmond			
Councillor Keith Dawkins	£4,000	£3,320	£680
Councillor Mary Fleet	£4,000	£3,420	£580
Councillor George Springer	£4,000	£2,920*	£1,080
Seaton			
Councillor Kelly Atkinson	£6,944	£6,944	£0
Councillor Thomas Hind	£6,943	£6,362	£581
Councillor Paul Thompson	£6,943	£6,943	£0
TOTAL	£79,330	£71,140	£8,190

Please note that as outlined in Section 6, 20% of the total Ward Member Budget allocation was ring fenced for the delivery of the Environmental Apprenticeship Scheme in 2014/15; this leaves £4,000 per Ward Member available for expenditure this financial year. Unspent funds of £19,333 from 2012/13 and 2013/14 were returned to the Hart and Seaton Ward Members (£10,500 and £8,833 respectively) for the benefit of their wards as agreed by Full Council on 3 July 2014.

*Expenditure was incurred prior to the Local Election held on 22 May 2014 by Councillors Sylvia Tempest (succeeded by Councillor Stephen Thomas) in De Bruce ward and Linda Shields (succeeded by Councillor George Springer) in Jesmond ward.