

HARTLEPOOL BOARD

AGENDA

Thursday 4 June 2026, 2:30pm to 4:00pm

National Museum of the Royal Navy
Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool, TS24 0XZ

Agenda Item		Lead	Item Decision
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interest		
3.	Minutes and Actions from the Last Meeting		
Strategic Matters			
4.	Embedding Asset Based Community Development: Role of the Hartlepool Board <i>(Board Development)</i>	Cormac Russell	For Discussion
5.	Introduction to John Armitage Charitable Trust <i>(Presentation)</i>	Angela Kail	For Discussion
Pride in Place Matters			
6.	Programme Update, by exception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dashboard <i>(Verbal Update)</i> • Risk Register <i>(Verbal Update)</i> • Budget Update <i>(Verbal Update)</i> • Update from HOP <i>(Verbal Update)</i> 	Scott Campbell & Iain Caldwell	For Information
7.	Review of Proposed Strategic Investment Objectives and Priorities <i>(Document Attached)</i>	Scott Campbell	For Discussion
8.	Any Other Business	All	None

Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Friday 3 July 2026, 9:00am to 10:30am, Belle Vue Community Centre

Agenda Item 7

Hartlepool Investment Prospectus Proposed Strategic Investment Objectives

Purpose

This document sets out the proposed Strategic Investment Objectives for the Pride in Place Programme, alongside the key investment priorities, cross-cutting enablers and an accompanying draft decision-making process (Appendix 1) that will guide the delivery and allocation of investment within Hartlepool.

This will form part of the Investment Prospectus, which will provide a clear, community-led framework to:

- Translate the long-term vision of the Regeneration Plan into deliverable investment priorities for the start of the programme
- Guide investment decisions through transparent open calls for proposals, enabling communities to put forward projects aligned to local priorities
- Attract and align additional public, private and philanthropic investment and resources into Hartlepool

Together, the Strategic Investment Objectives and Key Enablers ensure that all investment is evidence-based, targeted and delivered through an open, community-led process, capable of delivering meaningful and visible change across Hartlepool.

Our Story So Far

The development of the Investment Objectives has been shaped by a robust, evidence-based and community-driven process, led by the Hartlepool Board and underpinned by the 10-year Pride in Place Regeneration Plan (2026–2036).

This has included extensive engagement with local residents, stakeholders and partners, including direct conversations with over 1,400 residents across all twelve wards, ensuring the priorities reflect the lived experiences, needs and aspirations of local people. Building on this strong evidence base, a series of Innovation Days were held in March 2026, bringing together over 140 community representatives, residents, businesses and stakeholders to translate these priorities into deliverable ideas and interventions for the programme. These workshops enabled the community to co-design solutions, identify opportunities and shape proposals aligned with the priority themes for Hartlepool.

This represents the next stage in this process, translating the long-term vision of the Regeneration Plan into clear and deliverable priorities for the initial phase of the Pride in Place Programme.

Strategic Investment Objective 1 – Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Aim:

Enable communities to have spaces where they can connect, participate and access the support, services, and opportunities they need within their neighbourhoods, while taking control of and transforming underutilised buildings, land, and assets.

Evidence:

- Strong community demand for hubs, local facilities, and multi-use spaces particularly within Mission Critical Neighbourhoods
- Clear opportunity to repurpose vacant shops, heritage buildings, and assets for community use, including business, creativity, and health
- Cohesion ranked as the joint-second priority theme by residents and stakeholders within Hartlepool
- Aligns with the Regeneration Plan and supports the transition towards community-led delivery by 2028/29

Investment Priorities:

- Creation or enhancement of neighbourhood hubs, providing spaces designed to accommodate co-located services such as Safety, Health, and Housing
- Repurposing vacant or underutilised buildings and spaces into community-owned or managed assets for community use
- Investment in community assets, including asset transfer and refurbishment to enable long-term local stewardship of publicly owned buildings

What Success Looks Like:

- Increased number of vacant/underused assets brought back into active community use within Hartlepool
- More residents able to access local, preventative support and services within 1 mile of their home across the Borough
- Growth in community ownership, management, and governance of local spaces and assets across Hartlepool

Strategic Investment Objective 2 – Greener, Healthier and Connected Places

Aim:

Transform and activate local spaces to create greener, more welcoming neighbourhoods whilst improving how people experience places, supporting everyday wellbeing, social connection, and active movement.

Evidence:

- Strong community support for enhancing green spaces, parks, and beaches to improve physical activity levels and wellbeing
- Demand for better access to sports facilities to improve physical activity and reduce health inequalities within Hartlepool
- Evidence highlights unequal access to green spaces within some communities particularly Mission Critical Neighbourhoods
- Aligns with the vision of the Regeneration Plan to create vibrant, connected neighbourhoods that people use and take pride in across Hartlepool

Investment Priorities:

- Activation of outdoor spaces, including parks, beaches, and neighbourhood spaces, to increase everyday use and support physical activity and movement
- Enhancement of green spaces, including parks, play areas, planting, trees, and community growing spaces

- Investment in grassroots sports, including infrastructure improvements to community sports facilities and spaces to increase participation and movement

What Success Looks Like:

- Increased use and community activity within parks, green spaces, and neighbourhoods across Hartlepool
- Stronger sense of community pride, ownership, and the use of local spaces within the Borough
- More residents regularly participating in locally accessible sport, physical activity, and movement across Hartlepool

Strategic Investment Objective 3 – Safer and Stronger Neighbourhoods

Aim:

Improve safety and perceptions of safety by investing in environmental, design-led and community-based interventions that reduce crime, tackle antisocial behaviour, and create safe, welcoming neighbourhoods across Hartlepool.

Evidence:

- Safety and security is the top overall priority for residents, with significant concerns around crime and antisocial behaviour
- A large proportion of residents do not consistently feel safe, particularly in certain neighbourhoods and during evenings
- Community feedback highlights the need for safe public spaces and more positive opportunities for young people, to reduce antisocial behaviour
- Evidence shows that well-designed, well-maintained environments play a key role in reducing crime and improving confidence

Investment Priorities:

- Improvements to enhance safety and security, including design-led interventions, public realm and wayfinding to ensure spaces are welcoming throughout the day
- Targeted improvements to crime hotspots and high-risk locations, including bringing neglected spaces back into safe and positive use
- Investment in youth and diversionary activity to provide positive opportunities for young people and support the use of local community spaces

What Success Looks Like:

- Improved perceptions of safety and reduced impact of crime and anti-social behaviour across priority neighbourhoods within Hartlepool
- Safer and more usable public spaces and routes, with increased positive use of spaces by young people and the wider community
- More residents feeling proud and confident to use spaces, connect socially, and actively participate in community life across Hartlepool

Strategic Investment Objective 4 – Vibrant High Streets and Creative Places

Aim:

Revitalise high streets and neighbourhood centres by repurposing underused spaces, supporting local enterprise, and embedding creativity, culture, and heritage to create vibrant, distinctive places where people want to visit and spend time.

Evidence:

- Strong community demand to regenerate the town centre, reduce vacancy rates and introduce more independent businesses
- Clear support for repurposing vacant shops and buildings for community, creative, and enterprise uses
- Appetite for celebrating heritage, culture and local identity through public spaces, events, and activities
- The Regeneration Plan identifies high streets as central to civic pride, economic vitality, and place identity for the Borough

Investment Priorities:

- Repurposing of vacant or underused heritage and high street assets for wider use, including the creation of short-term 'meanwhile' spaces within high streets
- Development of creative zones and more flexible spaces for artists, makers, and local entrepreneurs
- Investment in public realm and place activation, including infrastructure to support events, markets and pop-up activity across high streets and the town centre

What Success Looks Like:

- Reduction in high street vacancy rates and growth of independent, creative, and community-led businesses within Hartlepool
- Increased footfall and time spent within the town centre and neighbourhood shopping parades across the Borough
- Stronger local identity and pride, with vibrant, functioning high streets and visible celebration of the heritage and culture in Hartlepool

Strategic Investment Objective 5 – Foundations for Future Investment within Housing and Education & Opportunity

Aim:

Develop the evidence base required to inform and shape future investment within the foundational themes of Housing and Education & Opportunity, through the delivery of feasibility studies, appraisals and early-stage project development.

Evidence:

- The Regeneration Plan identifies Housing and Education & Opportunity as cross-cutting and foundational themes that are critical to Hartlepool
- Persistent challenges with empty properties, improving opportunity, housing quality, and reducing inequality, particularly in Mission Critical Neighbourhoods
- Community engagement highlights demand for improved housing, more opportunities for young people, more coordinated action to reduce poverty
- A strong evidence base is required to support strategic decision-making, identification of future objectives and securing external investment

Investment Priorities:

- Investment in feasibility studies and options appraisals to bringing empty properties and underused housing stock back into use
- Development of affordable and community-led housing proposals, including delivery models and partnership opportunities

- Investment in feasibility studies to reduce poverty and improve financial resilience, including neighbourhood-based models of support
- Development of place-based pilots to test integrated approaches that can inform future investment across Hartlepool
- Investment in feasibility studies to improve opportunities for young people, including the identification and development of local provision and facilities

What Success Looks Like:

- Development of a robust evidence base to inform future investment priorities across Housing and Education & Opportunity
- Completion of feasibility studies, options appraisals and outline business cases to support future investment decisions for the Board
- Increased opportunity to secure additional external funding and align wider investment into Hartlepool

Key Enablers

In addition to the Strategic Investment Objectives, the following cross-cutting enablers will underpin all investments, ensuring a coordinated approach that maximises impact and delivers long-term benefits for communities across Hartlepool.

- **Community Power and Participation:**
Local communities and the VCSE sector will play a central role in shaping and delivering projects. Investment will support:
 - Ongoing community participation and co-design
 - Strengthening the capacity and sustainability of VCSE organisations
 - Enabling communities to lead and deliver local interventions across Hartlepool
- **Communication and Engagement:**
A coordinated communications and engagement approach will ensure residents and stakeholders are informed, involved and participate. Investment will support:
 - Clear communication of opportunities, activities, services and outcomes
 - Ongoing engagement and feedback mechanisms, via Neighbourhood Forums
 - Visible promotion of projects and successes to build trust and pride
- **Place Branding and Identity:**
A strong and consistent approach to place branding will help reinforce local identity and promote investment opportunities. Investment will support:
 - Development of a clear and positive place brand and narrative for Hartlepool
 - Projects that enhance local identity, heritage, and character
 - Alignment of the place brand across partners, stakeholders, and businesses
- **Social Value and Community Wealth Building:**
Investment will maximise social value and support a community wealth building approach, ensuring that benefits are retained locally. Investment will support:
 - Growth of local businesses, social enterprises, and VCSE organisations
 - Use of local supply chains to create jobs and opportunities
 - Delivery of social value through project design, procurement, and delivery

- **Targeting Areas Greatest Need:**

Investment will be targeted towards the greatest need, ensuring resources are directed where they can deliver the most impact. Investment will support:

- Prioritisation of areas facing the greatest socio-economic challenges
- Alignment of funding to locations where it can deliver the greatest impact
- Support for communities who face the greatest barriers to opportunity

- **Leveraging Investment:**

Pride in Place funding will act as a catalyst to attract additional public, private and philanthropic investment into Hartlepool. Investment will support:

- Alignment with existing programmes and wider regeneration activity
- Working with partners or businesses to secure resources and match funding
- Development of investable propositions aligned to the Regeneration Plan

Appendix 1 – Draft Decision-Making Process

