

Hartlepool Board
Thursday 4 June 2026 at 2.30pm

Meeting Notes

Attendees – Board Members:

Iain Caldwell – Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership
Christiana Celestine – Hartlepool Diversity Network
Cllr Rob Darby – Chair of Housing, Growth & Communities Committee
Christine Eddowes – Faith Representative
Cllr Scott Gaiety – Parish Council Representative
Darren Hankey – Hartlepool College of Further Education
Pamela Hargreaves – Chair of Hartlepool Development Corporation
Cllr Graham Harrison – Leader of the Council
Haani Hasnain – Harmonised World
Oliver Huermann – Member of Youth Parliament (*Substitute*)
Carl Jorgeson – Hartlepool Sport
Tom Legg – Cleveland Police (*Substitute*)
Esther Mireku – NHS University Hospitals Tees
Martin Raby – Northern School of Art
Cllr Aaron Roy – Elected Member
Juli Simons – Hartlepool Community Trust
Malcolm Walker – Independent Chair
Matt Wilton – Hartlepool Borough Council

Other Attendees:

Tracy Bushnall – Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership
Scott Campbell – Hartlepool Borough Council
Rachael Garlick – Hartlepool Borough Council
Angela Kail – John Armitage Charitable Trust
Gemma Ptak – Hartlepool Borough Council
Cormac Russell – Nurture Development
Adrian Spurrell – Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership
Lisa West – Hartlepool Borough Council
Chris Woodcock – Hartlepool Borough Council

1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies Apologies were received from Neil Atkinson, Jonathan Brash MP, Oliver Dixon, Phil Douglas, Karen Hawkins, Sue Sharpe, Sean Smith, Matt Storey, Mark Tilling, Kathryn Whittle, and Helen Wilson. Esther Mireku attended as substitute for Neil Atkinson, Oliver Huermann as substitute for Oliver Dixon and Tom Legg as substitute for Helen Wilson. MW welcomed Councillors Rob Darby, Graham Harrison and Aaron Roy to their first meeting of the Hartlepool Board. He also thanked Councillors Brenda Harrison, and Karen Oliver, for their time on the Board.	
-----------	--	--

2.	Declarations of Interest CJ declared that Hartlepool Sport has a working relationship with John Armitage Trust in relation to Item 5.	
3.	Minutes and Actions from the Last Board Meeting The minutes from the previous Board meeting were accepted as an accurate representation of the meeting.	
4.	Embedding Asset Based Community Development: Role of the Hartlepool Board MW welcomed Cormac Russell to Hartlepool and thanked him for the extremely thought-proving workshop earlier in the day at HCFE. This was attended by community leaders, businesses, public sector bodies, elected members and wider stakeholders stimulating lots of positive conversation which leads into this agenda item. Cormac then facilitated a wide-ranging discussion around how we can embed Asset Based Community Development within Hartlepool, and the role of the Board. He highlighted the opportunity for this partnership to lead by example but stated the importance of knowing when to step back and create the opportunity for communities in Hartlepool. He shared insight of some innovative approaches using ABCD that have worked in other places nationally and internationally, which includes: • Neighbourhood Matching Fund in Seattle which was started by ordinary people coming together and wanting to improve their community. The scheme funds grassroots projects, but the model means that for every dollar investment by the government the community has to match it through local contributions such as volunteer time, donated materials, or cash. This allows residents to dictate the improvements they want to see, shifting power and fostering social capital. Over the last 20 years it has generated over \$72million of community match for Seattle. • Community Animators who utilise ABCD to shift the thinking from focusing on needs to focusing on strengths. They are place-based within neighbourhoods and foster relationships by connecting local people, skills, and resources. They act as catalysts of community life by getting things moving (rather than delivering services). There are lots of examples showing the positive impact of Community Animators such as in Bristol and Leeds.	

- Neighbourhood Pooled Budgets which are delivered using a permanent endowment through with a Community Foundation. The initial investment is topped up annually by agencies including police, health, businesses and government. The dividend of the investment is then distributed each year as a neighbourhood budget which benefits the local community. The fund is preserved for future generations as a long-term endowment and there are examples of this approach in Clagary and Ottawa.

Cormac stated that he was in a session a few months ago with Government on Pride in Place. They are looking for local areas to be innovative and accept that delivery will look different across the country. It needs to be focused on what works for local people and communities in Hartlepool.

GP announced that following the workshop earlier today and the discussions within this meeting, we have decided to defer the later agenda item on the Strategic Investment Objectives. This will give us an opportunity to review our proposed approach to take on board the insights and examples that have been shared by Cormac.

Cormac agreed that the best approach could be to take more time before deciding to invest in projects. MW agreed with the need to take thorough consideration around spending especially due to the long-term nature of Pride in Place.

CJ added that, with the Representation of the People Bill going through Parliament, there is a need to think about how we engage and involve young people. He highlighted the importance of the Advisory Groups.

JS discussed decision-making and trying to make the process as simple as possible for communities. GP responded that there needs to be a balance due to the requirements for public funds. To ensure the approach is right there may need to be some discussions with MHCLG.

CE commented that lots of people in the town are unaware of the Hartlepool Board, and there needs to be more awareness raising. TB commented that the Board meetings could also be held in more community venues, which would allow members to be more recognisable to the community.

HH commented that the Communications Subgroup is leading on the development of the place brand which will hopefully help raise awareness of the Board. In addition, over the next few months HOP will be having further conversations with communities across Hartlepool.

5.	Introduction to John Armitage Charitable Trust Angela Kail introduced herself and the John Armitage Charitable Trust. AK works as a Consultant, advising the Trust around expenditure. The Trust is a long-term funder and donates around £9 million a year. Around 20 years ago the Trust started funding Alice House Hospice, and they are one of the longest funders for the Hospice. She highlighted some of the key funding themes for the Trust: • Education • Arts & Heritage • Early Years • Youth Support • Former Offenders She stated that several year ago there was a desire to move funding out of London to a place that receives less philanthropic funding. Desk research identified several towns that could benefit from investment, but Hartlepool was ultimately chosen because it was where the Trust had given its first grant, and people in the town have always welcomed the investment. Angela stated that they see a town with great heritage, creative industries, natural beauty, and investment from Government. However, there are also inequalities linked to education, employment, health and poverty. The Trust is using its experience in the rest of the country to benefit people and communities in Hartlepool. Since 2024, the John Armitage Charitable Trust has provided circa £3.7 million of grant funding in Hartlepool. She highlighted their early years grant fund as an example, which is delivered through Hartlepool Sport. Angela commented that, if a business case doesn't quite fit in with funding from Pride in Place, then it could be that the Trust could help with funding it in Hartlepool. She also highlighted the Government's new Philanthropic Strategy which heavily references the Pride in Place Programme. Board Members thanked Angela and the John Armitage Charitable Trust for their ongoing investment into Hartlepool. JS added that there has been a recent change in guidance around the approach for charitable funding. This emphasises the need for long-term funding and links in well with the involvement of the John Armitage Charitable Trust.	
----	---	--

	MWi suggested that Angela Kail joins the Investment Subgroup. MW said that this would be a positive way forward and will support the vision for Hartlepool. ACTION: Angela Kail to be added to the invitation list for the Hartlepool Investment Subgroup.	
6.	Programme Update SC gave a progress update on Pride in Place. He shared a financial update including a breakdown of the spend to date for the capacity funding provided by Government. In relation to the delivery element of funding, he shared the funding profile for the first 4-year investment period. This totals £6.658 million incorporating both revenue and capital across the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2030. ACTION: SC to save a copy of the funding profile within the dedicated Google Drive. IC provided an update on HOP including a celebration event which took place earlier today for National Volunteer Week. He also highlighted some of the community conversations which will be taking place over the next few months across Hartlepool. HH queried if there was an ask from the Hartlepool Business Forum in relation to the community conversations, and the wider programme. PH suggested looking at it from a different perspective, that the Business Forum could be asked what they can contribute to the Pride in Place Programme.	
7.	Review of Proposed Strategic Investment Objectives and Priorities This report was deferred to a future meeting, given today's discussions at Board.	
8.	Any Other Business None.	
9.	Date and Time of Next Meeting The next meeting is on Friday 3 July 2026 from 9am to 10.30am, at Belle Vue Sports Community & Youth Centre.	