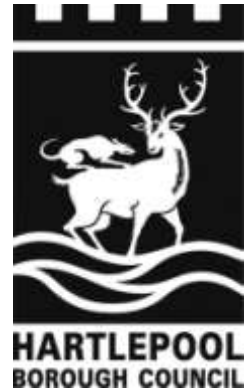


NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 2nd March 2016

at 2.00pm

in the Council Chamber, 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 meetings held on 9th December 2015.
 - 4.2 Matters arising.
 - 4.3 To confirm the minutes of the joint meeting held on 12th February 2016 (*to follow*).
 - 4.4 Matters arising.
- 5. ASK THE POLICY CHAIRS**
- 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**



7. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

- 8.1 Presentation by Dr Boleslaw Posmyk, Chair of Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, regarding the work the CCG is doing to address health issues in the town.
- 8.2 Presentation on Combined Authority and Devolution – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 8.3 Presentation on Dyke House Big Local Plan – *Wharton Trust Manager*
- 8.4 Update by Cleveland Fire Brigade

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

To be confirmed



NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES

9th December 2015

The meeting commenced at 10.00am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Paul Beck	-	Hart
Vice Chair:	Councillor Rob Cook	-	De Bruce
	Councillor Jim Ainslie	-	Headland and Harbour
	Councillor Jean Robinson	-	Hart
	Councillor George Springer	-	Jesmond
	Councillor Sylvia Tempest	-	Headland and Harbour

Also Present: Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher, Kevin Cranney, Ged Hall, Marjorie James and Carl Richardson

Public: John Maxwell, Norma Morrish, Cath & Liz Torley and Alan Vale

Police Representatives: Mal Suggitt

Officers: Clare Clark, Community Safety and Engagement Manager
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
Ann Callaghan, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North and Coastal)
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

61. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Sandra Belcher, Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Peter Jackson and Steve Thomas

62. Declarations of Interest

None

63. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2015

Approved

64. Matters Arising

Civic Centre Steps – Work to make the Civic Centre steps DDA compliant was currently out for quotation and would be completed before or after April depending on the cost.

Future meetings – The Chair advised that Doctor Posmyk, the chair of NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, would be attending the next meeting of the Forum. Efforts were also been made to arrange a joint meeting with the South and Central Neighbourhood Forum in the new year to allow Hartlepool's MP, Ian Wright, to attend.

Elizabeth Way – Lighting problems had been rectified. The Parking Services Manager indicated that lights would only be numbered where there was no obvious reference point to identify their location

Tree pruning – Due to commence shortly. Operatives were currently in the process of collecting fallen leaves

Headland dog fouling – The recruitment process for 2 additional enforcement officers had begun and they would be in post in the new year. A Ward Councillor requested an update on the promised signage near the paddling pool as dog owners were allowing their dogs to foul in the paddling pool area. The Parking Services Manager suggested a meeting to confirm the placement of the signage however the ward councillor advised that it needed to go at the top of the steps to deter dog owners from accessing that area. A Ward Councillor referred to the recent action day on the Headland and noted that that the Central Estate Management Organisation had not been informed that it was happening. He asked that they be made aware in the future.

Abbey Street / Northgate – Repairs completed

Old Borough Cemetery – The back wall was the responsibility of the developer therefore they would need to repair any damage to it. The Council had no plans to do this. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee requested that a Council engineer inspect the wall to ascertain whether repairs were needed before the onset of winter.

Brancepeth Walk – The waste ground between Brancepeth and the new bungalows was owned by the 13 Group who were considering landscaping and tarmacing the area.

Bikes on the beach – This was now a police ward priority

Merlin Way – The road would be adopted by the Council as soon as possible. The Council's highways department were not opposed to flashing speed signs in principle

Tree cages – Those in the Clavering play area had been restaked

65. Ask the Policy Chairs

Finance and Policy Committee

The Chair, Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher, was in attendance. There were no questions.

Neighbourhood Services Committee

The Chair, Councillor Marjorie James, was in attendance. There were no questions

Adult Services Committee

The Chair, Councillor Carl Richardson, was in attendance. There were no questions. He welcomed public participation in future meetings of the committee

Regeneration Services Committee

The Chair, Councillor Kevin Cranney, was in attendance. There were no questions. He advised that the masterplan for the town centre had recently been adopted and there would soon be visible changes around the marina area, specifically the installation of the Royal Navy Museum.

Children's Services Committee

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Ged Hall, was in attendance. There were no questions. He welcomed public participation in future meetings of the committee. Members referred to the recent 'takeover day' when young people had attended meetings at the Civic Centre whilst Councillors had gone out to schools in the town. They praised the young people for their challenging questions and thanked the officers responsible for making the day run so smoothly.

66. Public Question Time and Ward Issues

Seaton

A resident referred to the recent fire at the Niramax plant and queried what assurances residents had that they were not breathing in toxic fumes. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee advised that the air quality in the area would be monitored. If the smoke was toxic she would have expected residents to be asked to remain indoors and keep their windows shut by fire officers if not evacuated altogether. As this had not happened she was confident that the smoke had not been toxic and no evidence to the contrary had been released.

A resident expressed disappointment in the design of the new lights, commenting that the globe design of the old lights had been more inkeeping with Seaton's 'olde worlde' feel. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee indicated that the lights across Hartlepool and Seaton had been changed to LED following a decision made by Council 3 years ago. This was based on saving money with the alternative being to switch all the lights off between midnight and 6am. The Chair of Regeneration Services Committee advised that additional monies were available from the government via the Coastal Community teams. He would refer the comments on the design of the new lights to the Seaton team for funding consideration.

The Chair expressed his disgust at the recent vandalism of the Cath Hill memorial park, commenting that he intended to ask that a more permanent memorial be erected in memory of the late Councillor.

A resident referred to issues he had previously raised regarding Goathland Drive, noting that 4 trees had been damaged following the recent storms. He was concerned that this might result in damage being done to his property. The Parking Services Manager confirmed that this would be looked at any issues addressed long term. The resident also highlighted problems with cars speeding in that area.

Headland and Harbour

A resident asked whether the timing on the crossing lights at the One Life could be adjusted to give pedestrians longer to cross. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee confirmed this would be actioned.

A resident indicated that the litter bins on Burbank had been removed but not replaced. The Parking Services Manager advised that this work was due to be completed.

A resident reported missing street signs on Brunel Close. The Parking Services Manager would chase this up with the highways department.

A Ward Councillor referred to the ongoing flood defence work on the town wall and low promenade. He praised the Council's engineers for their foresight and breadth of vision. He noted that there had been complaints from residents regarding the new roundabout but in his opinion even large vehicles were able to traverse it with no impediment and it would provide another exit from the headland should flooding recur. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee echoed the comments in relation to the engineers.

A resident asked whether the closing times for the Historic Quay car park could be specified on the signage rather than the current 'close of business'. The Chair of Regeneration Services Committee would discuss this with officers, however given that the closing time for the quay could vary depending on events which were taking place a specific closing time might be too prescriptive.

Jesmond

A Ward Councillor asked whether it would be possible for a crossing to be installed on Holdforth Road. The Chair of Planning Committee indicated that attempts had been made to place a crossing in this locality for many years but there had always been a legitimate reason not to do it mainly restrictions on distances from junctions and bus stops. A safe crossing would be ideal given the number of elderly residents in the vicinity but it was unlikely to ever happen.

De Bruce

A resident highlighted a large amount of rubbish had been blown along the waste ground between Brancepeth Walk and the new bungalows. However he acknowledged that the 13 Group were responsible for this land.

A resident referred to traffic problems on King Oswy Drive at the end of the school day which he blamed on irresponsible parents. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee advised that enforcement activity had taken place in this area given that there were 3 schools in the vicinity. The Parking Services Manager commented that efforts were also being made to educate people through initiatives such as the 'Walk to School' project.

A resident asked that the timing of the traffic lights on the junction of Winterbottom Avenue and Warren Road be adjusted to allow cars travelling North to South more time to get through. The Parking Services Manager to

refer this to highways.

Hart

A resident highlighted problems with litter in Bishop Cuthbert. Although initially this had been blamed on young people it was now thought that it was a problem with people not securing their bins. She asked if those responsible could be written to and asked to pick their litter up. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee commented that it may not be the bin owners fault and if letters were written in many instances it would only generate complaints. Efforts were being made to co-ordinate bin collection and street cleansing and it was hoped that the refuse service could be brought back 'in-house' in the future as the current contractor would often fail to collect litter which they had dropped.

There were issues with the street lights on the Hartfields roundabout and in other areas of Bishop Cuthbert. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee asked that officers carry out an inspection to rectify these problems.

Dog fouling continued to be a problem on Bishop Cuthbert. The Chair confirmed that new dog foul bins were due to be installed at Hartfields and the Tall Ships public house. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee noted that dog fouling was a problem across the town.

67. Ward Member Budgets 2015/16 *(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. Ward Member budgets and the associated application and approval framework were approved by Members in April 2012. All submissions were subject to delegated approval by the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods. In December 2014 Council approved Finance and Policy Committee's recommendation that Members receive a budget of £4,000 each for 2015/16. A limit was placed on the level of expenditure for each member prior to the election in May wherein only 1/12th of their budget could be spent between 1st April 2015 and the election. This also applied to any carryover of funds from 2014/15. A decision as to whether the ward member budgets would continue into 2016/17 was due for consideration at the Council meeting the following evening. In the event that councillors agreed to continue with the ward member budget initiative any overspill from 2015/16 would be automatically carried over. A resident praised the scheme.

Decision

That the report be noted

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and wished all a warm and happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting concluded at 11:20am

CHAIR

North and Coastal Action Sheet

Ward	Reported problem/ concern	Referred to (officer)	Response	Actioned / resolved	Comment
Headland	New sign required at top of paddling pool to state "No Dogs allowed"	PH / MD	Subsequent site visit with ward councillor has resulted in this being temporarily suspended until the signage and dog exclusion order boundaries can be more clearly highlighted.		Ongoing
	Missing street name sign - Brunel Close	CR	Has been ordered and is now in store		Highways to action
	Raised under ward issues but concerning a complaint relating to Victoria Ward - concern that the timing phase on the ped crossing for the "one life" centre is incorrectly set with not enough time given for peds to cross.	PF	Officers point out that when green ped light goes out, traffic is still held on red.		Officers from Highways team have investigated but found times to be within tolerance limit.
Seaton	Globe lights replaced as LED upgrade, but not as visually appealing. Cllr Cranney agreed to see if reg. funding money available to improve current lighting	RS/RD	Awaiting decision on possible Regen money		No funding in LED replacement budget
Burbank	Litter bins removed and not yet replaced - Cllr Tempest has requested replacements some time ago but not yet actioned.	JW	Litter bin removed from location near Chinese takeaway. Business had no trade waste agreement and was using the standard bin to dispose of waste		Trade waste agreement now in place - consideration given to bin being located outside store - more appropriate use.
Jesmond	Request for ped crossing on Holdforth Road. Explained this has been subject of previous requests and it was not possible to design in such close proximity to existing junctions. Highways to confirm this is still the case	PF	Highways unable to safely design scheme at this location.		NFA

De Brus	Ownership of land outside Brandspeth Rd. and subsequent responsibility for maint. / rep.	PH/ 13 group	Ownership is 13 group. 13 looking to develop low maint. Landscaping / tarmac surface.	Ongoing	13 group to resolve.
	King Owsy Drive - school parking has got worse Cllr Cook seeking long term highways/ parking solutions to resolve this	PF/PH	Markings need adjusting and some signs relocating. Also looking at additional parking until land is adopted.		Meeting with Barnard Grove School, Highways & Enf planned for 23/2/16
	Timing of lights on Winterbottom / Warren junc. is imbalanced. North / south only 8 secs whilst other sequence lasts approx 1 min.	PF	Highways have asked maint. Team to review sequence at this location.		
Hart	Hartfield R/bout - only 2 lights working	RD	Street lighting waiting on contractor to repair cable fault.		One dead supply caused by sub contractor for developer
	Silverbirch / Hartfield cut - lights are out	RD	Not linked up yet - awaiting response from developer		Not yet adopted
	Bishop Cuthbert - Dog fouling stencil work still to be completed	MD	Wet weather delayed this task		Week long Enf effort at this location - included stencil markings
	Rafton / Clavering corner - trees still to be recovered following storm damage at weekend	GJ	Now caught up with prioritised storm Clearance work		Damaged trees removed from site
	Raferton Drive - Most of street lighting columns obstructed by overgrown trees. Can they be cut back	RD/GJ	Work now beginning on street lighting tree work		Several areas including Rafton on the "to do" list

JOINT NORTH AND COASTAL & SOUTH AND CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MINUTES

12 February 2016

The meeting commenced at 9.15am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Chair:	Councillor Alan Clark	-	Fens and Rossmere
Vice Chair:	Councillor Paul Beck	-	Hart
	Councillor Jim Ainslie	-	Headland and Harbour
	Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	-	Foggy Furze
	Councillor Allan Barclay	-	Manor House
	Councillor Sandra Belcher	-	Jesmond
	Councillor Rob Cook	-	De Bruce
	Councillor Mary Fleet	-	Jesmond
	Councillor Steve Gibbon	-	Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Sheila Griffin	-	De Bruce
	Councillor Marjorie James	-	Manor House
	Councillor John Lauderdale	-	Burn Valley
	Councillor Jim Lindridge	-	Fens and Rossmere
	Councillor Carl Richardson	-	Victoria
	Councillor David Riddle	-	Hart
	Councillor Jean Robinson	-	Hart
	Councillor Chris Simmons	-	Victoria
	Councillor Sylvia Tempest	-	Headland and Harbour
	Councillor Steve Thomas	-	De Bruce

Iain Wright MP

Public: D Branfoot, Fred Corbett, Keith Fisher, Mary Green, Donna Hotham, Gordon Johnson, Stella Johnson, Aileen Kendon, C Land, John Maxwell, William Morrish, Norma Morrish, Mary Mostert, Joan Norman, Ray Pocklington, Ian Stewart, M Stoves and Alan Vale

Officers: Clare Clark, Community Safety and Engagement Manager
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
Irene Cross, Neighbourhood Development Officer (Central)
Sue McBride, Neighbourhood Development Officer (North and Coastal Area)
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Kelly Atkinson, Gerard Hall, Brenda Loynes, Ray Martin-Wells, George Morris and Paul Thompson

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Presentation by Iain Wright MP

The MP, Iain Wright, gave a brief presentation on the various ways he was working for the benefit of Hartlepool and its residents. On a local level he held regular ward surgeries and could always be contacted via telephone or email. At Westminster he was the Chair of the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee. The MP touched on a number of topics during his presentation as follows:

- The recent announcement of the closure of Hartlepool Magistrates Court
- The proposed closure of the Fertility Unit at the University Hospital of Hartlepool and the associated threat to local health services
- The ongoing cuts to Local Government budget
- Changes to the collection of business rates and the impact this would have on Hartlepool

The MP outlined the challenges which Hartlepool would face as a result of these decisions taken by Central Government and the efforts which were being made to countermand this. The budget cuts made by Central Government were divisive by disproportionately targeting urban areas in the North and he urged the public to work with himself and the Council in a united front. The following issues were then raised by those present:

Following budget cuts by Central Government Council tax is expected to rise this year. However this is not all the fault of the Government. The Council had wasted approximately £6 million on ‘vanity’ projects including the purchase of Jacksons Landing, Inspirations Cafe, the transport interchange and the abandonment of the town plan. Labour had been in power for 12 years but Hartlepool had seen no great benefits and the closure of the University Hospital of Hartlepool had been started on their watch

The MP refuted any suggestion that the Council had ‘signed off’ on the closure of the hospital saying it was a decision taken by the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust. Part of the role of a local authority was to be a driver to boost prosperity levels in the area. Ventures such as the purchase

of Jacksons Landing and the opening of Inspirations Cafe could help to do this. In terms of expenditure Hartlepool Borough Council was quite a lean organisation when compared to other local authorities.

Would services be retained at Hartlepool Hospital? It was difficult for people without their own transport to travel out of town.

The MP referred to a recent report by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which had identified the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust as requiring improvement specifically in relation to leadership and governance. Previously closures of services had been blamed on problems with staff recruitment and clinical safety however in the case of the proposed closure of the fertility services this had been shown to be erroneous as consultants from elsewhere had offered to keep the unit open. It had resulted in questions being asked as to the official reasons behind the withdrawal of previous services. The MP felt that this needed to be highlighted as a concern and pressure put on the management of the trust to listen to the concerns of Hartlepool residents and justify their decisions. The inaccessibility of North Tees Hospital was a key issue for many residents and the MP intended to work to bring services back into Hartlepool.

Hartlepool needed to form a united front to bring services back into the town.

The MP agreed. There need to be less internal fighting around this issue and more focus on the return of services. Politics should be taken out of it.

At the time of his first by-election the MP had promised that Hartlepool Hospital would be safe. He had let the town down by allowing services to be cut away on his watch. Millions of pounds had been wasted on a mythical hospital and time had been wasted. In 2004 Professor Darzi had reported that the 2 site hospital model did not work, why had the MP not supported this?

The MP commented that he had agreed with Professor Darzi's report and had resigned as a Government minister at the time due to the decision to refer it at the time. However a lot of time had passed since then and the focus now should be on returning services to Hartlepool. Wynyard Hospital was not going ahead and the Trust were completely focused on North Tees Hospital. Hartlepool needed to resist that.

Had any Labour MPs voted in favour of the Government's Local Government Finance Bill? The numbers suggested they had.

The MP advised that he had voted against the bill and was confident that all his Labour colleagues had done the same. There had been 315 votes for and 209 against, presumably all those for being Conservative MPs. The number suggested that not all Labour MPs had voted against but this could be due to illness and holidays. Approximately 32% of the Council's budget

currently came from Council Tax and the Government were moving toward all local government spending being raised locally. This could lead to increases in Council Tax or reductions in services. The MP was also concerned at the impact English Votes for English Laws (EVEL) could have on Local Government finance.

The CQC report had praised the staffing in the One Life Centre. However after 10pm staffing was limited to 1 practice nurse which was neither safe nor good practice.

The MP did not know what time of day the CQC had carried out their survey. He would be happy to contact the CQC on this issue if required

The fertility service as originally started by Dr Menabawey had been rated as world class. Why had the decision not been taken to make Hartlepool a centre of excellence for fertility? Given the concentration of transport links to James Cook Hospital it seemed that the ultimate plan was to close Hartlepool and North Tees.

The MP accepted that service users needed to travel to access specialist services. However normal everyday services needed to be placed closer to the community. These services were commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and did not necessarily have to come from the local NHS Trust. If North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust were not prepared to provide the services which the public demanded then other providers could be approached.

The Government had announced changes in legislation to enforce the sale of further social housing to current tenancies. Organisations like Housing Hartlepool had based their forward planning and borrowing on having a certain number of houses. What impact would this legislation have on their tenants and housing need in Hartlepool in general?

Ultimately it would lead to increased rents. Social housing had been neglected and the loss of lifetime tenancies had had a major impact on family stability.

Representatives of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust had failed to attend a recent committee meeting. Was it time to dispense with their services and find another organisation prepared to be accountable to the people of Hartlepool?

The MP commented that the Trust's failure to attend the meeting referred to had been arrogant and discourteous. They had sent a legal representative to request an adjournment under the presumption that their request would be accepted. This was appalling and said a lot about the stance of the leadership. There was a strong case for commissioning services from elsewhere. By failing to attend the meeting in question they had breached

their statutory responsibility, this might be a way to remove them.

In 2015 a Councillor had proposed the Council withdraw all co-operation from the trust and had been told this was unlawful due to the impact it would have on child protection and care of the vulnerable. Prior to 2004 NHS Trusts did not exist and those in need were still looked after. Was there a way to withdraw co-operation without this negative impact?

The MP was sympathetic to this approach but felt the only option was either to commission services from elsewhere or provide them through the local authority

The Government were rumoured to be considering scrapping the free school meals grant to schools.

The MP did not believe the Government would ever contemplate removing this grant. The Chair of Children's Services Committee clarified this saying additional funding had previously been provided to schools with less than 150 children and this would be removed. However this had always been a temporary measure so was not unexpected and the provision of free school meals would continue.

Hartlepool Hospital was far superior to North Tees in terms of location and provision for expansion. The management of the Trust were no longer accountable and their refusal to attend the recent meeting was further evidence of their contempt for the public. They should be removed.

The MP encouraged everyone present to become a member of the foundation trust as that way they could register their opposition and request changes be made. Collective action was always more effective.

The Government had recently announced transitional funding to affluent areas while at the same time cutting budgets. How was that fair and what could be done to stop it?

The Transitional Fund was designed to go to rural areas most of which tended to be in the South. The Government had repeatedly failed to listen to the concerns of the North with the decision to close Hartlepool Magistrates Court a more recent example of this. Government cuts and closures were having a traumatic impact on lives, livelihoods and the future.

When the power station was closed down they were exempt from paying business rates. Why did this exemption not apply to other businesses?

The MP agreed that it was unusual that the exemption was not applied to other businesses. By allowing the power station this exemption the Council

was left vulnerable as it could close down at a moment's notice leaving the Council liable for their business rates for a minimum of 6 months. The Government were proposing a business rates review in the future.

The Chair thanked the MP for attending the meeting and answering questions.

The meeting concluded at 10:45am.

CHAIR

NORTH AND COASTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

2 March 2016



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 Councillor Kelly Atkinson, Seaton Ward submitted for consideration in November 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.
- 7.2 I agreed at CMT to provide some generic wording for the finance section of all future reports (including the events programme report) as follows:
- 7.3 In considering the issues outlined in this report Members are reminded that significant additional Government Grant cuts will be made over the period 2016/17 to 2018/19. As a result the Council faces a budget deficit for the next three years of between £16.3m and £18.3m, depending on the level of Council Tax increases approved by Members over this period. The recommended strategy for managing the 2016/17 budget position is

predicated on the use of significant one-off resources to provide a longer lead time to make permanent budget reductions and the following table summarises the annual budget deficits. Detailed proposals for achieving 2017/18 and 2018/19 budget reductions will need to be developed. Any additional budget pressures will increase the budget cuts which will need to be made and will need to be referred to the Finance and Policy Committee for consideration.

	Revised Forecast based on actual grant cut and 1.9% Council Tax increase £'m	Revised Forecast based on actual grant cut and 1.9% Council Tax increase and 2% Social Care Precept £'m
2016/17	4.749	4.179
2017/18	9.638	8.663
2018/19	3.945	3.443
Total	18.332	16.285
Cut as %age 15/16 budget	21%	19%

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. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty implications in this instance.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

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

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

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

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 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.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 There are no background papers to this report.

17. CONTACT OFFICER

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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	£83
	Kev's Klub (Outing to Sea Life Centre in Scarborough)	24.07.15	£200
	Friends of Carlton Camp (Residentials)	24.07.15	£230
	Hartlepool Allotment Show 2015	24.07.15	£100
	1 Hart, 1 Mind, 1 Future (Buddy System & Social Activities)	20.08.15	£100
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (6 Months Employment of a Technology Trainer)	21.08.15	£50
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Roof repair work)	23.08.15	£400
	Hartlepool Young Carers (Respite activities inc transport costs)	24.08.15	£50
	Commemorative Medals	06.10.15	£160
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
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Royal Albert Hall Performance)	24.07.15	£500

	1 Hart, 1 Mind, 1 Future (Buddy System & Social Activities)	20.08.15	£100
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (6 Months Employment of a Technology Trainer)	21.08.15	£80
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Roof repair work)	23.08.15	£400
	Hartlepool Young Carers (Respite activities inc transport costs)	24.08.15	£50
	Commemorative Medals	06.10.15	£160
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
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Royal Albert Hall Performance)	24.07.15	£500
	1 Hart, 1 Mind, 1 Future (Buddy System & Social Activities)	20.08.15	£100
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (6 Months Employment of a Technology Trainer)	21.08.15	£129
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Roof repair work)	23.08.15	£400
	Commemorative Medals	06.10.15	£160
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
	Friends of Carlton Camp (Residential Weekend)	06.07.15	£400
	Hartfields Residents Association (Social Evening)	06.07.15	£100
	Kev's Klub (Outing to Sea Life Centre in Scarborough)	07.07.15	£100
	Friends of Hart School (2 further picnic benches for Community Space)	09.07.15	£250
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Royal	24.07.15	£500

	Albert Hall Performance)		
	1 Hart, 1 Mind, 1 Future (Buddy System & Social Activities)	19.08.15	£200
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (6 Months Employment of a Technology Trainer)	21.08.15	£100
	Friends of North Cemetery (Dedication Ceremony)	27.08.15	£500
	Hartfields Resident Association (Christmas Fayre)	02.09.15	£150
	Commemorative Medals	06.10.15	£160
	Friends of Hart School (Wicker Den & 3 Nature Signs for the Community Space)	07.12.15	£340
	Clavering Youth Project (Equipment)	14.01.16	£121
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
	Friends of Carlton Camp (Residential Weekend)	06.07.15	£400
	Hartfields Residents Association (Social Evening)	06.07.15	£100
	Kev's Klub (Outing to Sea Life Centre in Scarborough)	07.07.15	£100
	Friends of Hart School (2 further picnic benches for Community Space)	09.07.15	£250
	1 Hart, 1 Mind, 1 Future (Buddy System & Social Activities)	19.08.15	£100
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (6 Months Employment of a Technology Trainer)	21.08.15	£100
	Hartfields Resident Association (Christmas Fayre)	02.09.15	£150
	Hart Events Committee/HPCC (Fireworks Display)	12.09.15	£500
	Friends of North Cemetery (Horticultural Projects & Additional Seating)	12.09.15	£500
	Clavering Primary School (Defibrillator Package)	04.10.15	£250
	1st Hartlepool Brownies Unit (Room hire)	13.10.15	£200
	Friends of Hart School (Wicker Den & 3 Nature Signs for the Community Space)	07.12.15	£58
	Hartlepool Families First (Health Bus Replacement)	14.12.15	£892
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	30.06.15	£300

	picnic benches for Church site)		
	Hartlepool Swimming Club (Pool Hire)	30.06.15	£100
	Friends of Carlton Camp (Residential Weekend)	06.07.15	£400
	Hartfields Residents Association (Social Evening)	06.07.15	£100
	Kev's Klub (Outing to Sea Life Centre in Scarborough)	07.07.15	£100
	Friends of Hart School (2 further picnic benches for Community Space)	09.07.15	£250
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Royal Albert Hall Performance)	24.07.15	£500
	1 Hart, 1 Mind, 1 Future (Buddy System & Social Activities)	19.08.15	£200
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (6 Months Employment of a Technology Trainer)	21.08.15	£100
	Hartfields Residents Association (Christmas Fayre)	02.09.15	£150
	Friends of North Cemetery (Horticultural Projects & Additional Seating)	12.09.15	£300
	Hartlepool Pastors (Running Costs)	12.09.15	£200
	Hartlepool Ladies Choir (Choral Spectacular in the Royal Albert Hall)	22.09.15	£200
	Friends of Hartlepool Station (Running Costs)	24.09.15	£71
	1st Hartlepool Brownies Unit (Room Hire)	13.10.15	£250
	Friends of Hart School (Wicker Den & 3 Nature Signs for the Community Space)	07.12.15	£100
Headland & Harbour			
Councillor Jim Ainslie	Rural Transport Scheme (Running Costs)	02.07.15	£300
	Hartlepool Folk Festival (2015 Festival)	04.08.15	£500
	Burbank Youth Drop-in (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£400
	Central Correctors (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£500
	Friends of Paddling Pool (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£200
	Hartlepool Carers (Headland Drop-in Sessions)	11.08.15	£120
	Burbank Community Cafe (Room Hire)	21.09.15	£333
	Headland Festival Group (Events)	28.09.15	£500

	Bridge Community Association (Children's Christmas Party)	03.11.15	£100
	Hartlepool & District Hospice (Boundary, Gardens & Grounds Improvements)	21.01.16	£500
Councillor Peter Jackson	Rural Transport Scheme (Running Costs)	02.07.15	£300
	Hartlepool Folk Festival (2015 Festival)	04.08.15	£500
	Burbank Youth Drop-in (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£400
	Central Correctors (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£500
	Friends of Paddling Pool (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£200
	Hartlepool Carers (Headland Drop-in Sessions & Refreshments)	11.08.15	£200
	Burbank Community Cafe (Room Hire)	21.09.15	£333
	Headland Festival Group (Events)	28.09.15	£1,000
	Bridge Community Association (Children's Christmas Party)	03.11.15	£100
	Hartlepool & District Hospice (Boundary, Gardens & Grounds Improvements)	21.01.16	£500
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	Rural Transport Scheme (Running Costs)	02.07.15	£300
	Hartlepool Folk Festival (2015 Festival)	04.08.15	£500
	Burbank Youth Drop-in (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£400
	Central Correctors (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£500
	Friends of Paddling Pool (Running Costs)	11.08.15	£200
	Hartlepool Carers (Headland Drop-in Sessions)	11.08.15	£120
	Burbank Community Cafe (Room Hire)	21.09.15	£334
	Headland Festival Group (Events)	28.09.15	£500
	Bridge Community Association (Children's Christmas Party)	03.11.15	£100
	Hartlepool & District Hospice (Boundary, Gardens & Grounds Improvements)	21.01.16	£500
Jesmond			

Councillor Sandra Belcher	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Royal Albert Hall Performance)	13.10.15	£500
	Thornhill Allotment Association (Container)	13.10.15	£300
	Hartlepool PATCH (Running Costs)	13.10.15	£100
	Hartlepool Stage Society (Throston Grange Community Centre Improvements)	13.10.15	£700
	Throston Youth Project (Computer Room Renovation)	03.11.15	£350
	Lynton Court Residents Group (Armchair Exercises & Local Bus Trips)	08.12.15	£270
Councillor Mary Fleet	Dog Foul Signs x 10 @ £32.50 each	11.06.15	£325
	Hartlepool Stage Society (Throston Grange Community Centre Improvements)	07.09.15	£500
	*Hartlepool Heat Basketball Club (Replacement Kit for 2 teams)	07.09.15	*£500
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Royal Albert Hall Performance)	07.09.15	£300
	Hartlepool PATCH (Running Costs)	08.09.15	£500
	Hartlepool Access Group (Running Costs)	08.09.15	£1,000
	1 Hart, 1 Mind, 1 Future (Buddy System & Social Activities)	08.09.15	£300
	Hartlepool Town Pastors (Running Costs)	18.11.15	£100
	Hartlepool Bereavement Service (Running Costs)	08.12.15	£500
	34th Hartlepool Guide Unit (Annual Hall Hire)	08.12.15	£300
	West View Advice & Resource Centre (Roof Repair)	08.12.15	£300
Councillor George Springer	Commemorative Medals	06.10.15	£200
	Hartlepool Male Voice Choir (Royal Albert Hall Performance)	13.10.15	£500
	Thornhill Allotment Association (Container)	13.10.15	£500
	Hartlepool Stage Society (Throston Grange Community Centre Improvements)	13.10.15	£500
	Lynton Court Residents Group (Armchair Exercises & Local Bus Trips)	08.12.15	£270
Seaton			

Councillor Tom Hind	OFCA (Summer Youth Activities)	20.07.15	£500
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (Technology Trainer)	07.09.15	£500
	50+ Forum (Christmas Lunch)	05.11.15	£300
	Seaton United FC (Running Costs)	14.12.15	£500
	Friends of Hartlepool Wild Green Spaces (Seaton Park Benches, Seats and Easter event)	25.01.16	£500
	Countryside Wardens (Seaton Beach Watch Event - Equipment, Litterpicks, Refreshments)	26.01.16	£200
	Hartlepool Chinese Association (2016 Chinese New Year Celebration)	27.01.16	£500
Councillor Paul Thompson	OFCA (Summer Youth Activities)	20.07.15	£300
	Hartlepool Allotment Show 2015	24.07.15	£25
	2 Picnic Benches for Seaton Park	21.07.15	£1,000
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (Technology Trainer)	07.09.15	£500
	Hartlepool Pastors (Running Costs)	12.09.15	£500
	Holy Trinity Primary School (Books)	04.10.15	£1,000
	Hartlepool Attachment Parenting Group (Play Equipment)	14.01.16	£300
	Friends of Hartlepool Wild Green Spaces (Seaton Park Benches, Seats and Easter event)	25.01.16	£475
	Hartlepool Seals Baseball Team	03.02.16	£400
	Hartlepool Families First (Health Bus Replacement)	14.07.15	£1,000
Councillor Kelly Atkinson	OFCA (Summer Youth Activities)	20.07.15	£300
	2 Picnic Benches for Seaton Park	21.07.15	£260
	Hartlepool Blind Welfare (Technology Trainer)	07.09.15	£400
	Hartlepool Pastors (Running Costs)	12.09.15	£250
	Hartlepool Ladies Choir (Choral Spectacular in the Royal Albert Hall)	22.09.15	£250
	Teesmouth Field Centre (Habitats in Focus in Hartlepool Project)	09.11.15	£302
	Holy Trinity School (In/outdoor Play Equipment)	15.12.15	£750
	Friends of Hartlepool Wild Green Spaces (Seaton Park Benches, Seats and Easter event)	25.01.16	£588
	NE Tang Soo Do Academy (Free Female Self Defence Course)	25.01.16	£400

* £500 contribution that was awarded to Hartlepool Heat Basketball Club has been released back into Councillor Fleet's budget.

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	£2,893	£1,607
Councillor Sheila Griffin	-	£4,500	£2,893	£1,607
Councillor Steven Thomas	-	£4,500	£2,893	£1,607
Hart				
Councillor Paul Beck	-	£4,500	£4,500	£0
Councillor David Riddle	£400	£4,500	£4,400	£500
Councillor Jean Robinson	£48	£4,500	£4,500	£48
Headland and Harbour				
Councillor Jim Ainslie	-	£4,500	£3,453	£1,047
Councillor Peter Jackson	-	£4,500	£4,033	£467
Councillor Sylvia Tempest	-	£4,500	£3,454	£1,046
Jesmond				
Councillor Sandra Belcher	£680	£4,500	£2,220	£2,960
Councillor Mary Fleet	£580	£4,500	£4,125*	£955*
Councillor George Springer	£230	£4,500	£1,970	£2,760
Seaton				
Councillor Thomas Hind	£66	£4,500	£3,000	£1,566
Councillor Paul Thompson	-	£4,500	£4,500	£0
Councillor Kelly Atkinson	-	£4,500	£4,500	£0
TOTAL	£2,004	£67,500	£53,334	£16,170

* £500 contribution that was awarded to Hartlepool Heat Basketball Club has been released back into Councillor Fleet's budget.