

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 15th July 2015

at 10.00am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM:

Councillors Ainslie, Atkinson, Beck, Belcher, Cook, Fleet, Griffin, Hind, Jackson, Riddle, Robinson, Springer, Tempest, 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 11th March 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 Police Update – Verbal Presentation

9. WARD MEMBER BUDGETS

9.1 Ward Member Budgets 2015/16 – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

11. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7th October 2015 at 2.00pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre,
Hartlepool



CONTACT DETAILS FOR WARD COUNCILLORS

De Bruce Ward

Councillor Rob Cook	7 Bellasis Grove, TS27 3PL	Tel 280916
Councillor Sheila Griffin	79 Davison Drive, TS24 9BX	Tel 263567
Councillor Stephen Thomas	18 Rowell Street, TS24 0QE	Tel 07926002404

Hart Ward

Councillor Paul Beck	217 Macauley Road, TS25 4NJ	Tel 283014
Councillor David Riddle	1 Wansbeck Gardens, TS26 9JQ	Tel 07976867838
Councillor Jean Robinson	42 Dodsworth Walk, TS27 3PF	Tel 07706881205

Headland and Harbour Ward

Councillor Jim Ainslie	10 Regent Street, TS24 0QN	Tel 260003
Councillor Peter Jackson	5 Newquay Close, TS26 0XG	Tel 275309
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	18 Rowell Street, TS24 0QE	Tel 270160

Jesmond Ward

Councillor Sandra Belcher	1 Lynton Court, Exmoor Grove, TS26 0XN	Tel 263934
Councillor Mary Fleet	25 Amberton Road, TS24 8LT	Tel 233757
Councillor George Springer	27 Callander Road, TS25 3BD	Tel 07506692055

Seaton Ward

Councillor Kelly Atkinson 15 Bilsdale Road, Seaton Carew, TS25 2AQ

Tel 07825162935

Councillor Tom Hind 127 Stockton Road, TS25 1SL Tel 07881932544

Councillor Paul Thompson 60 Intrepid Close, Seaton Carew, TS25 1GF

Tel 07453318030

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

e.g Jim.ainslie@hartlepool.gov.uk

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES

11th March 2015

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm 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 Mary Fleet	- Jesmond
Councillor Sheila Griffin	- De Bruce
Councillor Jean Robinson	- Hart
Councillor George Springer	- Jesmond
Councillor Steve Thomas	- De Bruce

Also present: Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Marjorie James and Chris Simmons

Public: Reuben Atkinson, Malcolm Husband, John Lynch, Mrs S Nicholson and Alan Vale

Officers: Clare Clark, Community Safety and Engagement Manager
Philip Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
Mike Blair, Technical Services Manager
Nigel Johnson, Head of Housing
Garry Jones, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Kate Ainger, Environmental Projects Officer
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North and Coastal)
Tara Davison, Neighbourhood Development Officer (South and Central)
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Hartlepool Power Station Representative:
Simon Parsons, Station Director

32. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Kelly Atkinson and David Riddle.

33. Declarations of Interest

None

34. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2015

The minutes were approved.

The Chair highlighted that the Council's website was currently offline due to technical difficulties. He advised that a solution was being sought and apologised for any inconvenience this had caused. Hard copies of the papers for the meeting were available at the back of the room.

35. Matters Arising

Replacement LED lighting – a resident requested an update. The Technical Services Manager advised that a number of lights had not been changed. This was primarily due to them being attached to concrete columns. It was proposed to change all of the town's concrete columns in the future rather than carry out the work on a piecemeal basis.

36. Hartlepool Power Station Update – Presentation by the Station Director

Simon Parsons, Station Director for Hartlepool Power Station, gave a brief update on the past, present and future of the power station. At a previous Forum in October 2014 Mr Parsons had advised that both reactors were offline due to statutory requirements and safety concerns relating to problems with a similar reactor at Heysham. Inspections of the reactors and boilers had shown all were in good condition and they had subsequently both been returned to service in November 2014. The power station currently employed 700 people, 90% of whom live within 10 miles of the site although at the time of the shutdown almost 2,000 workers had been on site. Details were given of the opportunities available to young people including an apprentice scheme, mentoring and active links with local colleges and universities.

The Power Station had opened in 1983 with a 30 year lifespan. However agreement had been reached to remain open to 2019 and Mr Parsons was hoping to reach agreement to remain open for a further 5 years to 2024. Decommissioning would add a further 5-10 years to this meaning that the power station and resultant job opportunities could be around until 2034. Mr Parsons had recently met with the MP, councillors and Chief Executive with a view to finding ways to encourage young trainees to work at the power station and attract trained workers to move to Hartlepool. They would be working with council officers to attract young people to science

and technology courses.

The following queries were then raised by those present:

Did the on-site boilers enable the power station to generate electricity in the event of a shutdown as in the previous year? Mr Parsons advised that these boilers were able to generate power within the station and were used as a backup in the event that power from the national power grid was lost. They were a safety mechanism to ensure that the reactors remained cool at all times

What arrangements were in place to protect the public from the radioactive cores following decommissioning? Mr Parsons indicated that Government policy was to leave them boxed up on site for 100 years.

The Power Station had been open to visitors since November 2013. Mr Parsons urged people to visit the site and see for themselves.

The Chair thanked the Station Director for attending the meeting and answering questions.

37. Ask the Policy Chairs

Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre steps – A resident raised concerns that the steps at the front of the Civic Centre were not compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and requested that they be altered. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee confirmed that an assessment had shown they were DDA compliant but he would raise the issue again. The resident indicated that the colour of the steps and trims was incorrect. The Leader of the Council reiterated that the Council's health and safety department considered that the steps were DDA compliant and asked that a written statement be sent to the resident confirming this. A Councillor requested that the Huckelhoven steps be looked at. She had slipped down them the previous year. She felt they were too steep, the handrail provided no grip and shoes could be caught on the rubber rises. At the time of her accident the light at the top of the steps had also been out of action. The Chair confirmed that that these concerns would be investigated.

Clavering Playpark – A Councillor queried when the seats would be returned. The Ward Councillor advised that the seats had been placed in storage following damage by vandals. It was unclear whether they would be returned however stones had been provided as a replacement for

children to sit on.

Finance and Policy Committee

What impact had the power station outage had on Council budgets? –

The Chair of Finance and Policy Committee advised that £1.9 million had been put in the Council's reserves to offset risks of this nature which had covered the total loss of business rates caused by the outage. Further risk reserves had been built into the 2015/16 budget.

38. Public Question Time

Sea coaling – A resident asked what action was being taken to prevent vehicles illegally gaining access to the beach. The Chair indicated that the Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee had provided detailed answers to these questions at the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum meeting that morning. He had previously asked for questions relating to this issue but none had been forthcoming and she had subsequently left the meeting. He did not wish to misquote his colleague and would therefore ask her to contact the resident direct with answers to his questions. The resident commented that vehicles were gaining access through the Brus Tunnel, Cemetery Road and Seaton Beach. He handed the registration numbers of vehicles illegally accessing the beach to the Chair to be forwarded to the Police. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator acknowledged these issues and confirmed officers would undertake a site visit with a view to securing the area.

LED lighting – A resident congratulated officers on the LED lighting strategy as it had helped with his severe sight problem.

39. Consultation on the Housing Strategy for 2015-2020 (Assistant Director (Regeneration))

In October 2014 the Forum had been informed about the public consultation for the Council's new housing strategy for 2015-2020. This public consultation, which had taken the form of a public questionnaire and workshops with interested parties, had completed in January 2015. The results had been used to formulate the first draft of the housing strategy which was now being formally consulted upon. The Head of Housing gave details of the housing strategy objectives which had been identified through the initial consultation as follows:

- Delivering suitable new homes, including affordable homes and older person accommodation

- Making the best use of existing homes: improving quality, conditions and the environment
- Bringing long-term empty homes back into use
- Improving health and wellbeing: promoting sustainability by supporting people with specific housing needs
- Preventing homelessness and providing options

Feedback could be left via the Council's website. However as this was currently offline due to technical difficulties the Head of Housing would be happy to add any residents to the existing consultation list to enable them to receive hard copies of the consultation.

The Chair thanked the Head of Housing for attending the meeting and answering questions

Decision

That the report be noted

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

Members were informed of the current position relating to Ward Member Budgets 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. In December 2014 Council had approved £4,000 to each member, in line with previous years. A limit was placed on the level of expenditure members were allowed to spend prior to election of one-twelfth of their budget between 1st April 2015 and the election. Appendices were attached giving a breakdown of the current spend to date and the current running total for each ward member with remaining budgets.

The Chair noted he had received a question from a resident querying why the Seaton Ward Councillors had failed to pledge funding to the Jutland Road area of their ward.

Decision

That the report be noted

41. Final meeting

The Vice-Chair advised that this was Garry Jones' last forum meeting in his role as Neighbourhood Co-ordinator as he was moving to another role within the department. He thanked him on behalf of the residents of Hart Ward for his efforts, specifically in relation to the Hartfields playpark. The Vice-Chair then paid tribute to the work of the Chair in dealing with issues and helping residents, and the work of the Community Safety and Engagement Officer and Democratic Services Officer.

The Chair thanked Garry for all his hard work. The new officer with responsibility was Phil Hepburn. Residents were asked to contact him with any problems in the future. He also asked the Environmental Projects Officer if the signage related to seagulls in the Headland and Harbour ward could be erected.

The meeting concluded at 2:50pm

CHAIR

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

15 July 2015



Report of: Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

Subject: WARD MEMBER BUDGETS 2015/16

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 2015/16. Attached at **Appendix B** is a running total of Ward Councillors' budgets to date for 2015/16.

5. UNAPPROVED SCHEMES

- 5.1 One application on behalf of Councillors Beck and Robinson, Hart Ward and Councillors Griffin and Thomas, De Bruce Ward submitted for consideration in June 2015 was not approved.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 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. In line with previous years there was a limit placed on the level of expenditure for each Ward Member prior to the Election in May i.e. all members were only allowed to spend 1/12th of their 2015/16 budget between 1st April 2015 and the Election. In addition, where Members carried over funds from 2014/15 into the current financial year, the same 1/12th restriction applied.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Within the original decision on 30 April 2012 to approve Ward Member budgets, it was agreed that a delegation of powers to the Assistant

Director (Neighbourhood Services)¹ be awarded; this was facilitated through 'executive arrangements' outlined within the Local Government Act 2000 which enables decision making powers to be delegated by the executive, individual Portfolio Holders, or through an Officer.

- 8.2 Ward Members budgets must be used for purposes which originally fell within the 'well being powers' enshrined in the Local Government Act 2000. The well being powers as far as they relate to England have now been repealed under Schedule 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which provides for the 'broader power of competence'. This gives local authorities an explicit freedom to act in the best interests of the community, unless the local authority is prevented from taking that action by common law, specific legislation or statutory guidance. As such, the power of competence can be applied to working in the best interests of Hartlepool Borough Council's Ward Member Budgets.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

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

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

- 12.1 There are no Section 17 implications in this instance.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 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.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

- 15.1 Denise Ogden
Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523300

E-mail: denise.ogden@hartlepool.gov.uk

Clare Clark
Head of Community Safety and Engagement
Level 4
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523100

E-mail: clare.clark@hartlepool.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Ward Member Budget Spend 2015/16

Ward Councillor	Nature of Scheme	Date Approved	Funding Approved
De Bruce			
Councillor Rob Cook	Dog foul signage x 20 @ £32.50 each	01.06.15	£217
	West View Project (Summer Play Scheme)	02.06.15	£670
	Wild Green Spaces (Countryside Festival)	02.06.15	£50
	Hartlepool & District Indoor Bowls Club (Building Insulation)	02.06.15	£50
	Hartlepool Access Group (Running Costs)	02.06.15	£333
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Programme)	02.06.15	£200
	English Martyrs School (Trip to Mull/Iona)	09.06.15	£84
Councillor Sheila Griffin	Dog foul signage x 20 @ £32.50 each	01.06.15	£217
	West View Project (Summer Play Scheme)	02.06.15	£670
	Wild Green Spaces (Countryside Festival)	02.06.15	£50
	Hartlepool & District Indoor Bowls Club (Building Insulation)	02.06.15	£50
	Hartlepool Access Group (Running Costs)	02.06.15	£333
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Programme)	02.06.15	£200
	English Martyrs School (Trip to Mull/Iona)	09.06.15	£83
Councillor Stephen Thomas	Dog foul signage x 20 @ £32.50 each	01.06.15	£217
	West View Project (Summer Play Scheme)	02.06.15	£670
	Wild Green Spaces (Countryside Festival)	02.06.15	£50
	Hartlepool & District Indoor Bowls Club (Building Insulation)	02.06.15	£50
	Hartlepool Access Group (Running Costs)	02.06.15	£334
	Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group (Summer Programme)	02.06.15	£200
	English Martyrs School (Trip to Mull/Iona)	09.06.15	£83

Hart			
Councillor Paul Beck	Rural Transport Scheme (Running Costs)	15.05.15	£1,000
	Dog Foul Signs	26.05.15	£179
	Hart Parochial Church Council (2 picnic benches for Church site)	30.06.15	£300
	Hartlepool Swimming Club (Pool Hire)	30.06.15	£100
Councillor David Riddle	Hart Parochial Church Council (2 picnic benches for Church site)	30.06.15	£300
	Ruff Diamond (Championship Event)	30.06.15	£500
Councillor Jean Robinson	Rural Transport Scheme (Running Costs)	15.05.15	£1,000
	Dog Foul Signs	26.05.15	£179
	Hart Parochial Church Council (2 picnic benches for Church site)	30.06.15	£300
	Hartlepool Swimming Club (Pool Hire)	30.06.15	£100
Headland & Harbour			
Councillor Jim Ainslie	Headland Festival Group (Running Costs)	30.06.15	£500
Councillor Peter Jackson	Headland Festival Group (Running Costs)	30.06.15	£500
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	Headland Festival Group (Running Costs)	30.06.15	£500
Jesmond			
Councillor Mary Fleet	Dog Foul Signs x 10 @ £32.50 each	11.06.15	£325

APPENDIX B

Ward Member Budget Overview 2015/16

Ward Councillor	Carryover from 14/15	Funding Available 15/16	Funding Approved 15/16	Total Funding Remaining
De Bruce				
Councillor Rob Cook	-	£4,500	£1,604	£2,896
Councillor Sheila Griffin	-	£4,500	£1,603	£2,897
Councillor Steven Thomas	-	£4,500	£1,604	£2,896
Hart				
Councillor Paul Beck	-	£4,500	£1,579	£2,921
Councillor David Riddle	£400	£4,500	£800	£4,100
Councillor Jean Robinson	£48	£4,500	£1,579	£2,969
Headland and Harbour				
Councillor Jim Ainslie	-	£4,500	£500	£4,000
Councillor Peter Jackson	-	£4,500	£500	£4,000
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	-	£4,500	£500	£4,000
Jesmond				
Councillor Sandra Belcher	£680	£4,500	£0	£5,180
Councillor Mary Fleet	£580	£4,500	£325	£4,755
Councillor George Springer	£230	£4,500	£0	£4,730
Seaton				
Councillor Kelly Atkinson	-	£4,500	£0	£4,500
Councillor Thomas Hind	£66	£4,500	£0	£4,566
Councillor Paul Thompson	-	£4,500	£0	£4,500
TOTAL	£2,004	£67,500	£10,594	£58,910