

Hartlepool Town Deal Board

Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 10 am – 12 noon

Microsoft Teams

These minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Board meeting and are therefore subject to amendments

PRESENT:

Name	Organisation / Representing
Darren Hankey (DH)	Chair – Hartlepool College of Further Education (HCFE)
Maxine Craig (MC)	Vice Chair - Independent
Jonathan Brash (JB)	Member of Parliament
Elizabeth Hutchinson (EH)	Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA)
Martin Raby (MR)	Northern School of Art
Mike Young (MY)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)
Vikkie Morton	Education Partnership North East (EPNE)
Sarah Ainslie (SA)	Seymour Civil Engineering
Paul Taylor (PT)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)
Lawrence Kerrigan (LK)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)
Lesley Grant (LG)	Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC)

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
1.	<u>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (CHAIR)</u> The Chair, DH, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. A particular welcome was extended to Mike Young (MY) as new Deputy Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council and to Vikkie Morton (VM) representing Hartlepool 6th Form College.	
2.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies for absence received from: Matt Wilton (MW) Gary Wright (GW) Adam Hearld (AH) Connor Kerr (CK) <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> No new declarations of interest were raised.	
3.	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – March 4th 2026</u> No matters of accuracy were raised Action Log assessed and outstanding actions recorded as follows: KPIs (Health & Social Care Academy) Data update still outstanding. <i>Action to be carried forward.</i> Steering Group Volunteers	GW

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
	- Re-imagining Middleton Grange, Redevelopment of Binns project, steering group volunteer members - No volunteers received to date as the steering group dates have not yet been confirmed. <i>Action updated and carried forward.</i> Risk Register - Updated. Annual review group to be convened. <i>Action to be carried forward</i> TERMS OF REFERENCE - Revised Terms of Reference were circulated, including updates to reporting requirements referencing the LRF and amendments to membership. <i>An updated version will be reissued to include VM on the membership list.</i>	PT PT PT
4.	<u>HARTLEPOOL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HDC)</u> EH advised that a Board meeting is scheduled for next week. PT will be kept informed of any updates. JB suggested that the Chair of the Hartlepool Development Corporation, Pamela Hargreaves, be invited to attend future meetings to provide an update to the Board. <i>The Chair was supportive of the suggestion and confirmed that an invitation be issued following the outcome of the next HDC Board meeting.</i>	PT
5.	<u>PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING</u> <u>Wesley Chapel (Jomast)</u> Slides were shared and PT gave a verbal update and reported recent progress: - External works progressing well and nearing completion including new paving and historic Victorian lamp fully restored - External plant installed and successfully commissioned - Circulation routes close to completion and bedroom finishes and fitted furniture now complete - Substation energisation expected by 19 June PT advised that the website is in development and the operator model is in development. The Vice Chair reiterated this excellent project, highlighting the strong sense of support for it within the town. A query was raised regarding whether the name has been formally confirmed and if it will continue to be known as "The Wesley." PT advised that this remains the current understanding, although no official announcement has yet been made. JB questioned the level of influence available to shape outcomes, particularly in ensuring effective marketing of the venue alongside other town assets. JB emphasised the need for better coordination in the town to promote local hospitality business to maximise impact and avoid loss of potential economic activity. PT responded that there is currently limited direct influence, as funding provided was focused on the capital restoration of the asset rather than operational matters. PT	

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	highlighted positive engagement with key stakeholders in the town, including operators linked to the Grand Hotel, who have benefitted from activity associated with The Northern Studios. PT has been acting as a conduit where issues arise and stressed the importance of closer alignment with private hospitality and the Council's Inclusive Growth team. PT also noted a new appointment (Javed Khan Assistant Director – Inclusive Growth) at HBC and intends to strengthen coordination. JB welcomed this, identifying improved collaboration with the private hospitality sector as a key priority. The Vice Chair raised the need to better link information across the town, noting confusion around which website, if any, provides a central source of information supported by HBC, for example when searching for local hotels. <i>PT acknowledged this needs to be addressed and agreed to pick this up with Javed Khan.</i> EH highlighted the links that TVCA has with the hospitality and tourism sectors and will introduce colleagues to PT to help strengthen collaboration and support a more coordinated approach to encouraging visitors to stay in the area. VM highlighted the need to consider opportunities for young people within the town, particularly those not in education, employment or training (NEET) and asked the Board to consider what actions could be taken, either by the Board or the Council, to help influence and create more job and skills opportunities linked to the project. <u>Civil Engineering Skills Academy (Seymour)</u> Slides were shared and SA provided a verbal update of the following: Skills Academy – Brenda Road • TVCA Adult Skills Funding: Three-year funding framework now in place, providing greater financial stability. • Construction Capital Funds (TVCA): TVCA Board approved £134k, match funded by Hartlepool College, to deliver a £250k capital project at the Brenda Road Skills Academy. The scheme will create additional learning space, welfare facilities, and classrooms to meet growing demand • Local Council Road Improvement Group (LCRIG) NE Skills Hub: Ongoing collaboration between HBC, Hartlepool College, and Seymour is exploring ways to address skills gaps in highways. • NEIoT Skills/Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA): The Groundworker Skills Bootcamp, delivered in partnership with CECA, continues to demonstrate positive outcomes. Employers including Esh Group have recruited participants (including three from Hartlepool) a video was presented to the Board. Exeter Street – Centre of Excellence • Fabrication and Welding Advisory Activity: Hosting the Fabrication and Welding Industry Advisory Board in May. • The Welding Institute Engagement: Senior representatives from The Welding Institute visited the Centre of Excellence in April. • Student Achievement: A Hartlepool College HNC Fabrication and Welding student was awarded "Student of the Year" at The Welding Institute Teesside Branch Awards.	PT

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	• Stakeholder Visits: The Centre of Excellence hosted a visit from the Hartlepool MP and the Chair of Hartlepool Development Corporation in March, showcasing facilities and provision. Feedback from attendees was highly positive. Outputs: Oct 23 – Mar 26 • 2,070 additional learners enrolled • 1,935 achievements Funding Summary: • All Grant monies have been claimed • The contingency request is still pending <u>Health & Social Care Academy (HSCA)</u> The slides were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. The board noted that detailed KPI performance data remained outstanding. Members agreed that monitoring data must be presented at next Board, to demonstrate impact through job outcomes, inspiration metrics, and quantifiable data on Hartlepool and Tees Valley residents' engagement. PT will pick up with GW. <u>Reimagining Middleton Grange (HBC)</u> Slides were shared and PT gave a verbal update Progress update • Ongoing legal processes between HBC and HDC regarding freehold title of Binns Building, and variation of long-term leasehold of demolition footprint. • Continued liaison with MGSC (Black Cat) Asset Managers. • Subsidy Control review undertaken, development Management specification and pre-start survey information have been completed. • Progress on appointments (Development Manager, RIBA Stage 3 architect, and wider team) remain in progress. Next steps • Progress formal appointments for the Development Manager, architect, structural and civil engineering teams. • Agree the high level transfer footprint alongside a more detailed demolition footprint. • PT highlighted the need for a focused Steering Group operating beneath the Board, structured around key workstreams including the capital construction programme, asset management and its relationship to the wider shopping centre and operations, and the end user for the Binns Building. Ensuring alignment between these workstreams will be critical. • PT advised that arrangements will be put in place to establish the Steering Group within the next month and will scope its composition, ensuring representation from the Combined Authority, HBC, HDC, asset management, and a representative from this Board. JB emphasised the importance of this being progressed quickly and expressed an interest in joining the Steering Group as the Town Deal Board representative. <u>Waterfront Connectivity (HBC)</u>	

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	Slides were shared and LK gave a verbal update: Recent Progress • The Wayfinding Strategy, including totem pole/signage, is at RIBA Stage 4 and remains on track for completion. • Slipway floating pontoon designs have reached RIBA Stage 4. The walkway contract is in preparation, however, a final decision on the MMO application is currently pausing progress towards completion. • Ongoing discussions with Hartlepool Marina continue regarding the slipway proposals to ensure the project's benefits for waterfront leisure activities are maximised. • Phased public realm works are progressing across Maritime Avenue/Victoria Terrace, the Lanyard/Mecca Bingo route, and the cycleway/walkway to Highlight, with all works scheduled for completion by the end of August 2026. • The Connectivity Realm and Links phase is nearing completion. • The planning application for Museum Plaza has been validated and is progressing, subject to further legal review. Slipway update: Walcon Marine Ltd has completed the detailed design for the floating pontoons, connecting bridge and disabled access platform, with fabrication works now underway and on track for completion and installation by the end of August 2026. Museum Plaza update: The planning application was validated in February 2026, with notices issued and a determination expected in late July 2026. A preliminary ecological appraisal has been commissioned to meet planning requirements, and a revised design has improved accessibility while remaining deliverable within the £630k budget. An objection from the Environment Agency was resolved on 11 May 2026, however, work on site remains on hold pending final resolution of a further objection and ongoing legal review. Wayfinding update: Detailed designs for wayfinding signage and totem poles have reached RIBA Stage 4, with fabrication and installation scheduled for completion before mid-September 2026. There has been a slight delay to the totems pending agreement on the Screen Industries Production Village name, branding and creative direction, to avoid the need for post-installation changes. Next Steps: • Public realm improvements across Maritime Avenue/Victoria Terrace, the Lanyard/Mecca Bingo route, and the cycleway/walkway to the Highlight facility commenced in March 2026 and are scheduled for completion by 31 August 2026. • Fabrication of wayfinding totem poles and signage is currently underway, with project completion also planned for 31 August 2026. • Fabrication works for the Slipway project pontoons and connecting bridge are ongoing at RIBA Stage 4, with completion expected by 31 August 2026. • The planning application for Museum Plaza (HDC), submitted in January 2026, is progressing while an unexpected objection is being addressed. • Engagement with key stakeholders, including the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Hartlepool Marina Ltd, is ongoing, with decisions on the Slipway planning application and MMO licence still awaited.	

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	Progress continues on the Museum Plaza site, aligning this phase with the wider ambitions of the Waterfront Connectivity project. JB noted that the project had been difficult to fully visualise prior to works commencing, however, progress to date is very encouraging and the impact is already proving positive. JB highlighted that, while it is not a decision for this Board, he considers it important that the Production Village (PV) name includes “Hartlepool” to ensure a clear connection to the town. MR noted that decisions relating to the SIPV are progressed through a separate governance structure, namely the Screen Industries Production Village Board, which is the appropriate body to make a final decision. PT clarified that the SIPV, which includes both the Production Village elements funded through Local Regeneration Fund and the expansion of The Northern Studios funded through the Investment Zone, is a single project governed by the Production Village Board. At the most recent Board meeting, proposals for the name, branding and creative direction were considered with a name and route agreed, however these are now being revisited. The Board is expected to reconvene shortly to further review and agree the name.	
6.	<u>COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT</u> The Chair noted that further consideration is required in relation to communications and next steps. <i>It was agreed that CK would be tasked with taking this forward and developing a proposed approach.</i>	CK
7.	<u>MHCLG / Governance Update</u> PT thanked Jo Liddell (JL) for her work in preparing and submitting the annual report to MHCLG, which was submitted on 27 May and will be circulated following the meeting. He mentioned the introduction of new reporting requirements, moving from six monthly returns to a single annual submission that provides the evidence needed to release funding. Appreciation was also extended to project managers for their contributions to the report and demonstrating delivery and achieving key milestones. It was noted that no audits or deep-dive assessments are expected this year. In response to a query on feedback, <i>PT confirmed he would speak to Jonathan Gilroy (JG), an observer on the Board, and the reporting team to confirm whether any feedback is anticipated on the annual submission.</i>	PT
8.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CHAIR)</u> None	

NO	DETAIL	ACTION
	<u>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u> Wednesday 9 th September 2026 at 10am – 12 noon, on Teams	

Action/Decision Log				
Item	Description	A/D	Action/Decision	Owner
3.	ACTION LOG	A	Steering Group Volunteers Re-imagining Middleton Grange, Redevelopment of Binns project, steering group volunteer members – MC and JB have volunteered, the steering group dates are to be confirmed - <i>Action carried forward</i>	PT
3.	ACTION LOG	A	Risk Register Updated Annual review group to be convened - <i>Action carried forward</i>	PT
3.	TERMS OF REFERENCE	A	Revised Terms of Reference were circulated, including updates to reporting requirements referencing the Local Regeneration Fund (LRF) and amendments to membership. <i>An updated version will be reissued to include VM on the membership list.</i>	PT
4.	HARTLEPOOL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HDC)	A	JB suggested that the Chair of the Hartlepool Development Corporation, Pamela Hargreaves, be invited to attend future meetings to provide updates to the Board. <i>The Chair was supportive of the suggestion and confirmed that invitations be issued following the outcome of the next HDC Board meeting.</i>	PT
5.	PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING Wesley Chapel	A	The Vice Chair raised the need to better link information across the town, noting confusion around which website, if any, provides a central source of information supported by HBC, for example when searching for local hotels. <i>PT acknowledged this needs to be addressed and agreed to pick this up with Javed Khan.</i>	PT
5.	PROGRAMME UPDATE EXCEPTION REPORTING Health & Social Care Academy (HSCA)	A	<i>KPIs have been achieved early in the programme. GW will provide a comprehensive update at the next Board demonstrating impact through job outcomes, inspiration metrics, and quantifiable data on Hartlepool and Tees Valley residents engaging - Action carried forward</i>	GW
6.	COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT	A	The Chair noted that further consideration is required in relation to communications and next steps. <i>It was agreed that Connor would be tasked with taking this forward and developing a proposed approach.</i>	CK
7.	MHCLG / Governance Update	A	In response to a query on feedback, <i>PT confirmed he would speak to Jonathan Gilroy (JG), an observer on the Board, and the reporting team to confirm whether any feedback is anticipated.</i>	PT