

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 12th October 2006

at 2.00 pm

**at The Baltic Suite, Hartlepool Maritime Experience, Marina Way
(entrance is through main Quay Reception)**

MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Belcher, Brash, Coward, Cranney, Hall, Hargreaves, Henery, Iseley, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, London, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Sutheran, Tumilty, R Waller and Worthy

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Ian Campbell, Evelyn Leck, Bob Farrow, Patrick 'Finnan', Alan Greenwell, Ted Jackson, Jean Kennedy, Alan Lloyd, Brian McBean

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Elected Resident Representatives

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

4. MINUTES

- (a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2006 (attached)
- (b) To receive the minutes of the Central Police and Community Safety Forum held on 7th September 2006 (to follow).

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Presentation – Building Schools for the Future – Public Consultation – Director of Children's Services
- 6.2 Community Strategy Review 2006 – John Potts, Principal Policy Officer

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION INFORMATION

- 7.1 Presentation – Alternative Weekly Collections – Director of Neighbourhood Services

8. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 Minor Works Proposals – Neighbourhood Manager

9. WARD ISSUES

10. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 30th November 2006 commencing at 10am – venue to be notified.

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

10th August, 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



WARDS

Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

PRESENT:

Chair:	Councillor Lilian Sutheran	- Rift House Ward
	Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Kevin Cranney	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Gordon Henery	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Pauline Laffey	- Park Ward
	Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	- Park Ward
	Councillor Victor Tumilty	- Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives: Ian Campbell, Alan Lloyd, Billy Lynch and Norma Morrish

Public: Mr & Mrs Baines, Mr Blackwood, Mr Bianco, Ms P Booth, Mr & Mrs Butcher, Mrs Cockrill, Mr Codling, Mr Cordiner, Mr Dareb, Mr & Mrs Douglas, Mr Elliott, Mr & Mrs Hewson, Mr Holroyd, Mr & Mrs Hopkinson, Mr & Mrs Kirkwood, Mr Larkin, Mrs Loynes, Miss Lumley, Mrs Mansfield, Mr Matthews, Mr McAndrew, Mr McBean, Mr & Mrs McKinnon, Mr Morfitt, Mr Morrish, Mr Roberts, Mr & Mrs Rochester, Mr Salisbury, Mrs Speleoto, Mrs Tarpey, Mr Thompson, Mrs Thoburn, Mr & Mrs Unwin, Mrs Walker, Mr Welch, Mr White and Mr & Mrs Wright

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager
Graham Jarritt, Borough Librarian
Karen Wilkinson, Sustainable Travel Policy Officer
Julia Pinchen, Business Liason Manager NDC Commercial Area
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Cath Purdy and Michelle Summersgill

Rix Regeneration Representative: Nigel Rix

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Belcher, Pam Hargreaves, Bill Iseley, Robbie Payne, Carl Richardson and Ray Waller and Resident Representatives James Atkinson, Dave Berry, Bob Farrow, Patrick Finnan, Clive Hall and Evelyn Leck.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2006 were confirmed subject to the following amendments

Page 2 – Murray Street build-outs – Resident Ray McAndrew advised that they were opposite Lowthian Road rather than on Lowthian Road. He also felt the final sentence was a contradiction as the work had not yet been completed.

Resident Sandra Wright had asked a question on alleygates at the last meeting but this was not recorded in the minutes. The Chair advised that she reiterate her query at this meeting.

Page 6 – Stranton – Resident Paul Nugent advised that he had been asking if the council had a heritage strategy for Burbank **and** the Town Wall, as two separate entities.

Matters arising:

The Town Care Manager updated the Forum on the following issues:

- Murray Street – scheme complete apart from landscaping at rear of car park
- Mountston Close alleygate – retained but unlocked – public meeting to be arranged

- Masfield Road alleyway being reverted back to garden – Safe in Tees Valley Project Manager funding Community Safety Scheme
- Burn Valley Park – dog foul bins and potholes – passed to Parks Department
- Burn Road – request for pedestrian crossing – included in Tesco's planning application
- Burn Valley Park – entrance gates to be fitted shortly
- Burn Valley – smelly drains – passed to highways, Northumbrian Water held site visit. Gulleys regularly attended and public protection for baiting.
- Stockton Road – dropped kerbs – Neighbourhood Services Officer to liaise with Resident Representative Evelyn Leck
- Belle Vue – received concentrated cleanse.
- Greta Avenue – incorrect location given at Forum, should have been Oakland – site inspected and remedial work sanctioned.
- Spring Garden Road alleygates – with RASWA Enforcement Officer
- Long Hill Industrial Estate – illegal fires. Meeting set up with Environment Agency, Police and Fire Brigade. Town Care Manager to set up Multi-agency meeting in September
- Oxford Street car parking request – scheme to be presented to the NDC Management Panel in September for consideration.

- Topcliffe Street – bags removed and area cleanse. Residents requested to ring 523333 in future.
- Hart Quarry dust problem – forwarded to public protection
- Park Drive – triangle open space – The Highways Division would repair, sharpen and replace any pin kerb edging which required treatment and tarmac the highway adjacent to the kerbside.
- Elwick Road – Pavement and Pedestrian Crossing – Estimated costs for a pavement on Elwick Road from Dunston Road down Ward Jackson approximately £85,000. Safer Routes to School had offered a donation of £15-20,000.
- Tunstall Court – entrance with new development – Planning permission granted for the entrance to the new development on Park Avenue.
- Ward Jackson Park – Security – Proposed changes to the mobile patrol vehicle. Brief trial taking place in the Park.
- Ward Jackson Park – toilets – consultation on all town public conveniences taking place throughout summer months prior to Cabinet decision in autumn. Recommendation that existing Park toilets be demolished and café facilities made available to the public during the Park opening hours.
- Serpentine Gardens/Knightsbridge Gardens walkway – officers investigating possibility of a

temporary closure at specific times.

- Mountston Close and Saddleston Close walkway – Public meeting regarding the above on 26th July 2006.

17. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cornwall Street traffic calming – Resident Ray McAndrew asked why there were seven speed humps on Cornwall Street but none on Blakelock Road. This seemed excessive. The Highway Services Manager advised that this had been decided upon following a safety study in the Oxford Road area.

Newburn Bridge car park – Resident Ray McAndrew reported that the rubbish bin was regularly being burnt out. Also speedster vehicles were churning up the grassed area. The Director of Neighbourhood Services noted these comments.

Refuse collection – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked why the refuse collectors would only take bins where the lids were completely flat and would not take extra black sacks away. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that this was for health and safety reasons. He drew attention to the additional recycling scheme currently underway in two wards.

First Steps Nursery closure – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd queried the reason for the proposed closure. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that this issue had been debated at Council and there had been unanimous agreement to an objection. As a result of this Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee would investigate the background to the closure and call witnesses to give evidence to them.

Councillors pay rise – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd criticised the recent 13% pay rise for councillors. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the rise had been agreed by an independent panel whose members had recommended that councillors pay be linked to the national minimum wage.

18. ODEON CINEMA FEASIBILITY STUDY

Nigel Rix, of Rix Regeneration, informed members of the options and feasibility study currently being undertaken on the former Odeon Cinema, Raby Road. Under the Employment Theme of the NDC programme a Commercial Areas and Key Buildings Strategy was prepared by consultants in 2004 whereby six key commercial buildings were identified as needing resources to help bring them back into use. The Former Odeon Cinema was one of these buildings. As a Grade II listed building it needed a more detailed appraisal because any adaptation or redevelopment would require the permission of English Heritage.

Details were given of the options and feasibility study to help determine a suitable sustainable future use for the building or alternatively the preparation of a comprehensive justification to allow the demolition of the property and redevelopment of the site. The study would be carried out by Rix Regeneration. So far there had been a number of consultations between various parties, a completed structural survey of the building and a Neighbourhood Information Event had taken place. The study was expected to be completed by the end of September 2006 and the Forum were asked to support it and give their views and comments.

Resident Mrs Thoburn asked if the owner was duty bound to keep the site in good repair. Mr Rix advised that Local Plan

authorisation was needed to make that happen. The Mayor had taken commendable action on this issue.

Resident Mr Dareb asked who would fund the redevelopment. Mr Rix said this depended on which agency was designated as the key developer and was a question for a few months time.

Resident Mr Dareb asked why there had been no proposal to replace the current site with a green area suitable as a playground for local children. The current building overlooked the immediate area and took the sunlight away whereas a playground would be better for the community as a whole. However Mr Rix felt it would be a challenge to get approval to demolish a listed building for a few feet of green space. The resident replied that the listed building decision had been taken years ago and may not be appropriate anymore. The Chair advised that the residents would be consulted before any decision was taken on future use.

The Chair thanked Mr Rix for the presentation and for answering questions.

19. ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN 2006/07

The Forum received a detailed report and a copy of the draft Annual Library Plan 2006/07. The Forum was advised that the Plan, as part of the Budget and Policy Framework of the Council, was required to allow examination of the service and its development. The four linked parts of the Plan and the Public Library Service Standards were described in detail and the Action Plan was appended to the Plan.

The Borough Librarian indicated that as part of the planning process, consultation with the public was required. This was taking place through contact with key stakeholders and library users.

The Forum was requested to consider whether current plan met the needs of the public and the requirements of the Corporate Plan and DCMS Framework

Because of time constraints at the forum the Borough Librarian asked that anyone wishing to comment or raise issues should contact him by telephone on 272905, by e-mail on graham.jarritt@hartlepool.gov.uk or by writing to him at The Central Library, York Road.

The Chair thanked the Borough Librarian for his report.

20. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The Town Care Manager presented a report detailing five schemes and a request that these be funded from the Minor Works Budget.

Scheme 1 – Hart Village beautification - **£120**

Scheme 2 – Dalton Village – coppice trees on Dene Bank - **£587**

Scheme 3 – York Road environmental improvements - **£3,000**

Scheme 4 – Pride in Hartlepool – various locations - **£5,000**

Scheme 5 – Burn Valley improvements - **£10,000**

Detailed information on the schemes was given in the report.

Decision - The Forum agreed that the above schemes, at a total cost of £18,707, be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

Councillor George Morris praised officers for the elevation of the kerbs on Park Drive. He then referred to plans for a

crossing from Elwick Road to Ward Jackson Park. Safer Routes to Schools had contributed to £20,000 to this and he requested that the forum match this under minor works. The Sustainable Travel Policy Officer advised that this contribution had not yet been approved. Councillor Kevin Cranney supported the proposal but thought it prudent to wait until the Safer Routes funds were allocated. The Chair suggested that the matter be brought back for consideration at the first meeting of 2007/08.

20. PRESENTATION ON HOUSING HARTLEPOOL – IMPROVING SERVICE UPDATE

The Chief Executive of Housing Hartlepool gave a presentation on recent improvements within the organisation. Their customers had been consulted on what they felt to be the strengths and weaknesses of Housing Hartlepool and as result of this alterations had been put in place. These included;

- The modernisation of the repairs service,
- Alternative rent payment methods,
- Specialist teams to deliver excellence,
- Better information via leaflets and the website and
- Better use of resources.

As part of this the Chief Executive explained that consultations would be undertaken on the future of five local offices, with only those based in Wynyard, West View and Greenbank safe from closure. In further downsizing measures the Housing Hartlepool board would be reduced from 15 members to 12. The following issues were then raised:

Inspection of properties – Resident Mr Matthews said he had been complaining about anti-social tenants for two years

and nothing had been done. The Chief Executive outlined the frequency of visits by Housing Hartlepool officers in the first year of tenancy. Breach of contract needed to be proven in a court of law and eviction was at the discretion of a judge. The system was not perfect but it was improving.

Closure of local offices – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd highlighted the distance between the West View and Green Bank offices, calling for something midway for the Dyke House residents. The Chief Executive advised that there were several rent payment outlets in the vicinity and a free phone line was available for any necessary repairs. Officers were also happy to come to people's homes if they required this.

Rift House flats – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked when these would be properly completed. They had been waiting for four years and there were mud holes outside. The Chief Executive advised that appraisals were currently taking place on some properties but could give no more information at the moment.

Resident Brian McBean commented that Resident Representatives had benefited greatly from training by the Resident Participation Team. The Chief Executive said she would pass on these comments.

Rift House – Councillor George Morris raised concerns about old people paying their rent if the Oxford Road office closed. The Chief Executive felt that this office had probably been quite a distance for them whereas there were four different payment outlets closer and with extended hours. The preferred option was direct debit and advice was help was available to those who needed it.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for the presentation and for answering questions.

21. TRAVEL TO SCHOOLS STRATEGY

The Sustainable Travel Officer gave a presentation on the Council's School Travel Strategy. A brief overview was given on the aims and objectives of School Travel Plans and Safer Routes to Schools Projects. Detailed information was then outlined on current initiatives being run across the town and particularly in the Central Neighbourhood schools. The following issues were then raised:

Safety – Councillor Gladys Worthy applauded the various initiatives but felt that people drove their children to school because they wanted them to be safe and lots of schools were not on a main bus route.

Catcote Road – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd detailed problems with school buses holding up traffic and drivers parking on yellow lines. This could lead to a fatal accident. The Chair advised that officers were aware of the problems on Catcote Road and would be working with Catcote and English Martyrs schools to alleviate it in the coming year.

Burbank – Resident Representative Noma Morrish advised that Burbank children had to cross two main roads to get a bus to English Martyrs. She asked for something to be done about this.

Councillor Frances London praised the initiatives as promoting the safety of the children and a healthier lifestyle.

The Chair thanked the Sustainable Travel Policy Officer for the presentation and for answering questions.

22. UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM'S CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN HARTLEPOOL

The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum gave a brief verbal report on the ongoing scrutiny investigation into the provision of public conveniences in Hartlepool. The Forum were advised on the role of scrutiny in the authority and the aims, objectives and timetable of this particular investigation. The following issues were then raised:

Councillor George Morris – the need for toilets in Ward Jackson Park. If the current facilities were closed customers would be at the mercy of the opening hours of the café. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum advised that if the current toilets were closed officers would negotiate later opening hours for the café facilities. As part of this consideration was being given to asking other businesses to allow public use of their facilities and possibly introducing a similar provision into all future planning applications.

Resident William Morrish – marina provision. The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum outlined several proposals, including improved signage and facilities at Navigation Point. There will necessarily be temporary provision of facilities for the 2010 Tall Ships but there was also a need for permanent facilities at that time. It was hoped that this could be done through prudential borrowing which would enable the work to be done on a rolling basis.

The Chair thanked the Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum for the presentation and for answering questions.

24. WARD ISSUES

Burn Valley

No items

Elwick

Trees in Dene Garth, Dalton – Resident Ms Booth requested that action be taken on the trees on the corner of Manor Field as the branches kept coming down. They were not subject to a Tree Preservation Order and the residents were happy to pay to resolve the problem. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that tree surveys were being carried out across the town and it was the council's responsibility to take action on any dangerous trees immediately.

Dog foul bins – Resident Miss Booth asked that these be emptied.

Beautification – Resident Miss Booth asked that the village be provided with flower tubs. The Director of Neighbourhood Services suggested that the Parish Council apply for minor works or Pride in Hartlepool funding.

Foggy Furze

Stockton Road – Councillor Kevin Cranney said that an elderly couple had been advised as to the wrong date for the collection of their blue recycling box.

Oxford Road – Councillor Kevin Cranney reported that an application to convert a shop into a takeaway had been turned down. This was an example of people power at its best.

Grange

Anti-social behaviour – Councillor Victor Tumilty advised that there had been a litany of anti-social behaviour in

Collingwood Road, including damage to homes and cars and fighting at weekends. Cars had been speeding up Angus Street, often by drunk drivers. There had been a stabbings in Hart Lane and Murray Street and a heroin haul in Rodney Street. The Chair voiced her confidence that the police would continue to monitor the situation.

Park

Hart Lane/Dunston Road- Councillor Pauline Laffey asked if funding could be provided for the planting of bushes along the strip of land at the top of Hart Lane opposite Aldi. This was being used as a gathering point for youths who were bothering the residents. They were using the bushes as camouflage to throw missiles onto the cars travelling down Hart Lane. The Director of Neighbourhood Service felt this was a police matter. He agreed to bring back a cost estimate for the work to a future meeting, however he felt this could be an expensive folly as it would be something else for them to hide behind.

Mountston Close alleygates – Resident Mr Kirkwood, of Saddleston Close, voiced his strong opposition to the alleygates in Mountston Close, saying they had led to an increase of vandalism in Saddleston Close while leaving Mountston Close unscathed. His thoughts were echoed by a number of residents in Saddleston Close and the surrounding streets. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that the matter would be decided by the Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder at his meeting on 15th August. Everyone affected had been consulted and there had been a 50/50 split between those who wanted the alleygates to remain and those who did not. Anyone interested was encouraged to attend the Portfolio meeting

Resident Mr Thompson, of Mountston Close, offered to join forces with Saddleston Close to alleviate their problems while resident Mr Roberts said he hoped the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Victor Tumilty, would bear his earlier comments on anti-social behaviour in the Grange Ward in mind when reaching a decision on this matter

Tree preservation order from Worsett Lane to Elwick Road – Various residents from the immediate area spoke against the application for a Tree Preservation Order which was due for consideration by Planning Committee. Comments made included that the trees would block out light for residents and would escalate the existing anti-social behaviour problem in the area. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that he was unaware of the issues being discussed but would arrange a meeting between the senior officers concerned and residents to clarify.

Ward Jackson Park – Councillor George Morris requested that the rubbish bins be emptied on Saturdays.

Budget presentation – Councillor George Morris advised that Resident Representative Ian Campbell had requested that a presentation on the budget be included on the agenda for the November Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meeting. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that this was already being actioned.

Rift House

Garrick Grove / Orwell Flats – Resident Mr Matthews reported that there were currently 15 parking spaces for 28 houses. Residents were only able to park on one side of the Grove as otherwise it was blocked off. The Highway Services Manager agreed this was a problem but

there were similar problems in all neighbourhoods and funding was an issue. It needed to be looked at in a logical order across the town on a rolling programme basis. Councillor Gladys Worthy felt that the increase in car ownership had not been anticipated when the flats were built.

Lindisfarne home – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked for action to be taken on the scattering of rubbish from the recycling bins. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that these were inspected daily.

Parking – Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked if action could be taken against drivers of pick-up trucks and wagons taking up space on the roads. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that HGVs had to park in a certified site overnight but smaller vehicles were not covered by such restrictions. A residents only parking scheme could be applied but the vehicle could be owned by a resident.

Resident Mr Matthews asked if something could be done about a truck parked up on a grass verge outside his home for two weeks with no tax. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that vehicles with no tax were removed and asked for details of the truck in question.

Stranton

Crown House – Resident Representative Norma Morrish asked if the work at Crown House would go ahead immediately. She also drew attention to problems with people parking on the grass in the vicinity. The Director of Neighbourhood Services expressed hope that the work would go ahead straightaway and advised that yellow lines were currently being arranged.

Jomast – Resident Representative Norma Morrish asked if anything could be done about this issue. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that he would check.

Aldi Stores – Resident Representative Norma Morrish asked if there had been any decision on this issue. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that he was unaware of any decision but would let Mrs Morrish know for certain.

The Chair reminded those present of the Resident Representative elections for the Central area on Thursday 28th September at 6pm at the Central Library Community Room, York Road. Nomination forms had been circulated prior to the meeting.

<h3>25. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</h3>
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The next Central Area Police and Community Safety Forum would be held on Thursday 7th September in Committee Room B, Civic Centre at 10am.

Resident Representative Elections for the Central Area will be held on Thursday 28th September at the Central Library Community Room, York Road at 6pm.

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIRMAN

Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Forum on progress in preparing a revised Community Strategy for Hartlepool and to seek feedback on the 1st consultation draft, *Hartlepool's Ambition* (Appendix 1).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 places on principal Local Authorities a duty to prepare Community Strategies for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK.
- 2.2 Government guidance issued in December 2000 stated that Community Strategies should meet four objectives. They must:
- Allow local communities (based upon geography and/or interest) to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities;
 - Co-ordinate the actions of the Council, and of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally;
 - Focus and shape existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs and aspirations; and
 - Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely, with local goals and priorities relating, where appropriate, to regional, national and even global aims.
- 2.3 It also stated that a Community Strategy must have four key components:
- A long-term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes that are to be achieved;
 - An action plan identifying shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes;
 - A shared commitment to implement the action plan and proposals for doing so;
 - Arrangements for monitoring the implementation plan, for periodically reviewing the Community Strategy and for reporting progress to local communities.
- 2.4 The Hartlepool Partnership, and the Council agreed a draft Community Strategy in April 2001 and adopted a final version in April 2002. Hartlepool's Community Strategy set out a timetable for review in five years.

- 2.5 In line with this agreement, the Community Strategy Review 2006 was launched on 5th May 2006 and a new Community Strategy will be in place in April 2007.

3. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON REVISED GUIDANCE 2005

- 3.1 In December 2005 Government launched a consultation paper on the role of Local Strategic Partnerships and Sustainable Community Strategies. In it the Government set out its commitment to reshaping Community Strategies as Sustainable Community Strategies. This builds on recommendations from the Egan Review – Skills for Sustainable Communities, ODPM, 2004 to re-emphasise the need for local leaders to take a more cross-disciplinary and integrated approach to social, economic and environmental issues. The paper establishes the components of a Sustainable Community Strategy as:

- Active, inclusive and safe
- Well-run
- Environmentally sensitive
- Well designed and built
- Well connected
- Thriving
- Well served and
- Fair for everyone

- 3.2 Following the central government reorganisation in May 2006 and the creation of the Department for Communities and Local Government the timetable for publication of the response to the consultation exercise is unclear. It is anticipated that further policy guidance on Community Strategies will be published alongside the Local Government white paper scheduled for Autumn 2006.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

- 4.1 Although the current Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is part of the Community Strategy it is published as a separate 70 page document. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy sets out the intention to prepare Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) in the Borough's priority Neighbourhoods and provides a policy framework for this development.
- 4.2 As these NAPs are now in place they provide a more detailed policy framework for improvements in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods than was available in 2002. As a result the first consultation draft includes Neighbourhood Renewal objectives alongside Community Strategy objectives in one document.
- 4.3 The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy also sets out the boundaries of the disadvantaged neighbourhoods – and these have been reconsidered as part of the review. Neighbourhood Renewal is about narrowing the gap between

conditions in the disadvantaged communities and the rest of the town. It is therefore important that the Neighbourhood Renewal Area is kept as tightly defined as possible and is based upon the statistical level of disadvantage.

- 4.4 All Councillors were contacted and asked to highlight any areas that they thought may warrant inclusion within the revised Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The first consultation draft revises the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and includes the disadvantaged part of Throston ward. The rationale for this amendment was based on the fact that for three of the key indicators, employment, health and community safety, the area is within the 10% most deprived areas in the country (IMD2004). In addition, Bright Street and Wilson Street in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange NRS neighbourhood and the 'I' and 'M' Blocks in the Owton NRS neighbourhood have also been added into the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (Appendix 2).

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL AGENDA 21

- 5.1 Hartlepool Borough Council agreed its Local Sustainable Development Strategy in January 2001. The Strategy aimed to:

“achieve improvements in the quality of our lives without causing irreversible damage to the environment or preventing our children from being able to enjoy the benefits we have today”.

- 5.2 In 2005 the Government published *Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy*, updating the 1999 Strategy. The new Strategy outlines a pivotal role for local authorities and their partners, through Local Strategic Partnerships, in delivering sustainable communities. The Strategy states that:

Making the vision of sustainable communities a reality at the local level means sending the right signals to local Government about the importance of sustainable development, supporting strong local leadership and developing the right skills and knowledge. Government will work with its partners to develop toolkits and other materials to support Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in developing and delivering Sustainable Community Strategies which help deliver sustainable development in the UK.

- 5.3 In response to this guidance, the revised Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, incorporates a revised local Sustainable Development Strategy.

6. HARTLEPOOL'S AMBITION

- 6.1 The revised Community Strategy builds on the 2002 Strategy and sets out a revised policy framework for Hartlepool. Key revisions include:

- The Strategy now incorporates the previously separately published Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (2002) and the Sustainable Development Strategy (2001);

- Housing and Environment are established as Priority Aims in their own right and as a result the number of priority aims has increased from 7 to 8;
- Changes to the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy boundary, including the addition of the disadvantaged part of Throston ward as detailed in Appendix Map 1 attached;
- Following over 1100 responses to the consultation, and a series of Theme Partnership workshops, the vision has been revised along with many of the Priority Aims and Objectives.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Consultation on this first revision of the Community Strategy runs until the 17th November 2006. The consultation draft sets out a number of specific questions. These are repeated in paragraph 7.3. Forum members are requested to respond to them all, to some and not others, or to write about other issues that have not been covered. Responses to this consultation should be received by the Head of Community Strategy no later than 17th November 2006.
- 7.2 Further copies of the Strategy are available by telephoning 284147 alternatively, the consultation paper can be read online at: www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by following the Review 2006 link.
- 7.3 Consultation questions
1. Is the draft Strategy about right?
 2. What would you like to see changed?
 3. Does the Vision capture Hartlepool's ambition?
 4. Do you agree with the Priority Aims and related Objectives?
 5. Is there anything you would like to add to the Priority Aims?
 6. How could consultation on the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy be improved in future?
- 7.4 During the Consultation period, a number of appraisals of the draft Strategy will be carried out. These will highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and to remove or minimise any negative impacts. These include:
- The Integrated Regional Framework for the North East
 - Health Impact Assessment
 - Section 17
 - Rural Proofing
 - Diversity Impact Assessment
- More details on these individual assessments is contained in the Community Strategy.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forum are requested to:

- Note the publication of the 1st Consultation draft of the revised Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*;
- Highlight the review's progress at residents meetings and request that this information is cascaded to teams, sections and business units;
- Flag up potential consultation opportunities to the Community Strategy Team;
- Respond to the Consultation Questions set out in paragraph 7.1

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Hartlepool Community Strategy, Hartlepool Partnership, 2002

Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, Hartlepool Partnership, 2002

Hartlepool Local Sustainable Development Strategy, Hartlepool Borough Council 2000

Local Strategic Partnerships, Shaping their future, A Consultation Paper ODPM, 2005

Preparing Community Strategies, DETR, December 2000

Local Strategic Partnerships, DETR, March 2001

10. CONTACT OFFICER

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hartlepool**partnership**

Hartlepool's Ambition

Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

**1st Consultation Draft
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***review
2006***

Text extracts can be made available in Braille, talking tapes and large print, on request. If you would like information in another language or format, please ask us.

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.
(Arabic)

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।
(Bengali)

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(Kurdish)

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(Urdu)

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(Hindi)

Jeżeli chciałoby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie,
prosimy dać nam znać.
(Polish)

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。
(Cantonese)

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Foreword

Iain Wright MP. Chair of the Hartlepool Partnership



This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the founder of West Hartlepool, Ralph Ward Jackson. Ward Jackson had the ambition to create in the Victorian era a modern economic and commercial infrastructure; within twenty years the area of land between the Headland and Seaton Carew had been transformed from sand dunes to the fourth largest port in the country. Ambition had created wealth, prosperity and, from that, first-class public amenities.

In 2002 the Hartlepool Partnership drew up a Community Strategy for our town, following extensive consultation. This set out a vision that Hartlepool would be a prosperous, caring, confident and outward-looking community, in an attractive environment, in order to realise its potential. It also established seven priority aims to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the town.

The Community Strategy produced at that time has played a significant role in helping to improve Hartlepool. The Marina continues to prosper and be seen locally, regionally, nationally and internationally as a world-class facility. Educational achievement has been rising rapidly, so that children in Hartlepool for the first time exceed the national average in qualifications. More young people are going to university than ever before. Unemployment has fallen over the five years and more people are in work, helping to provide additional prosperity for themselves and their families.

But the town still faces real challenges, both locally and as part of the wider global economy. As a town the proportion of people who are older is getting larger, and this places added pressure on such services as the NHS, social care and housing. The number of people of working age is getting smaller, and those with the highest skills are leaving the town to take advantage of the opportunities available throughout the world. Life expectancy of people in Hartlepool, although improved in the last five years, remains markedly below the national average.

The pace of globalisation – the interconnectivity and free movement of trade, people, capital and information, will occur at a faster rate than ever before in the years to 2020.

Globalisation means those people with the highest skills will be wanted throughout the world and, given the improvements in technology and communication, can be located anywhere in the world.

The challenge for cities and regions in the next fifteen years will be to ensure that the infrastructure and environment of their particular area – their sense of place – are conducive to creating a modern, creative and innovative place to live, work and relax. As the global economy is forecast to grow by 80 per cent by 2020, the rewards for adapting to these changes will be large. The greatest benefits of globalisation will accrue to those cities, regions and countries that can access and adopt new technologies. The manner in which those technologies can be integrated and applied will be crucial to an area's prospects for prosperity.

I believe we can adapt Ward Jackson's vision and ambition to allow Hartlepool to prosper in the 21st century. My vision for the town is that Hartlepool by 2020 is seen throughout the world as a symbol for ambition, high skills and enterprise in a diverse range of industries, from modern manufacturing, to computer-design companies, to tourist attractions. By 2020, I want the life expectancy of Hartlepool's citizens to at least match the national average. And I want crime and anti-social behaviour, which blight the lives of decent residents, to be eliminated as much as possible.

The town's organisations can intervene and shape their plans to address the long-term challenges. But the vision for the town will be better and more informed with your involvement.

This is only a first draft of the Community Strategy; I thank all those who have contributed so far, and would like to see a further healthy and vigorous debate in the next few months as to what sort of town we would like Hartlepool to be in 2020. Hartlepool ambition allowed us to be world-class in the era of Ward Jackson – I believe we need to demonstrate this ambition again to develop, grow and prosper in the world of 2020.



August 2006

Preface

Mayor Stuart Drummond

Vice Chair of the Hartlepool Partnership



The first four years since I was elected as Mayor of Hartlepool in 2002 have passed quickly; it has been an exciting and challenging time. It was in April 2002 that the Hartlepool Partnership produced its first Community Strategy setting out a framework for innovation and improvement across the town.

Many of the Strategy's priority aims matched my concerns – the quality of the local environment, community safety and providing activities for young people. Taking on the role of Chair of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership meant I could take a hands-on role in driving forward these improvements.

Over the first phase of the Strategy's delivery there have been some impressive improvements. Since 2003/4 the number of burglaries has halved. In practical terms that means 654 fewer burglaries every year and very many families and vulnerable older people not suffering the effects of crime.

The quality of our local environment has also improved. Operation Clean Sweep has been the catalyst for dramatic improvements to the local environment and has given people a new sense of ownership of their local community.

The establishment of a Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership ensures that young people's voices will be heard in the preparation and delivery of services.

Four years on we have reviewed the Community Strategy and I'd like to thank all those who gave their time and effort to support the process. The new Strategy takes account of changes within Hartlepool and further afield. It is purposely not a detailed plan, but a renewed commitment for partnership working across Hartlepool at all levels. The Strategy builds on the practical achievements and lessons learned during the first years of implementation.

It also raises the bar. To make further improvement a large number of people need to support its delivery. Residents' Associations, community and voluntary groups as well as local businesses and large public organisations all need to work to influence the individual everyday choices we all make.

And we need to make the right choices to secure a future that is fairer for us all now and for future generations. I want Hartlepool to have a strong local economy. I want its residents to have decent homes in places with clean, safe public spaces, where people are able to lead healthy lives and enjoy their local environment.

Our task now is to deliver. The debate starts now. And I'd urge you to get involved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart Drummond". The signature is stylized and fluid.

August 2006

Introduction

Hartlepool's Ambition

2006 marks the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Ralph Ward Jackson. The founder of West Hartlepool lived in Greatham Village and was the man responsible for establishing the layout of the town and erecting the first public buildings. He improved education and welfare facilities for local residents and developed the town's railways and docks. In the early 1800s his vision and aspiration brought key individuals together to work in partnership to expand the town.

During 2006, the Hartlepool Partnership has worked to prepare this Community Strategy. The Partnership brings together all the town's partnerships delivering local services to improve the quality of life for people in Hartlepool.

Community Strategy 2006

This updated Community Strategy builds on the 2002 Strategy and provides a revised policy framework for Hartlepool. It describes a long-term vision – Hartlepool's ambition and aspirations for the future:

Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.

The Vision is further articulated through priority aims and associated objectives grouped into eight themes:

1. Jobs and the Economy
2. Lifelong Learning & Skills
3. Health & Care
4. Community Safety
5. Environment
6. Housing
7. Culture & Leisure
8. Strengthening Communities

Housing and Environment are established as Themes in their own right acknowledging the increased drive to bring about Housing Market Renewal and the importance residents place on the quality of their local environment.

In 2002 a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was published alongside the Community Strategy. This identified 7 priority neighbourhoods where regeneration activities would be targeted and mainstream resources directed to accelerate improvements in quality of life.

The 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy set out Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) to be developed for the 7 priority neighbourhoods. These NAPs are now in place and set out a detailed understanding of residents' priorities together with an analysis of current trends.

This updated Community Strategy incorporates and updates the 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

The Evidence Base

The Strategy is backed by rigorous evidence based analysis and underpinned by a rich understanding of local priorities and concerns. This clearly establishes key areas for improvement within the Jobs & the Economy, Community Safety and Health & Care Themes. Further information on the town's performance, and background reports can be found on the Hartlepool Partnership's website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

Hartlepool in Context

Hartlepool is located on the North East coast within the Tees Valley sub region. It is a compact town, which is linked to the rest of the region and country by road, rail and sea. The A19 passes through the western rural part of the Borough and the A1 (M) is close by. Trains travel along the east coast connecting Hartlepool to Newcastle, the rest of the Tees Valley, York and London. Hartlepool also has a significant port facility and a world-class marina.

Approximately 90,000 people live in the town of which 1.2% are from black and minority ethnic communities and almost a fifth are at or above retirement age. The town combines dense urban areas, an established marina and expanding suburbs with a number of distinct rural villages set in attractive countryside. It is a proud town steeped in history and maritime heritage and the people of the Borough have a strong sense of local identity.

A unitary local authority covers the town with a directly elected mayor and cabinet political structure. Other major service providers sharing the local authority boundary are the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, the Police Basic Command Unit, the Probation Service and the local Team of the Learning and Skills Council. There is a strong tradition of partnership working in the Borough more recently through the work of the Hartlepool Partnership, which brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

The Borough has seen a major transformation over the past 20 years through regeneration programmes and public and private sector investment. The town now has major visitor facilities, a revitalised town centre with a wide range of retail facilities, sites of international nature conservation importance and significant business and investment opportunities. Hartlepool has become a successful, modern town equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

The Hartlepool Community Strategy: The First Five Years

The first draft of Hartlepool's Community Strategy was produced in June 2001. Major changes have taken place over the last five years in terms of improvements to the town and to how the Hartlepool Partnership and its partners are structured to deliver the Hartlepool Community Strategy.

Five Years on – what has been achieved?

Since the first Community Strategy was produced there are fewer people unemployed – down from 6.9% in 2002 to 4.6% in 2006. The number of young people and long-term unemployed has also reduced.

The opening of Queens Meadow, Hartlepool's flagship Business Park, together with upgraded units at Brougham Enterprise Centre now guarantees a strong provision of high-quality incubation units throughout the town. Exciting plans have emerged for the development of the Victoria Harbour site adjacent to the existing Marina.

Hartlepool College of Education now has three Centres of Vocational Excellence and the number of people achieving qualifications has increased.

Pupils achieving a grade A* to C at GCSE in Hartlepool has gone up by 3% per year, over the last three years, to 52% in 2005. This is an all-time high for the local authority. For the first time ever, the percentage of pupils achieving five A* to G grades at GCSE reached the national average.

Performance at Key Stage 3 (aged 14) in English, Maths and Science and at Key Stage 2 (aged 11) has improved so much that Hartlepool has been identified as one of the most improved local authorities in the country. Performance at many levels in English and Maths is now above the national average.

There have been significant reductions in crime. Domestic burglary and vehicle crime have reduced significantly since 2001.

While there is still a long way to go to reduce the health inequalities that exist between life expectancy in Hartlepool and the rest of the country great progress has been made in reducing smoking. There have also been marked improvements in reducing teenage pregnancy.

The transfer of the council housing stock to Housing Hartlepool has seen an acceleration of housing improvements. Progress has been made in the Housing Market Renewal areas with Hartlepool Revival leading the charge in remodelling large areas of town centre housing. More people across Hartlepool (95%) are now satisfied with their accommodation than from previous surveys.

An increasing number of people are satisfied with their area as a place to live – up to 83% in 2004 and more residents of Hartlepool now feel that there is a lot of community spirit in their area. Alongside these improvements steps have been taken to safeguard natural resources with recycling rates having increased by 20% in recent years.

Evolving Partnerships

Since its inception in 1999, and following the publication of its first Community Strategy, the Hartlepool Partnership Board has transformed to meet the challenge of providing high quality local services and improving local quality of life. It continues to respond to government requirements and has learnt from best practice, both within the North East and further afield.

The Hartlepool Community Network has established itself as a strong co-ordinating body for the town's community and voluntary sector. The Protocol the network signed with the Hartlepool Partnership in 2005 strengthened working relationships and ensured the sector remained central to the Partnership's work in delivering the Community Strategy.

Theme Partnerships including the Environment Partnership and the Culture & Leisure Partnership have developed into fully operational strategic partnerships driving forward improvements.

All service providers in Hartlepool have responded to the challenge set out in *Every Child Matters*. A Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership is now operational co-ordinating the delivery of *The Big Plan* – our Children and Young People's Strategic Plan.

The Hartlepool New Deal for Communities (NDC) Partnership is half way through its ten-year programme and significant improvements are being delivered. 44% of local residents are now in paid work compared to 38% in 2000.

There has been significant improvement in the educational achievement of young people in the area and over 370 over 16s have received bursaries to help them access training and education. The most marked improvements have occurred in Community Safety where the number of burglaries has decreased from 351 in 2001/02 to 115 in 2005/06.

As the current regeneration programme draws to an end in the north of the town, £25m of renewal activity will have been delivered to the Brus and St Hilda wards.

Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) are now in place for the majority of the town's most deprived neighbourhoods; the NDC NAP is due for completion by the end of 2006. These NAPs set out community priorities and provide a tool for local residents, through NAP Forums, to monitor implementation. Improvements are resourced through mainstream and Neighbourhood Renewal funding allocated by the Hartlepool Partnership.

But it doesn't stop there. The Partnership has agreed ambitious plans for the future. Hartlepool's achievements are being recognised internationally reflected in the decision to award Hartlepool the prestigious finishing port in the Tall Ships' Race in 2010. A second phase of development at Queens Meadow and Wynard business parks will underpin our economic regeneration and work on the Tees Valley Coastal Arc, together with the ongoing revitalisation of the town centre housing, will continue the town's physical regeneration. In the last five years the Hartlepool Partnership has developed robust plans to take the 2002 vision forward and deliver Hartlepool's ambition.

Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration

Introduction

Regeneration is a process, which renews or revitalises the economic, social and environmental conditions of a community. Neighbourhood Renewal is the part of the process that concentrates on neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies provide a broad policy framework for this activity over a 10-year period. Their purpose is to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to help tackle social and economic exclusion.

Within this Community Strategy are detailed objectives that form the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS), along with individual Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) that have been developed for each of the disadvantaged communities in Hartlepool.

The NRS is a key element in ensuring that the vision of the Community Strategy is realised.

Context

The context for the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is provided by 'A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal – National Strategy Action Plan' (January 2001), which was part of the government's modernising agenda.

This National Action Plan sets out a new approach to renewing disadvantaged neighbourhoods by working towards creating a nation where 'within 10-20 years no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live'.

This national vision is reflected in two long-term goals:

- i) In all the poorest neighbourhoods to have common goals of lower worklessness and crime, better health, skills, housing and physical environment.
- ii) To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived areas and the rest of the country.

Improved co-ordination of services within neighbourhoods, better use of existing mainstream resources and community empowerment are key elements of this strategy.

***The most disadvantaged neighbourhoods:
the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy area***

Hartlepool is the 14th most disadvantaged area in the country. The previous NRS area was made up of seven disadvantaged neighbourhoods:

- North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda wards)
- Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
- Burbank
- Rift House/Burn Valley
- Owton
- Rossmere
- West Central Hartlepool NDC

The rationale for inclusion in the NRS was that they were within wards within the most 10% disadvantaged in the country, as set out in the Index of Multiple Deprivation from 2000.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation was revised by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in 2004. Rather than wards being the geographical unit of deprivation ONS now use Super Output Areas (SOAs) that are standardised at around 1500 population in size.

The revised index of deprivation shows that some areas are now no longer in the 10% most disadvantaged. This may be because conditions have improved, but it may also be due to using SOAs instead of wards and the fact that different indicators were used to make up the Index of Deprivation in 2004 than were used previously in 2000.

On this basis, and the fact that the initial NRS was a ten year strategy - those areas that were in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) previously will remain in the NRS for the next five years.

During the consultation on the NRS review a number of other streets are to be added into the NRS area to reflect more natural neighbourhoods. This includes the addition of Bright Street and Wilson Street to the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhood. During 2005 the Hartlepool Partnership agreed to extend the boundary of the Owton NAP to include the 'I' and 'M' Blocks to reflect the natural neighbourhood of Owton Manor.

The main change to the boundary from the previous NRS is the inclusion of the Throston neighbourhood. The ward based Index of Multiple Deprivation from 2000 that was used to inform the previous NRS did not have the Throston neighbourhood within a ward that was in the most 10% disadvantaged in the country, and as such did not qualify for inclusion in the previous NRS. While the 2004 IMD does not place Throston in the bottom 10% of disadvantaged area overall, for the IMD individual domains (there are seven that make up the overall ranking) of Employment, Health & Disability and Crime it is within the bottom 10% nationally. These domains are key priorities for the Hartlepool Partnership. In addition the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit have undertaken research as to the relative deprivation on small geographic areas throughout the town and this demonstrates that the Throston neighbourhood is as disadvantaged as several other NRS neighbourhoods.

The addition of Throston means that 55% of the Hartlepool population live in disadvantaged neighbourhoods – an increase from 54% in the previous NRS. While in principle this leads to a further diluting of the regeneration funding available, such as NRF, it does provide Theme Partnerships and individual service providers the flexibility to target a greater number of disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Service providers will increasingly have to consider in greater detail whether services they provide need to be targeted at the whole NRS area or be more focussed on specific neighbourhoods where the problems are more acute.

Many services and opportunities, particularly for education and employment lie outside the NRS area. It will, therefore, also be the aim of the NRS to support such opportunities and develop links to ensure they are accessible to the NRS area communities. Such opportunities could arise at Seaton Carew, on industrial estates on the southern fringes of the Borough, Wynyard Business Park and other strategic sites in the Tees Valley and on the A19 corridor.

Neighbourhood Action Plans

The Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal set out that all neighbourhoods that need priority status at the local level should be identified in the NRS, and that NAPs for each of these neighbourhoods should be prepared.

NAPs are structured around the seven key themes of the Hartlepool Community Strategy therefore integrating economic, social and environmental issues. These 'golden threads' have enabled the NAPs to be taken on board by each of the Theme Partnerships delivering each theme of the Community Strategy.

NAPs have been developed in each of the NRS priority neighbourhoods (note NDC NAP due for completion later in 2006). They are already beginning to shape mainstream service delivery and act as a framework for how additional new resources are prioritised locally.

The NAPs together form the geographical element of the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, setting out in detail:

- Key statistics of the neighbourhood;
- Strengths and Weaknesses;
- Resources and Programmes; and
- Gaps in service delivery linked to priority concerns and actions.

Individual NAPs are available to view on the Partnership's website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

The Consultation Process

What did we do?

Consultation on the revision of the Community Strategy was formally launched on the 5th May 2006 at the Hartlepool Partnership Annual Event. The first phase of consultation ran for 3 months until the 31st July. The aim of the first phase of consultation was to engage residents, local groups and organisations in the review process by asking them to consider the Vision and Aims of the existing Strategy. To enable greater involvement in the review a Consultation Toolkit was developed to provide local groups and organisations with the key resources that they would need to undertake their own consultation activities. The outcomes of their consultation and individual responses have been considered in the development of the first draft. A range of consultation activity has taken place across the Borough including:

1. Household questionnaire
2. On-line questionnaire
3. Viewpoint 1000 questionnaire (Hartlepool's Citizens' Panel)
4. Theme Partnership consultation events
5. Key organisation and group consultation events

To raise awareness there has been active promotion of the Review including:

1. Presentation to the Hartlepool Partnership
2. Presentation to the Council's Cabinet
3. Provision of a seminar for Councillors
4. Presentations to the North, Central & South Neighbourhood Consultative Forums
5. Presentations to Theme Partnerships and the Hartlepool Community Network
6. Meeting with the Neighbourhood Forum Resident Representatives
7. A week long promotion in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre
8. Publicity through Hartbeat, the Hartlepool Mail and Radio Cleveland.

Further detail on the consultation undertaken in the development of this new Community Strategy is set out in the 'Hartlepool Partnership Community Strategy Review 2006 Activity Log'. This can be viewed on the Hartlepool Partnership Website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

What did it tell us?

A total of over 1100 people responded to our request for feedback on the 2002 Community Strategy and priorities for future improvement. The comments received have shaped a new vision for this strategy and revisions to its aims and objectives.

The Vision

Over 70% of respondents agreed with the Vision set out in the 2002 Community Strategy. Where suggestions for improvement were provided these included comments relating to crime and community safety, quality of the street scene and wider environment, health, regeneration, skills and skilled jobs, and respect for one another and for the history of the town.

The original vision has changed from: 'Hartlepool will be a prosperous, caring, confident and outward looking community in an attractive environment, realising its potential' to:

'Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.'

The Priority Aims

Community Strategy 2002 set out 7 Priority Aims:

1. Jobs and the economy
2. Lifelong learning and skills
3. Health and care
4. Community safety
5. Environment and housing
6. Culture and leisure and
7. Strengthening communities

Respondents were asked which of these aims should be tackled first and there was a clear consensus that Jobs and the Economy should be the top priority for action. Community Safety and Health & Care were the second and third priorities, with Environment and Housing slightly further down the list.

Around a third of respondents suggested changes to the aims. Many of these related to adult education and job creation, higher levels of policing and reduced crime and greater health education, healthy living and provision of health care facilities. People also wanted to be consulted more and to feel more involved.

When asked what changes in service provision would improve their quality of life improved policing/reduced crime and more public transport were the two top service areas. Tidying local neighbourhoods and reducing the amount of litter were also factors which many highlighted as improving quality of life.

Our Vision

“Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential”



Our Principles

In delivering the Community Strategy all members of the Hartlepool Partnership will strive to apply the following nine principles:

Effective partnership working

Working together as equals to deliver sustainable communities within Hartlepool and having a clear understanding of shared decision-making, risks, responsibilities and accountabilities.

Efficient partnership working

Increasing efficiency and achieving value for money through improved procurement, financial reporting and management. Delivering high quality local services and making the most of the resources available including people, money, property, data and information.

Skills and knowledge

Developing our own capacity and skills to improve performance, whilst providing opportunities for the community to improve their skills, capacity and life chances.

Decision making and communication

Communicating openly and honestly with the community in Hartlepool making the Partnership publicly accountable for its decisions. Decision-making will be rigorous and transparent and decisions will be based upon the best information available at the time.

Involvement and inclusion

All parts of the community regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, colour, disability, religion, sexual orientation, family and other circumstances, language, national or social origins, age or any other status, are encouraged to be involved at all stages in the development, delivery and monitoring of this strategy.

Integrity

Acting with honesty, selflessness, objectivity and trust, declaring interests and dealing with truth and completeness.

Sustainable development

Considering economic, social and environmental goals equally and in an integrated way ensuring the long term and global aspects of strategy and decision making are considered.

Performance management

Actively managing the delivery of the Strategy and, where information for monitoring purposes is not forthcoming, striving to address this.

Leadership and influence

Leading by example in delivering the Strategy by applying these principles and using influence to encourage other partners and providers locally, regionally and nationally to do the same.

The Renewal of Hartlepool's Neighbourhoods

In achieving the Community Strategy Vision it is essential that improvements are made across the Borough. This equality of opportunity is reflected in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy aim:

Our Aim

Continue the regeneration of Hartlepool and ensure that local people, organisations and service providers to work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the town, so that in the future, no-one is seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

Our Objectives

1. To improve methods of consultation and working with communities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
2. To maximise the skills and knowledge of all those involved in the Partnership, including the community network, decision makers and service staff in all sectors.
3. To contribute jointly to achieving the national Public Service Agreement floor targets within Hartlepool and its most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
4. To seek resources for renewal and regeneration on the basis of need.
5. To target neighbourhood renewal resources to benefit residents of the NRS neighbourhoods.
6. To better focus other special initiatives and mainstream services on NRS neighbourhoods, reducing the gaps between the conditions in these areas and the borough-wide, regional and national average.
7. To support the development of neighbourhood management and link this to the Partnership.
8. To build upon recent improvements and good practice, identifying and realising opportunities for continued regeneration and investment through flagship projects including Victoria Harbour, Hartlepool Quays, Queens Meadow Business Park, Wynyard and established business areas such as Brenda Road.
9. To ensure that the NRS neighbourhoods benefits from opportunities that exist outside the NRS Area.
10. To effectively link into sub-regional and regional partners and partnerships including the Tees Valley Partnership, Tees Valley Regeneration, Tees Valley Living and One North East.
11. To work towards a better understanding of the key issues and improve baseline information and the analysis of resources.
12. To ensure that the main programmes, partners and partnerships reflect the aims of this Strategy.

Children and Young People

Children and Young People in Hartlepool face great opportunities and pressures. By working together we can improve their lives both now and into the future.

Hartlepool Borough Council is required to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan by the Children Act 2004. It has a duty to "promote co-operation" between itself and its key partners. There has been agreement nationally on the five outcomes that really matter to the lives of children and young people and these are now law in the Children's Act 2004. The five outcomes are:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-being

Be Healthy refers to physical, mental, emotional and sexual health, with an emphasis on healthy lifestyles and making positive choices not to take drugs.

Stay Safe refers to being safe from maltreatment, neglect, sexual exploitation, accidental injury and death, bullying and discrimination, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Enjoy and Achieve refers to being ready for school, attending and enjoying school, achieving high standards at primary and secondary stages of education, personal and social development and recreation.

Make a Positive Contribution refers to the engagement of children and young people in decision-making and community support activities, positive and law-abiding behaviour, developing positive relationships and self-confidence and dealing with change and enterprise.

Achieve Economic Well-being refers to engagement in further education, employment or training, being ready for employment, living in decent homes and communities, being free from low income and having access to transport and material goods.

Hartlepool's Children and Young People's Plan – *The Big Plan* was published in April 2006 and aims to improve the lives of all children and young people in Hartlepool. The involvement of children and young people in the development of the plan has enriched the process and has ensured the Plan remains focussed on positive outcomes for each of them.

In the following sections, Hartlepool's vision for each of the five outcomes for children and young people is shown together with key objectives.

In the preparation of this Plan, Hartlepool partners have begun to work even more closely together and will continue to do so as this three-year rolling Plan is reviewed and refreshed.

Our Eight Priority Aims

- 1. Jobs and the Economy**
Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.
- 2. Lifelong Learning and Skills**
All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.
- 3. Health and Care**
Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and well-being.
- 4. Community Safety**
Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.
- 5. Environment**
Secure and enhance an attractive and sustainable environment that is clean, green, safe and valued by the community.
- 6. Housing**
Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live
- 7. Culture and Leisure**
Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.
- 8. Strengthening Communities**
Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

Jobs and the Economy

Introduction

The transformation of Hartlepool over the last 15 years has in many ways been remarkable with major changes to the built environment, massive reduction in unemployment and diversification of the town's economic base.

The proportion of all jobs in Hartlepool in the manufacturing sector has fallen from 23.2% in 1994 to only 17.4% in 2003. The infrastructure of Hartlepool's economy is now dominated by the public sector, which provides 33% of all employment, whilst the private sector is dominated by a few large employers.

About 75% of the Borough's jobs are in the NRS area and they are therefore physically convenient for many NRS area residents. Though the economy of the surrounding sub-region is not strong, it provides a significant pool of potential jobs.

Aim

Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.

Objectives

Attract Investment

1. To improve the local transport infrastructure to encourage business investment and productivity and enable local people to access employment opportunities.
2. To encourage the implementation of improvements and developments in the town centre and other key industrial sites such as Victoria Harbour, Longhill Industrial Estate, Oakesway Industrial Estate, Queens Meadow Business Park and Wynyard Business Park.
3. To promote Hartlepool as a destination of choice for inward investors.
4. To develop Hartlepool's leisure and tourism offer to further increase the town's importance as a visitor destination.
5. To encourage and support on-going investment by the indigenous business community.
6. To invest in environmental improvements in industrial and commercial areas that encourage additional private investment in infrastructure improvements.

Be Globally Competitive

7. To encourage business to access new market opportunities thereby generating additional wealth for the local economy.
8. To encourage the use of Information Technology within the small and medium enterprise sector to promote e-commerce.
9. To improve business productivity through knowledge transfer programmes and environmental management systems.
10. To increase skill levels amongst the town's workforce ensuring that Hartlepool can compete in a global economy.
11. To establish an enterprise culture that helps to create high value business start-ups and sustain business survival and growth.
12. To continue to establish a strong and robust social enterprise sector that provides high quality service provision and employment opportunities in local neighbourhoods.

Create more employment opportunities for local people

13. To encourage and promote social and financial inclusion, ensuring that all local residents are provided with opportunities to achieve their personal, social and economic goals.

14. To improve skills for life and key skills and promote workforce development in industrial sectors with growth potential such as construction, leisure and culture and health and social care.
15. To promote good recruitment and employment practices amongst the local business community, encouraging diversity so that all residents, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, age, disability or sexual orientation have equal access to employment opportunities.
16. To encourage the development of links between education and business that create employment and training opportunities for young people.
17. To support the Voluntary Sector to continue its important role as a provider of employment and deliverer of services to the local community.
18. To integrate Employment and Training Charters within major capital programmes that enables job creation to be targeted at economically inactive residents.
19. To target employment, training and enterprise provision such as New Deal, Work Based Learning and Pathways to Work at neighbourhoods with the worst labour market position and disadvantaged groups such as residents with disabilities, young people and carers in order to reduce worklessness, deprivation and poverty.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy: Key Jobs & Economy Issues

Unemployment: There has been a significant reduction in the unemployment rate, dropping from 6.9% in June 2002 to 4.6% in March 2006, halving the gap between the Hartlepool rate and the national rate. The gap between the NRS area unemployment rate and the Hartlepool rate has reduced by 20% since 2002.

Long Term Unemployment: The proportion of the unemployed suffering long-term unemployment has reduced over the last few years but a third of all unemployed people have been unemployed for 6 months or longer. Since 2002 significant progress has been made in narrowing the gap between the NRS neighbourhood rate and the Hartlepool rate.

Employment Rates: The Hartlepool employment rate has increased to around 68% over the last year but there remains a stubborn gap between the NRS and the Hartlepool rate and the Hartlepool rate and the national rate.

Business Start Ups – Over the past few years there has been an increase in the average number of annual VAT Registrations, but there is still a long way to go to narrow the gap to the regional rate.

Business Support: Continued support is needed particularly for small business and community businesses

Key Skills: Relatively low skills, aspirations and entrepreneurship are major issues in the NRS area (see

Lifelong Learning and Skills). Key Skills and Skills for Life are a priority and need to be raised in line with the needs of employers (see Lifelong Learning and Skills).

Incapacity Benefit Claimants: The proportion of the NRS neighbourhoods working age population not working through incapacity is significantly higher than in the Borough rate particularly in Burbank (28.2% of working age population claiming Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance) and NDC (23.9% IB/SDA).

Manufacturing: In Hartlepool there is a relatively high proportion of jobs in manufacturing which is sensitive to economic downturns and the service sector is relatively small though it has seen recent growth.

Perceptions of Jobs and Potential Employees: Awareness and understanding need be improved amongst potential employers and employees.

Image: The image of the Borough, NRS neighbourhood, and especially the town centre, tourism areas and older business areas need to be further improved.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Developing further employability initiatives that provide support and link residents of the NRS area to jobs and training e.g. targeted employment interventions for young people and residents with disabilities and encouraging growth in community enterprises.

Develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of the workforce both in and out of work, to meet the needs of the labour market. (See Lifelong Learning and Skills).

Providing accessible and relevant advice and support including childcare.

Investigating and removing barriers to employment and training including those related to benefits, aspirations, mobility, incapacity rates and discrimination issues.

Children and Young People's Plan

Achieve Economic Well Being

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will achieve the qualifications, develop the skills and be given the necessary life experiences to enable them to lead full and active adult lives. Also that all services will work collaboratively to ensure children and young people will have opportunities to succeed in their chosen career and live in households free from poverty.

Key objectives:

- Ensure education and training is planned in a co-ordinated manner involving all partners and the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed.
- Ensure that all young people are prepared for working life by:
 - Ensuring all Key Stage 4 pupils have opportunities for vocational studies and work experience;
 - Ensuring that all young people aged 13 – 19 have impartial careers advice and guidance.
- Continue to support regeneration initiatives that support the needs of children and young people.

Lifelong Learning and Skills

Introduction

The Lifelong Learning and Skills theme of this Community Strategy covers early years, school, further education and adult education.

Significant progress has been made in schools improving attainment rates towards, and in some case at and above national rates.

In terms of skills and qualifications there have traditionally been issues related to the attainment at the basic and intermediate levels, as well as developing the higher value skills needed to foster innovation.

The key problems relating to lifelong learning and skills within the NRS area are similar but more marked to other areas in the town and regionally. These are, primarily, low Key Skills levels in adults and lower attainment levels at the Key Stages of education for young people.

There remains a shortage of vocational skills within the NRS area. Whilst there has been significant investment in education and lifelong learning in recent years, the NRS neighbourhoods remain the most disadvantaged in terms of education and skills.

Aim

All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.

Objectives

Enjoy and Achieve

1. To raise aspirations and help all children achieve their potential by developing Children's Centres and Extended Schools, monitoring school performance and challenging and supporting schools to improve the quality of provision, and paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and under-achieving groups.
2. To ensure all children and young people can access a range of recreational activities including play and voluntary learning.
3. To work with the voluntary sector and other agencies to improve the range and quality of recreational learning opportunities for children and young people.

Increased skills and academic achievement

4. To create a culture of lifelong learning by raising expectation and promoting individual achievement, aspiration and self-esteem and encouraging entrepreneurship.
5. To improve skills for life and key skills and promote workforce development in industrial sectors with growth potential such as construction, culture & leisure and health & social care.
6. To increase the opportunities for skilled and educated people to remain in Hartlepool by encouraging an enterprise culture, helping create high value business start-ups and sustain business survival and growth.
7. To develop the employers of the future through enterprise education

Service Providers and Facilities

8. To ensure the highest quality providers and provision, develop new delivery models, encourage innovation and extend the good practice
9. To support the development and delivery of Centres of Vocational Excellence and locally based Further Education provision.
9. To develop and support new and emerging approaches such as the adult apprenticeship pilot, the general diploma and specialised diplomas

11. To improve the provision and dissemination of labour market information and strengthen the capacity of service providers to carryout effective and timely monitoring so that changes in provision and access can be made proactively.

Support and Access

12. To improve the provision of effective information, advice, guidance and counselling to pupils, students, families, and the community as a whole, including voluntary groups.
13. To develop progression routes enabling people to progress from one level of achievement to the next, and completing courses, remain in education and training after the age of 16
14. To improve personal, social and emotional development, confidence building, citizenship and health awareness and the opportunity to learn in disadvantaged neighbourhood
15. To promote improved access to all types of education and training for all members of the community, promoting inclusion, breaking down barriers to learning including affordability, convenience, physical access and care, providing flexibility and new learning methods where practicable and widening participation for all

***Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:
Key Lifelong Learning & Skills Issues***

Early Years – Participation by 3 year olds in nursery education is 100%, exceeding the national definition of universal participation that is 85%.

Communication, Social and Emotional Development: It is now a government Floor Target to improve children's communication, social and emotional development so that by 2008, 50% of children reach a good level of development and the end of the foundation stage and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 20% most disadvantaged areas and the rest of England. The 2005 baseline rates were 36.1% in Hartlepool and 23.5% in the NRS neighbourhood.

Key Stage 1: In Reading, Writing and Maths the Hartlepool attainment rate is 84%, 81% and 90% respectively (2005) – all 1% below the respective national rates. Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange were the lowest performing neighbourhoods.

Key Stage 2: English, Maths and Science Level 4 attainment are above the national average, but in certain neighbourhoods – Burbank, Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange - attainment is well below the Hartlepool rate of attainment. Overall the gap is continuing to narrow between the NRS area and Hartlepool (2005).

Key Stage 3: Maths Level 5 attainment in Hartlepool is above the national rate whereas attainment in English and Science is below that of the rest of the country. Pupils from the Owton, North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) and NDC neighbourhoods perform well below the Hartlepool rate of attainment.

Key Stage 4: The GCSE 5A*-C attainment rate for Hartlepool is below the national rate, despite Hartlepool continuing to drive up performance over a number of years. The gap is narrowing but pupils from Burbank, NDC and North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) neighbourhoods performed least well in 2005.

Skills for Life and Key Skills: The proportion of adults and children in Hartlepool with low basic skills remains high and rates within the NRS neighbourhoods are lower than the Borough rate. The number of Skills for Life qualifications rose significantly from 520 in 2003/04 to 1071 in 2004/05. Importantly, a greater proportion of residents achieving this qualification are from NRS neighbourhoods.

Level 1 Qualifications: The number of residents achieving qualifications has reduced from previous years, although this is offset by increases in the Skills for Life and Level 2 qualifications.

Level 2 Qualifications: In 2005 the number of Level 2 qualifications increased by 27% from the previous year. The proportion achieved by NRS residents remained static.

Level 3 Qualifications: In 2005 the number of Level 3 qualifications achieved increased. Importantly a greater

proportion of those qualifications were achieved by residents of NRS neighbourhoods.

Level 4 Qualifications: In 2005 the number of Level 4 qualifications increased by 40% on the previous year, and a higher proportion were achieved by NRS residents than in 2004.

Low IT skills and job specific skills: Employers indicate problems with the attitude, motivation and low skill levels of applicants to jobs. Improved access to vocational ICT training and encourage familiarity with new technologies is required.

Juvenile offenders: Form a significant group within those 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' in the Tees Valley.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Raise achievement of all NRS pupils, students and learners to meet the relevant standards and targets.

Target initiatives at looked after children, children with special needs and disabilities and children in foster placements to improve attainment.

Improve levels of Skills for Life and Key Skills, including literacy, numeracy and Information Communication Technology (ICT) of NRS residents of all ages.

Develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of the workforce both in and out of work, to meet the needs of the labour market. Improve access to training including informal education and activities within neighbourhoods.

Children and Young People's Plan

Enjoy and Achieve

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children are given the best start in life through high quality early years provision and support for parents and carers. This will ensure that they are well prepared and ready for school, where they will enjoy their education and have opportunities to achieve their potential. We want children and young people, especially those who are vulnerable, to develop personally and socially and for them to safely enjoy recreation and leisure time away from school.

Key objectives:

- Raise aspirations and help all children achieve their potential by:
 - Developing Children's Centres and Extended Schools;
 - Monitoring school performance and challenging and supporting schools to improve the quality of provision;
 - Paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and under-achieving groups.
- Ensure all children and young people can access a range of recreational activities including play and voluntary learning.
- Work with the voluntary sector and other agencies to improve the range and quality of recreational learning opportunities for children and young people.

Health and Care

Introduction

The health of Hartlepool residents is improving; on average they are living healthier and longer lives. However, they still suffer from more ill health and disability, higher death rates from diseases such as cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease and live shorter lives than in most other parts of the country. There is evidence to indicate that this 'health gap' is widening. There are also inequalities in the 'health experience' of communities within Hartlepool; the most deprived communities suffering significantly poorer health than the more affluent areas.

It is recognised that there are many factors that influence the health of our population including the lifestyle choices that individuals make, the environment within which they live and work, the quality of their housing, their income and their level of educational achievement.

A number of key strategies are in place to deliver services including the Hartlepool Vision for Care, Children and Young People's Plan, Public Health Strategy, Older People's Strategy and the Mental Health Social Inclusion Strategy.

Aim

Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and well-being.

Objectives

1. To work together to provide high quality, convenient and co-ordinated services when people need them.
2. To support the people of Hartlepool in choosing a healthy lifestyle.
3. To reduce early death and ill health caused by heart disease, strokes and cancers.
4. To ensure people are in control of decisions relating to their own health and wellbeing and can get the support and care they require when they need it
5. To reduce drug, alcohol abuse and smoking and to enable people with related problems to overcome them.
6. To promote mental well-being, reduce suicide rates and support people with mental health problems.
7. To provide real choice for people, so that they can make decisions about their own care and support.
8. To strengthen and support communities with specific needs to improve their health, well-being and social inclusion.

***Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:
Key Health & Care Issues***

Cancer: Cancer is the largest single cause of death in Hartlepool. The mortality rate for cancer in the NRS area is significantly higher than the Hartlepool rate.

Coronary Heart Disease, Strokes and Respiratory Disease: Standardised mortality ratios for heart disease, strokes and respiratory disease are significantly higher in Hartlepool than nationally. Although, death rates from circulatory diseases are declining both nationally and locally, Hartlepool continues to experience worse rates than the national average.

Smoking: Approximately 44% of residents in the NRS area smoke compared to 34% in Hartlepool as a whole (MORI 2004). Smoking rates are highest in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (55%) and Owton (53%)

Drugs: Of the Tees Valley Boroughs Hartlepool has the highest rate of residents accessing drug referral schemes (see Community Safety). Approximately 83% of all drug related litter was located in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Physical Inactivity: Hartlepool shows one of the highest levels of physical inactivity in the Tees Valley. Physical inactivity is also greater in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Obesity Levels: The proportion of people who are obese has increased in all Boroughs in the Tees Valley, particularly in Hartlepool. Obesity rates in England have trebled since the 1980s.

Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health: Significant progress has been made since 1997 but Hartlepool still has an under 18-conception rate well above the regional and national average. The teenage conception rate remains significantly higher in the NRS neighbourhoods. Diagnoses of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) have more than doubled between 1995 and 2000.

People Incapable of Work: Within the Tees Valley Hartlepool has the highest percentage of the working age population incapable of work due to illness or disability. The NRS neighbourhood has a significantly higher rate of people incapable of work than the Borough as a whole. The proportion of residents with a limiting long-term illness is highest in Burbank (34.2%) and Rift House/Burn Valley (29.8%) compared to Hartlepool (24.4%) and nationally (17.9%).

People Requiring Care: The percentage of people in need of personal care in the NRS neighbourhood is slightly higher than the Hartlepool average. Burbank shows particularly high rates - almost double the Hartlepool average.

Mental Health: The proportion of people in the NRS neighbourhood experiencing mental health problems is higher than the Borough rate.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Protect and improve health, reduce health inequalities in the NRS neighbourhoods and increase life expectancy.

Encourage NRS residents to adopt active and healthy lifestyles by providing additional support in local communities.

Reduce smoking, alcohol, drugs and solvent abuse especially amongst young people.

Target NRS neighbourhoods with screening and support services for heart disease, strokes and cancers.

Improve the health, emotional development and well-being of all children, young people, and their families, and particularly to prepare "looked after children" for life and bringing stability into their lives.

Focus resources on the NRS neighbourhood to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions and improve sexual health.

Improve mental well-being, raise awareness, reduce isolation, challenge discrimination and promote opportunities for people with mental health problems in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Improve the well-being and independence of older people, people with learning or physical disabilities, and those with sensory support needs.

Children and Young People's Plan

Be Healthy

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will be physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy, lead healthy lifestyles and choose not to take illegal drugs.

Key objectives:

- Ensure that health inequalities are reduced by improving the targeting of vulnerable infants, children and young people.
- Improve sexual health and ensure that the conception rates for teenagers continue to reduce.
- Promote healthy lifestyles by initiatives such as the National Healthy Schools Award.

Community Safety

Introduction

Community Safety is one of the highest community priorities. Whilst there have been recent improvements in reducing crimes such as domestic burglary and vehicle crime, reducing fear of crime and the need for public reassurance remains a clear priority.

The crime and disorder problems are associated with the socio-economic factors of the population such as high unemployment and low educational attainment. Crime and disorder is greater in the NRS neighbourhood due to socio-economic factors and the town centre that acts as a magnet for business crime, vehicle crime and alcohol related disorder.

Aim

Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.

Objectives

Anti-social behaviour

1. To reduce anti-social behaviour across the town, with particular focus on 'hot-spot' areas.

Crime

2. To reduce acquisitive crime (burglary and theft), with particular focus on high crime areas.

3. To reduce alcohol related social nuisance, disorder and violence associated with the night-time economy.
4. To reduce incidents of repeat victimisation associated with domestic violence and improve joint working between services.
5. To ensure that community safety is considered in all decision making and service delivery of public bodies.

Drugs and alcohol misuse

6. To tackle drugs misuse with treatment programmes which encourage harm minimisation, rigorous enforcement and education and awareness programmes.
7. To develop local services for those who misuse alcohol.
8. To tackle under-age drinking by education and enforcement.

Fires

9. To reduce deliberate fires.

Offending behaviour

10. To prevent and reduce offending and re-offending.

Reassurance

11. To involve local communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.
12. To introduce measures to promote reassurance and improve public confidence in all sections of the community.

Young People

13. To work with young people and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Community Safety Issues

Overall Crime: Reduced in previous years but Hartlepool still has relatively high crime levels. The gap between Hartlepool's overall crime rate and the national average has reduced from 41% to 23% between 2003/04 and 2005/06.

Domestic Burglary: The number of domestic burglaries has reduced dramatically since 2003/04 from 1276 crimes to 622 in 2005/06 across the town and from 908 to 454 in the NRS neighbourhood. Again the gap between the Hartlepool rate and the national average has narrowed from 87% above in 2003/04 to just 27% above in 2005/06, but the proportion of burglaries occurring in the NRS neighbourhoods over these two years has remained static at just over 70% of the Hartlepool total.

Anti-social Behaviour: The proportion of incidents from NRS neighbourhoods reported to Police over the last few years has

remained static at around 70%. Much anti-social behaviour is alcohol related and a significant problem has emerged with under-age drinking.

Many privately rented houses are located in NRS neighbourhoods and some tenants' behaviour is an increasing concern in some streets

While issues of youth related anti-social behaviour is generally perceived as more prevalent in the NRS neighbourhoods there are some other neighbourhoods, such as at Clavering and Fens shops, where youth anti-social behaviour is causing problems for residents. It seems a reasonable approach to allow for flexibility within this NRS for areas such as Clavering and Fens, and other localities to be prioritised on their merits alongside NRS neighbourhoods when tackling youth related anti-social behaviour, particularly as we know that young people who live in NRS neighbourhoods chose to associate with friends outside of their local area.

Reassurance: The proportion of people who feel safe walking alone at night in their local area is lower in NRS neighbourhoods than Hartlepool as a whole. Residents of Dyke House/Stranton/Grange are most likely to feel unsafe about walking alone in or around their area after dark (51%). It is also a problem in NDC (50%) and Owton (44%).

Drugs: Drug dealing and use was identified as a serious problem in the NDC neighbourhood by nearly half of residents (47%). It was also highlighted as a serious problem in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (44%) and Owton (38%).

The majority of all drug related litter was located in NRS area. The areas with the highest pick-ups are in Stranton and Owton wards.

Deliberate Fires: In Hartlepool in 2005/06 there were 851 deliberate fires, a reduction of 38% from 2003/04. This is still too many and the proportion of deliberate fires occurring in the NRS neighbourhoods has remained the same since 2004.

Local Violence (common assault and wounding): Since 2004 the number of incidents has risen by 25% in Hartlepool and the proportion incidents being within NRS neighbourhoods has also increased.

It is estimated that up to 70% of town centre violence is alcohol related. Local Violence includes incidents of domestic violence, many of which are also alcohol related. The NRS neighbourhoods will benefit from town wide interventions to tackle alcohol.

Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property: Identified as a serious problem most in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (30%), NDC (24%) and Owton (24%) compared to Hartlepool rate (13%). Since 2004 criminal damage in Hartlepool has increased by 6%. This is a priority for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

Business Crime: Hartlepool has a significant problem with shop theft and the majority of this type of crime occurs in the town centre that is within the NRS neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Seek to maintain and if practicable increase the number and visibility of a uniformed presence on the streets, especially additional police on patrol in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Work with young people and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending.

Provide an increased range of accessible diversionary activities and facilities for young people.

Reduce disorder in the town centre associated with alcohol.

Reduce anti-social behaviour, with particular emphasis on behaviour associated with alcohol consumption generally and more specifically underage drinking.

Develop further target-hardening measures in the NRS neighbourhoods to increase the security of homes and businesses, with particular emphasis on repeat victims.

Improve communications with residents, to receive information (intelligence) and provide feedback on actions undertaken.

Tackle the problem of drug misuse, particularly in respect of the under 30-age group, by education, enforcement and a harm reduction programme.

Target those who deal in and supply illegal drugs.

Reduce commercial crime, particularly commercial burglary and shop theft.

Tackle environmental issues such as vandalism, graffiti and fly-tipping to improve the general appearance of the NRS neighbourhoods.

Children and Young People's Plan

Stay Safe

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will live, grow and learn in safety, where parents, carers and all adults take responsibility for their safety and well being and they are free from harm, discrimination, harassment and exploitation.

Key objectives:

- Ensure that children and young people are provided with a safe environment by activities such as staff training and the development of partnership working to address bullying.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of child protection services.
- Ensure that where children need to be looked after, they are placed in family settings and changes in placements are minimised.

Environment

Introduction

Environment, transport and housing are all important in their contribution to complex quality of life issues.

The environment affects both quality of life and the perception of the neighbourhood as a place to live and invest in. The impact of the environment on underlying deprivation causes is hard to analyse and control but is often high on community agendas.

Accessibility and transport are critical issues affecting residents' ability to obtain employment and services. Analysis is complex as transport systems cater for users travelling to many areas, and do not necessarily focus on the needs of one community.

The impacts of pollution, energy efficiency and waste management can have particular adverse impacts on the quality of life.

Aim:

Secure and enhance an attractive and sustainable environment that is clean, green, safe and valued by the community.

Objectives:

1. To protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity, including urban and brown field sites
2. To increase awareness, understanding of and access to the natural environment
3. To enhance the built environment and promote good urban design, while conserving areas of townscape, coast and assets with archaeological, architectural or historic significance
4. To protect and enhance the quality of rivers, open water and the sea (coastal waters?) and minimise the risk of flooding
5. To record, protect, enhance and raise awareness of the towns' heritage.
6. Improve the quality of the local environment by having cleaner, greener and safer public spaces.
7. To promote community involvement in positive action for the local and global environment.
8. To provide and promote a safe, sustainable and integrated transport system that enables equal accessibility and facilitates the use of public and alternative modes of transport.
9. To make better use of natural resources, reduce the generation of waste, and maximise recycling.

10. To reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change by minimising energy use and increasing the use of alternative and renewable energy sources.
11. To minimise all forms of pollution
12. Promote global sustainability

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Environment Issues

Satisfaction with local area: Generally the majority of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. 75% of NRS residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live compared to 83% for Hartlepool. Dyke House/Stranton/Grange has the lowest level of satisfaction (65%) followed by NDC (67%).

Litter & Rubbish – 40% of residents of Dyke House/Stranton/Grange think that litter and rubbish is a serious problem in their area compared to 27% in the NRS area and 19% across Hartlepool.

Vacant Land and Buildings: Positive end uses for vacant buildings and land is being encouraged through the Local Plan and regeneration schemes. However, many of the schemes need to be augmented. Priority issues vary between the NRS areas. North Hartlepool, particularly the Headland has a particular problem with vacant buildings while the Central area has a high level of derelict land and vacant dwellings.

Public Transport Accessibility: Satisfaction with public transport is lower in the NRS neighbourhoods than Hartlepool as a whole. Poor public transport was identified as a serious problem in Rift House/Burn Valley by 17% of residents compared to the Borough rate of 5%.

Public Transport: 66% of Hartlepool residents are satisfied with bus services, and 8% satisfied with rail services (2000). Public Transport – Poor public transport was identified as a serious problem in Rift House/Burn Valley (17%) compared to Hartlepool (5%)

Road Danger: Accidents at the worst junctions / roads in the NRS area need to be reduced. Speed and volume of road traffic is classed a more serious problem in NDC, Owton and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange than other neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Develop local initiatives to identify ways of improving the local environment.

Continue a process to improve, maintain and keep clean the highways, roads, buildings, rights of way and other public areas.

Find new uses for redundant buildings in NRS neighbourhoods through the use of grant aid from regeneration schemes and the use of positive planning.

Reduce the amount of derelict land within the NRS neighbourhoods by using it for appropriate development or quality amenity areas

Ensure that a safe and effective transport system is provided which ensures that NRS neighbourhoods have good access to public transport throughout the week.

Provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists in the NRS neighbourhoods, particularly to improve access to employment and facilities.

Reduce accidents at the most dangerous junctions and roads in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Housing

Introduction

Balancing the supply and demand of housing to meet the aspirations of the population is a key strand of the Housing Strategy for Hartlepool and tackling existing and future problems in the private sector is the key housing regeneration challenge for the town. With changing housing markets there is significantly increased demand for social housing. The rising costs of renting privately is affecting affordability as rents rise above housing benefit levels.

New housing completions remain high and housing costs remain lower than average for the region, particularly for terraced dwellings.

Housing that does not meet recognised decency standards and problems associated with management of private rented properties can often be a root cause of disadvantage.

There is increasing need for support and appropriate housing for vulnerable people and with an increasingly elderly population there is increased need for a range of accommodation including extra care

Aim

Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live

Objectives

Balancing Housing Supply and Demand

1. To ensure that there is access to a choice of good quality housing in sustainable communities across tenures to meet the aspirations of residents and to encourage investment.
2. To secure adequate provision of new housing and maximise the proportion that is built on previously developed land; while seeking to secure a improved mix in the size, type and location of housing , including the development of sufficient housing at an affordable level and appropriate provision of larger, higher value, low density dwellings
3. To achieve a better balance between housing demand and supply
4. To enhance the standard of management of social and private rented housing

Meeting the Decent Homes Standard

5. To encourage improvements to homes to meet and exceed 'decent homes standards'

Meeting the Housing Needs of Vulnerable People

6. To increase the opportunities and to encourage residents to live independently in the community as appropriate
7. To provide accommodation and support for vulnerable people to live independently

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Key Housing Issues

Unbalanced Housing Tenure: Hartlepool has become affected by low and changing demand. There is an over supply of smaller, older, terraced properties evidenced by concentrations of vacancy and abandonment. 41% of the stock is terraced compared to regional and national levels of 31% and 26% respectively.

Much of the poorer housing is concentrated in NRS neighbourhoods where major remodelling is necessary, along with other social and environmental projects.

Parts of the NRS area, particularly NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange have seen a rapid increase in the growth of the private rented sector in recent years and there are concerns regarding the impact of poor management.

Housing Mix: There is a need to balance communities in the NRS area by encouraging a greater mix of housing types. There is a need to continue the selective removal of council properties in low demand areas. To balance housing supply and demand Hartlepool Revival will be leading on managing the Housing Market Renewal process in NDC and North Central Hartlepool.

Housing Vacancies: There are particular problems of vacant dwellings, predominately in the NRS area. There are 2315 vacant properties in Hartlepool (March 2006), of which 1513 were in the private sector and 545 have been empty for over 6

months. Given the 3-3.5% vacancy rate that might be expected in an ordinarily functioning private sector housing market, this 4.8% represents an excess of 411-568 vacant dwellings at 2006.

Housing Hartlepool's stock (over 7000 properties) had a total void rate of 1.46% (March 2005), of which 0.8% were ready to let, a situation reflected within other RSL stock.

Housing conditions: There remains a need to ensure that all social housing in the NRS area meets set standards of decency by 2012. In April 57% of Housing Hartlepool homes and 80% of other RSL's homes met the decent homes standard.

Satisfaction with Accommodation: The majority of residents Hartlepool are satisfied with their accommodation (95%) although satisfaction is slightly lower in the NRS neighbourhoods (91%). Looking across individual neighbourhoods Burbank (74%) has the lowest rate of satisfaction. While satisfaction with accommodation is generally high there remains a minority of vulnerable people with housing issues

Vulnerable People: The NRS neighbourhoods have a greater proportion of vulnerable households. It is important that the housing needs of vulnerable people continue to be met by assisting residents to live safely in their own homes, offering a choice of suitable accommodation, improving the thermal insulation of homes and preventing fuel poverty, and preventing homelessness.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Seek to balance demand and supply for housing in the NRS neighbourhood by reducing the number of vacant dwellings and ensuring housing is of the right size and tenure and is within sustainable locations.

Ensure housing regeneration activity in the NRS neighbourhoods is successful and secures follow on investment.

Deliver empty homes initiatives to reduce blight and halt the decline of areas

Implement selective licensing in areas with low demand or anti-social behaviour

Achieve the Government's Decent Homes targets for social housing and private housing occupied by vulnerable groups

Improve access to social housing for vulnerable people

Address issues of fuel poverty in the NRS Neighbourhoods

Increased joint working between the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and housing providers

Continue to prevent incidents of rough sleeping

Enable people with physical disabilities to live safely in, or return to, their homes where they wish to.

Children and Young People's Plan

Vision

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will have safe and accessible places to play, socialise and pursue leisure activities.'

Key objectives:

- Action is taken in Hartlepool to maximise the proportion of children and young people living in homes that meet the decent homes standard.

Culture and Leisure

Introduction

Hartlepool's current rejuvenation has been dramatic, changing the face of the town and attracting more and more regional attention. It is important that this continues, to create a sustainable economy and further enhance our growing reputation as a town with a distinct identity within the region.

Culture and Leisure are key elements to successful regeneration. Associated activities can provide positive local identity, helping to develop individual pride and confidence in a community. Resulting increases in community spirit and capacity can make a valuable contribution to delivering key outcomes in other theme areas. Barriers to culture and leisure opportunities are strongly linked to poverty and disadvantage.

Culture & Leisure complements lifelong learning and training, contributes to health and care and can provide diversionary activities that reduce antisocial behaviour and crime. The theme contributes towards encouraging economic investment and tourism, creating jobs and improving the local economy and supports and enhances a vibrant voluntary and community sector.

Aim

Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.

Objectives

1. To create a strong cultural identity for Hartlepool within the region.
2. To celebrate Hartlepool and express that local identity.
3. To develop a sustainable cultural economy.
4. Increase participation, opportunity for access and diversity.
5. Advocate the value of culture in meeting the expressed needs and aspirations of the community.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Key Culture & Leisure Issues

Libraries: Visitor numbers have fallen over the past few years especially from secondary school pupils, mirroring the national trend linked to changing culture and lifestyles. While satisfaction is generally high across Hartlepool at 77% in some neighbourhoods, such as North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) satisfaction is significantly lower at 58%.

Children's and Youth Facilities: Low usage of youth and community centres linked to affordability and accessibility. Consultation with young people highlights a lack of informal meeting places, lack of organised activities, and the poor state of existing sports pitches and facilities. Satisfaction with Youth & Community Centres is lowest in Burbank (16%) and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (17%) compared to the Hartlepool rate of 27%.

Open Space: Satisfaction with open spaces in Hartlepool (65%) is higher than in the NRS neighbourhoods (50%). Satisfaction with public parks/open spaces is lowest in Burbank (22%) and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (37%). Satisfaction with play areas is lowest in Burbank with only 8% of people satisfied compared to the Hartlepool rate of 38%.

Sport and Recreation: There have been recent improvements in the proportion of overall leisure centre attendance from the NRS neighbourhoods – up from 48% in 2001 to 54% in 2004. Some existing facilities do not have a universal appeal to the whole community with disadvantaged groups (unemployed and disabled) being significantly underrepresented. Satisfaction with sport clubs/facilities is lowest in Burbank with only 24% of people satisfied compared to the Hartlepool rate of 49%.

Arts and Museums: There is a need to increase the usage of arts, museums and cultural events, although user satisfaction with cultural facilities is high.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Target pro-active arts and sport development in conjunction with concessionary schemes. Greater marketing of sports/recreation activities to increase participation from disadvantaged groups and NRS neighbourhoods. Specific activities for the elderly, the young, the disabled and better child care facilities for parents wishing to participate in sport and recreation are required.

Extend services to housebound residents and hard to reach groups.

Encourage partnership working with local schools and adult education, Libraries, community sports facilities and arts development.

Develop youth provision, meeting places and outreach work in the NRS neighbourhood.

Protect and enhance children's play facilities/open space and parks in the NRS neighbourhood.

Support and promote the role of the library in the activity of lifelong learning, access to job opportunities and safe/equal access to the library services.

Build on good practice, engage the community in cultural and leisure projects that encourage lifelong learning, diversionary and creative activity, positive cultural identity and give a sense of ownership in the NRS neighbourhood.

Strengthening Communities

Introduction

Hartlepool has a strong and vibrant Community and Voluntary Sector.

There are a large number of community and voluntary sector groups in the town including over 400 on the Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA) register. In addition to existing groups a number of new residents associations have been formed through the development of the New Deal for Communities programme, Hartlepool Community Network and other capacity building initiatives and the development of NAPs.

Strengthening and valuing communities is at the heart of the NRS. Empowering individuals and groups and increasing the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives is fundamental to the process of reducing the gaps between the conditions in the NRS area and Borough and national averages.

Aim

Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

Objectives

1. To enhance the democratic process by using existing structures more effectively and increase understanding and involvement in the democratic process.
2. To fully value the voluntary and community sector and to support them to secure their long-term future through contracted service delivery and the agreement of longer term funding settlements.
3. To empower local people to take a greater role in the determining, planning and delivery of services and strategies that affect their individual lives, their local neighbourhood and the wider community.
4. To increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially “hard to reach” groups and those communities affected.
5. To ensure that appropriate feedback is given to individuals and communities when they have been involved in consultation or decision making processes.
6. To improve the accessibility of services and information to residents and businesses through a variety of means including the use of information communications technology (ICT) in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.
7. To ensure Hartlepool is a cohesive community where there is a sense of belonging for all and where people of different backgrounds, circumstances and generations are able to get along.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy: Key Strengthening Communities Issues

Community Spirit: Significant numbers of people still feel there is little community spirit in their neighbourhood, especially where there is a significant transient population. Only 23% of Burbank residents would say there is a lot of community spirit in their area. This is low compared to the NRS neighbourhoods together (44%) and Hartlepool (48%).

Community Involvement/Apathy: Feelings of involvement in the local community are relatively low, especially amongst those on lower incomes. This is demonstrated by low and falling turnout rates at general election, low turnout rates at local elections and low levels of formal volunteering. Residents in the NRS area are less likely to feel part of their community than those in the rest of the town. People living in Rift House/Burn Valley, Rossmere and Burbank are least likely to feel part of the community.

Voluntary/Community Sector issues: Despite a generally well-developed voluntary/ community sector in the NRS neighbourhood stability is difficult to establish and some groups may face serious problems in being able to deliver services to the community. The introduction of NAPs has increased resident involvement but there is still progress to be made in developing further active residents associations.

Influencing Decisions: The involvement of local communities in taking an active role in improving their area is an underlying principle of neighbourhood renewal. There is still much work to do in Hartlepool. For example, only 14% of

residents from North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) feel they can influence decisions that affect their area, compared to 27% for the NRS area and 26% across Hartlepool.

Access to Services: More needs to be done to improve access to information and communications between residents and service providers. The need to improve access for special needs groups, people on low incomes, and hard to reach groups, are also key.

Satisfaction with Local Area: See Environment Theme

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Investigate barriers to engagement including those related to income deprivation, special needs, and hard to reach groups.

Develop and support residents associations across the NRS neighbourhood from the grass roots level, to enable local people to make their views and aspirations known.

Develop networks and structures from the neighbourhood level to feed into strategic partnerships/policy makers to give a voice to specific communities of interest.

Provide community development and capacity building support in key areas of need including targeted support for hard to reach and special needs groups.

Ensure effective communications and access to information through networks and structures both to and from residents.

Consider the voluntary/community sector as a service provider.

Provide and develop long-term support including finance, infrastructure, premises, management, and skills development.

Children and Young People's Plan

Make a Positive Contribution

Our vision for this outcome is to provide all children and young people who live in Hartlepool with the opportunity to participate fully in the life of their community. We will work with children, young people and their families to ensure that they are central to our planning and that, through their involvement, we meet the national and local priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Key objectives:

- Develop clear links between participation processes for children and young people, service providers, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the local political process.
- Continue to divert children and young people away from anti-social behaviour and crime, through further development of preventative services.
- Ensure that all children and young people have access to services that support the development of self-confidence, self-worth and emotional resilience that enables them to face significant life changes and challenges with appropriate support.
- Further develop the process for involving children in the planning and review of services designed to meet their needs. In particular we will ensure that Looked After Children and those with disabilities are fully involved in planning for their future.

Sustainable Development

In 2000 Hartlepool Borough Council produced its first Sustainable Development Strategy. Current Government Guidance recommends that Community Strategies should be developed into Sustainable Community Strategies. This revised Community Strategy reaffirms Sustainable Development as one of the nine principles that govern the Strategy's implementation and as a result, a separate sustainable development strategy is no longer required.

The Community Strategy sets a framework for the development of sustainable communities, the components of which can be defined as follows:

- **Governance:** Effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- **Transport and connectivity:** Good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services
- **Services:** A full range of appropriate, accessible public, private, and community and voluntary services
- **Environmental:** Providing places for people to live in an environmentally friendly way
- **Economy:** A flourishing and diverse local economy
- **Housing and the built environment:** A quality built and natural environment
- **Social and cultural:** Vibrant, harmonious and inclusive communities

Source: Egan Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities

Building sustainable communities is one part of sustainable development. Equally important is enabling economic, social and environmental gain to be considered equally and in an integrated way. No one aspect of sustainable development is given priority over another. In implementing the Community Strategy it will not be enough to make progress on one priority aim at the expense of another.

If we are to fulfil our ambition we must be fully aware of the possible effects our decisions today might have on the lives of others and their ability to maintain and enhance their quality of life in the future. We must learn from the mistakes of previous generations which have left us with the legacy of both local and global challenges.

And in a world with an ever increasing connectivity between developed and developing nations, Hartlepool must ensure that its ambition is built not just on local equity between its most deprived and affluent neighbourhoods but on a global equity and responsibility that our success is not at the expense of progress in developing nations.

Skills and knowledge

Bringing about long term improvements to the quality of life in Hartlepool requires organisations and people to adapt and develop at every level. A high degree of skills and knowledge is needed to successfully deliver the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and it will be important to continue to identify good practice, learn from others and encourage a culture of learning.

Establishing clear governance roles and responsibilities for partners delivering the Strategy is challenging and it is important that partners have the right skills for their roles. These skills need to evolve as members' roles change to deal with new challenges they face. Realising the skills and knowledge potential of residents, other decision makers, professionals, front line staff and business people is also critical.

The following list provides details of the types of skills and experience we would expect members of the Partnership Board to possess.

1. Leading the Future of the Partnership

- Developing the vision and values
- Entrepreneurial
- Influencing the future
- Communicating
- Managing change
- Cross sector working

2. Managing the current performance of the partnership

- Critical decision making
- Political shrewdness
- Building robust relationships
- Developing and monitoring local strategy
- Negotiating effective and agreed outcomes

3. Developing the personal skill base of the partnership

- Strategic thinking and decision making
- Political understanding
- Leadership
- Personal effectiveness
- Self development

Neighbourhood Renewal

Implementing Hartlepool's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy requires additional skills and knowledge to effectively address the particular aspects of deprivation.

Skills and Knowledge is established as one of the nine principles that govern the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy's implementation, underlining the Partnership's support for this important area of work and its commitment to equip everyone involved in neighbourhood renewal with the skills and knowledge they need.

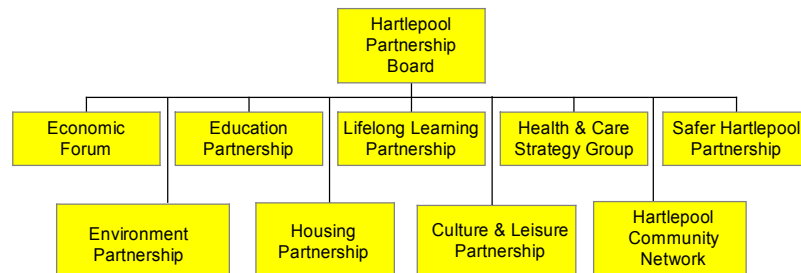
Holding each other to account

The implementation of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be overseen by the Hartlepool Partnership and will be dependent on the concerted actions of a range of agencies and organisations across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

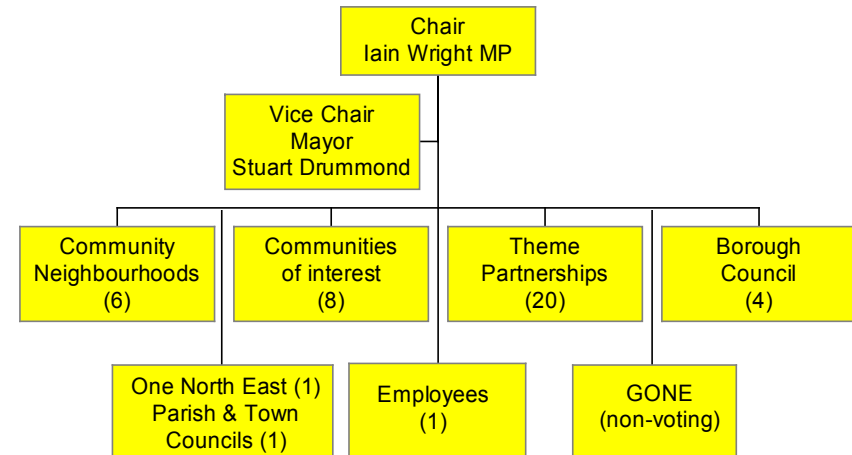
The Hartlepool Partnership

The Hartlepool Partnership is the town's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and brings together all of the town's partnerships delivering local services. The Partnership is a network of partnerships providing opportunities for involvement by a wide range of organisation and individuals in the development and implementation of policy.

The Partnership is made up of a Board and a series of Theme Partnerships.



The Hartlepool Partnership Board has 42 members and is chaired by the local MP. The Elected Mayor is the Vice Chair.



The role of the Board is to provide strategic co-ordination and agree policy on major issues of strategic importance to Hartlepool.

Theme Partnerships are responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategy's Priority Aims and Objectives, ensuring that these feed directly into the content of more detailed specialist plans. Co-ordination and alignment of plans and programmes is one of the main ways in which the Community Strategy will be implemented

Through an agreed Performance Management Framework, the Board holds Theme Partnerships accountable for delivery.

Accountability

Successful implementation of the Community Strategy relies on strong internal accountability between partners and good external accountability to local residents and service users. This can be summarised:

- Giving an account
- Being held to account
- Taking account
- Redress

Giving an account

Theme Partnerships will prepare quarterly performance reports that paint a clear picture of performance trends. These will be published on the Partnership's Website. Performance and financial reports will also be prepared for Government reviews as required.

Being held to account

In addition to its own accountability arrangements, the Partnership's performance is reviewed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Government Office for the North East. Updates on performance will also be provided through Hartbeat, the Partnership's magazine and online.

Taking account

The Partnership will ensure a strong evidence base drives the implementation of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. In the review of Neighbourhood Action Plans the views of local people and organisations will be particularly important.

Redress

The Partnership will work to ensure that where there are complaints or expressions of dissatisfaction, however made, about the standards of service, actions or lack of action by the Partnership affecting an individual or group that it works quickly and effectively to address the issues.

Mainstreaming

Nationally and locally increasing importance is being placed on 'mainstreaming' as a means of implementing Community Strategies and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies. In response to this the Hartlepool Partnership undertook a review of 'mainstreaming' within the Borough in 2005. All key partner organisations were represented in the review, which established the current approach to mainstreaming in Hartlepool. There are many different interpretations of mainstreaming, however for the purpose of the review, the Partnership defined mainstreaming to include:

- Re-directing resources/budgets into those areas regarded as deprived;
- Making deprived areas the focus for policy;
- Reshaping services to reflect local needs;
- Joining together services, programmes and targets to reduce duplication and contradiction;
- Learning from good practice examples and using pilots as a means to inform future policy decisions.

From the findings it is evident that mainstreaming is high on the agenda of partner organisations. Of those interviewed, 79% felt that mainstreaming was a high or very high priority and 68% felt that it had increased in priority for their organisation from 3 years ago.

The review identified many good examples for each of the five definitions of mainstreaming, some of which have been noted as national best practice. However, a number of significant barriers were identified to taking forward the mainstreaming agenda. Some of these barriers can be tackled at the local level but others will require changes in central government and national agencies to enable change to be implemented in Hartlepool.

The area of mainstreaming that partners in Hartlepool were least able to provide evidence was 'bending mainstream resources'. Many organisations identified significant barriers in relation to re-directing financial and other resources into deprived areas. In some cases partners were aware that mainstreaming was taking place, but unable to provide evidence to substantiate the statements. In others, the need to deliver a universal service to all areas and residents meant that targeting deprived areas would need justifying to key decision-makers. The most frequently quoted barrier to this form of mainstreaming was the lack of discretionary mainstream funding that is available to be 'bent'. With over 50% of Hartlepool's population living in neighbourhoods that are the 10% most deprived in England, there is not enough flexibility in mainstream budgets to be able to take forward this type of mainstreaming. This is compounded by increased demands for efficiency and cost cutting in the public sector.

Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement

Hartlepool's first Local Area Agreement was agreed in March 2006 and includes 36 priority outcomes structured around the Community Strategy priority themes. The LAA clearly sets out priorities and indicators to monitor progress towards targets to assess performance. The agreement covers the period April 2006 – March 2009 and has been signed between the Hartlepool Partnership, Hartlepool Borough Council and Central Government.

It is through this agreement that the implementation of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will take place.

Local Area Agreements aim to build a more flexible and responsive relationship between central government and Hartlepool on the priority outcomes that need to be achieved locally. There is also a drive to streamline bureaucracy and reporting requirements between central government and local delivers to improve service outcomes.

Annual delivery plans are prepared and performance is measured quarterly against this. The Local Area Agreement provides a robust performance management framework to oversee the implementation of actual changes both across Hartlepool and within disadvantaged communities.

Delivering Sustainable Development

In the preparation of the Local Area Agreement an outline Sustainability appraisal was carried out. This ensured that the principles of sustainable development were been embedded in the Agreement. Annual progress towards sustainable development will be monitored through the LAA performance management arrangements.

The community strategy provides the high level framework from which a sustainable development checklist is being developed. The checklist can be used by anyone drafting policies, strategies and projects to ensure their activities contribute to sustainable development.

Delivering Skills and Knowledge

The Hartlepool Partnership has decided to incorporate the skills and knowledge agenda by developing a Local Action on Learning Plan and has taken this plan forward as an integral part of the partnerships Performance Management Framework (PMF).

Evaluation

The Partnership recognises that broad evaluation is essential to assess and improve the impact of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The Partnership will undertake independent evaluation of its major funding programs and work with partners to carry out qualitative household surveys.

Timetable for future reviews

It is essential that the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy are reviewed in the future to ensure that:

- there is continued support for the vision, priority aims and objectives;
- local communities are able to express their needs;
- the process is open and accountable;
- the strategy is responsive to risks and opportunities;
- the strategy is relevant and accurate.

The Strategy will be reviewed again in five years.

Throughout the next five years of the Community Strategy's implementation, all services must be challenged and reviewed by all partners to ensure that progress is made towards achieving the vision and aims of the Community Strategy. Their impact on inequality should also be considered to ensure that progress is made to reduce disadvantage and contribute to achieving the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy aim. This review should identify where more resources or early and effective adjustment is necessary to secure progress.

The revised Priority Aims provide the basis for future decision making on how resources should be used, as well as for assessing whether best value is being achieved from current activities. It will also be necessary to target resources, to encourage greater social inclusion, and overcome some of the barriers that prevent people from playing a full part in society in line with the NRS.

Next Steps

The Consultation Exercise

Consultation on this first revision of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy runs until the 17th November 2006.

Set out below are a number of specific questions. You are welcome to respond to them all, to some and not others, or to write about other issues that have not been covered. Responses to this consultation paper should be received no later than 17th November 2006 to:

Freepost RRAE-CATT-SXAL
Hartlepool Partnership
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool TS24 7BT

or email your contribution to:

hartlepoolpartnership@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further copies of the Strategy are available from the above address or by telephoning 01429 284147.

Alternatively, you can read this consultation paper online at: www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by following the Review 2006 link.

Consultation questions

1. Is the draft Strategy about right?
2. What would you like to see changed?
3. Does the Vision capture Hartlepool's ambition?
4. Do you agree with the Priority Aims and related Objectives?
5. Is there anything you would like to add to the Priority Aims?
6. How could consultation on the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy be improved in future?

Disclosure

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Strategy Appraisal

During the Consultation period, a number of appraisals of the draft Strategy will be carried out. These will highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and to remove or minimise any negative impacts.

The Integrated Regional Framework for the North East

The Framework, published by Sustainability North East, provides guiding principles for integrating sustainable development within mainstream policy and decision making. The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of revisions of Strategies.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The European Directive 2001/42/EC requires assessments for plans which determine the use of small areas at a local level” or which “are minor modifications to plans only where they are determined to be likely to have a significant environmental effects”. It is currently not clear if a SEA is required for this Community Strategy revision and further advice will be sought as to compliance with the Directive.

Health Impact Assessment

This assessment can help identify and consider the health and inequalities impacts of the Strategy on Hartlepool people. The primary output is a set of evidence-based recommendations that inform the decision-making process associated with the Strategy.

Section 17

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local and police authorities, plus other agencies, to consider crime and disorder reduction and community safety when undertaking all of their duties and responsibilities.

Rural Proofing

Rural Proofing ensures that strategies take account of rural circumstances and needs (Rural White Paper, 2000). It is a mandatory and means that, as the Community Strategy is developed, policy makers should systematically:

- Consider whether their policy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of particular rural circumstances or needs;
- make proper assessment of those impacts, if these are likely to be significant;
- adjust the policy, where appropriate, with solutions to meet rural needs and circumstances.

Diversity Impact Assessment

The main function of the assessment is to determine the extent of differential impact upon the relevant groups i.e. race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religious beliefs and whether that impact is adverse. The aim is the promotion of equality of opportunity, the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good race relations.

Setting the Strategy in Context

Nationally

Preparing Community Strategies: Government Guidance To Local Authorities: (Cabinet Office, 2001)

Part I of the Local Government Act 2000 placed on principal local authorities a duty to prepare 'Community Strategies' for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK. It also gave authorities broad new powers to improve and promote local well-being as a means of helping them to implement those strategies. Part I of the Act came into force on 18 October 2000.

A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan (Cabinet Office, 2001)

This strategy sets out the Government's policy to narrow the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country so 'that within 10-20 years, no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.' The Government identified that a key task in achieving this was for LSPs to prepare Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies (NRS). The Government also indicated that all neighbourhoods that need priority status at the local level should be identified in the NRS, and that local action plans (or neighbourhood action plans – NAPs) for each of these neighbourhoods should be prepared.

Local residents and community groups were identified as key in turning their neighbourhoods around and the importance of using the NAP preparation as a means of encouraging local people and organisations to work together to integrate policies at the local level and improve the way that services are provided was underlined

Sustainable Communities Building for the Future (ODPM, 2005)

This programme of action tackles the pressing problems in communities in England: homes are unaffordable in some areas, but are being abandoned in others. Decent homes and good quality local environments are required in all regions. This document sets out the Government's determination to reverse, over the next 15-20 years, some damaging, deep-seated trends. It is part of the Government's wider drive to raise the quality of life in communities through increasing prosperity, reducing inequalities, more employment, better public services, better health and education, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and much more. It reflects key principles for public service reform: raising standards, devolving and delegating decision-making, providing greater flexibility over use of resources and choice for customers. Although a long term programme, it sets out the intent to increase and refocus investment in the next three years to accelerate change and address the most acute needs. It builds on existing policies and actions notably those in the Urban and Rural White Papers, (Our Towns and Cities: the Future and Our Countryside: the Future - November 2000), and policies for devolving power to regions, and modernisation of local government.

Regionally**Sustainable Communities in the North East (ODPM, 2003)**

Sustainable communities: Building for the future (a national plan of action) marks a step change in building and maintaining sustainable communities in all our regions. In the North East, it complements and builds on the key strategic aims and objectives of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, One NorthEast's Regional Economic Strategy (RES), ODPM's Regional Planning Guidance for the North East (RPG1) and the Regional Housing Strategy. It is an action plan to build successful, thriving and inclusive communities where people want to live. We need to create sustainable communities which:

- ◆ are economically prosperous;
- ◆ have decent homes at a price people can afford;
- ◆ safeguard the countryside;
- ◆ enjoy a well-designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment;
- ◆ are effectively and fairly governed with a strong sense of community.

This regional plan sets out proposals for implementing the national plan of action in the North East. It does not attempt to cover all the issues of importance to communities. It highlights actions to address housing, planning and neighbourhood renewal issues.

Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East: Submission Draft (North East Assembly, 2005)

The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy sets out a long term strategy for the spatial development of the North East and contains an overall vision, strategy and associated policies to guide development towards 2021 and beyond. It provides the spatial context for the delivery of other regional strategies, in particular the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) and the Integrated Regional Framework. The RSS is part of the statutory development plan under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Local planning authorities such as Hartlepool will prepare the other components of the Development Plan through their Local Development Frameworks, which need to be in general conformity with the RSS. In terms of overall vision, the common theme of the RSS and these other related strategies is the need to reduce the economic and social disparities between the North east and other regions whilst protecting and enhancing the region's environment. This approach has been endorsed by the Government and forms the basis for "Moving Forward: The Northern Way A Strategy for Growth". It requires accelerated economic activity and a renaissance throughout the region. The RSS also recognises that there are parts of the North East currently experiencing high levels of socio-economic deprivation and dereliction and that both urban and rural areas are characterised by pockets of poor quality housing exhibiting low demand and abandonment. It also recognises that the economic, social and environmental regeneration of these areas is essential to the region's continued growth and quality of life.

Regional Economic Strategy (RES) – July 2006

The RES sets out how One NorthEast are going deliver greater and sustainable prosperity to all people of the North East over the period to 2016. This document both sits within the context of, and seeks to influence, a number of European, national, pan regional, regional and sub regional frameworks and strategies. The RES also sets out the relative strengths and weaknesses of the North East England's economy over recent decades and how this links into growth potential for the future.

Moving Forward: The Northern Way (Northern Way Steering Group, 2004)

The Northern Way vision is to seek the transformation of the North to become an area of exceptional opportunity, combining a world-class economy with a superb quality of life. The Northern Way has made considerable progress and received substantial support from Government, public agencies and business leaders. The strategy, Moving Forward: The Northern Way (2004) sets out how, over a 20 year period, it seeks to bridge the output gap of around £30bn between the North and the average for England.

Tees Valley Vision (TV JSU, 2003)

The Tees Valley Vision sets out a long-term strategic vision for the Tees Valley and provides the policy context in which Tees Valley Regeneration, the Urban Regeneration Company for the Tees Valley, should operate.

The purpose of the strategic framework is to provide a long-term response to job losses, to argue the case for public sector expenditure on economic development and the regeneration of the sub region, and to provide a coherent, long term programme for the development of the area.

Key areas the Tees Valley Vision covers include:

- Housing Market Renewal
- Environmental improvement
- Knowledge-based economy
- Enterprise culture
- Lifelong learning culture
- Integrated transport system
- Coastal Arc from Hartlepool to Redcar
- Health inequalities
- Quality of life

The Vision sets out that “by 2020, Hartlepool is fully developed as a business and commercial centre, a major waterfront location and a focus for shared service centres and short holiday breaks. It is a prosperous, confident and outward-looking community. The ports of Tees and Hartlepool have continued to grow and Teesport is now a major container terminal serving both the north of England and Scotland.

Locally

Local Area Agreement (Hartlepool Partnership, 2006/09)

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are a Government initiative, launched in 2004. LAAs are aimed at delivering a better quality of life for people through improving performance on a range of national and local priorities and introduced a new way of working to build a more flexible and responsive relationship between central government and a locality on the priority outcomes that need to be achieved at a local level. The Hartlepool LAA is structured around the aims and themes of the Community Strategy and forms the strategic framework for monitoring progress. Hartlepool's LAA was agreed by the Partnership Board in February 2006 and was signed off by Government in March 2006.

Local Plan (2005-2006) Hartlepool Local Plan (HBC, 2006)

The Local Plan, which is the development plan for the borough, sets out each of the policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the area

Theme Policy Framework:

In addition to these national, regional, sub-regional and Borough Wide Strategies, the Hartlepool Partnership work with key partners and partnerships to prepare specialised Strategies.

The Hartlepool Partnership's policy framework consists of:

- Economic Forum Protocol (2005)
- Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy (2005)
- Children & Young People's Plan (2006-2009)
- Skills Strategy (in early preparation)
- Housing Strategy (2006-2011)
- Vision for Care (2003)
- Culture Strategy (2003-2008)
- Public Health Strategy (2006-2010)
- Older People's Strategy (2004)

Timeline

1999

Hartlepool Partnership established in July and chaired by the town's MP, Peter Mandelson.

2000

Local Government Act introduced the responsibility for Local Authorities to develop Community Strategies.

'Preparing Community Strategies. Government guidance to local authorities' published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) in December.

2001

'A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: A National Strategy Action Plan' published by the Social Exclusion Unit in January. This introduced the requirement for LSPs in the 88 local authorities in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to produce Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies.

'Local Strategic Partnerships. Government guidance' published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) in March. This gave guidance on the role of LSPs in developing Community Strategies.

A draft Community Strategy was produced by the Partnership in June and put out to consultation.

The Partnership agreed their Terms of Reference in October.

2002

Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy agreed in April.

Mayor and Cabinet structure introduced and Stuart Drummond becomes the first directly elected Mayor of Hartlepool and Vice Chair of the Partnership.

Performance management of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy introduced for the Hartlepool Partnership in September.

2003

Revised Performance Management Framework and Action Plan developed in May.

2004

Green LSP status awarded by Government Office North East.

Iain Wright elected as Member of Parliament for Hartlepool and takes on the role of Chair of the Partnership in October.

2005

Protocol between Hartlepool Partnership and the Hartlepool Community Network agreed in January.

Hartlepool accepted to take part in the second round of Local Area Agreements in June.

Green LSP status retained in the summer.

2006

Local Area Agreement signed in March.

Community Strategy Review launched in May.

Jargon Buster

Accountable body - the legal body that will handle government grants on behalf of a Partnership

Accredited LSP - the Hartlepool Partnership is the accredited Local Strategic Partnership. To gain accreditation the Partnership had to demonstrate it met a set of Government standards that covered the operation of the Partnership, and its plans for improvement

Action Plan - short-term plan of action with activities and targets and milestones

Audit Commission - the national body overseeing auditing of public bodies

Baseline Figure/Information - a description of the current local conditions against which planned changes will be measured

Benchmark - something by which to measure or compare

Best Value - means by which public bodies are required to continuously review and improve services

Brownfield land - land previously developed upon

Children's Trusts - partnerships that provide a mechanism to lead the way in delivering a step change in services for children and young people

Children and Young People's Plan - The Big Plan - a plan to improve the lives of children and young people in Hartlepool

Children Claimant count - unemployed claiming benefits

Community Enterprise - economic activity based in a community

Community Network - the network of voluntary and community sector groups and organisations operating in Hartlepool

Community Sector - see voluntary sector - but usually more dependent on volunteers and no paid staff

Community Strategy - the plan that has to be produced by law to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the community and sustainable development

Compact – formal understanding between voluntary sector and other organisations

Co-ordination - getting organisations working together to improve services

Consultation - involvement of the community in decision-making process

Curriculum - matters to be covered in education for each age group

Deprived, Deprivation & Disadvantage - communities or groups where several factors reduce the life chances and opportunities of people (see Index of Multiple Deprivation)

Disability Discrimination Act – legislation that aims to end the discrimination faced by many disabled people

Disaffection - describing a child who chooses not to be a part of the education system or society as a whole

Diversionsary activities - activities to attract people away from crime

Diversity - wide range of types often bio-diversity of wildlife and vegetation

Drugs Action Team (DAT) - special team to address drugs related issues

Economic Exclusion – people of working age who are unable to take up employment opportunities. Disabled people are one of the largest groups of people who can suffer economic exclusion.

Economic Forum - partnership leading work on the Jobs and the Economy Theme.

Empowerment – enabling people to take responsibility for themselves and helping them to make decisions about their own lives

Environment Partnership – partnership leading work on the Environment Theme

Ethnic Minority - people from a different culture, religion or language to the main one in a particular place

Evaluation - to judge or assess the success of something, which has taken place

Feasibility Study - an exercise before implementation to assess whether an action is likely to achieve its objective

Feedback - reporting back information on something that has been done

Forward Strategy - arrangements to continue the process once a regeneration programme is complete

Goal - long-term broad objective

Governance – how a body or organisation is managed

Government Office for the North East is the regional office for the government departments. They co-ordinate main programmes, including New Deal for Communities and Single Regeneration Budget and accredit Local Strategic Partnerships (i.e. Hartlepool Partnership)

Greenfield land - land not previously developed on

Hartlepool Partnership - Hartlepool's 'Local Strategic Partnership' including the key service providers, business and community interests working together to improve the quality of life in the town

Health Improvement Plan (HIMP) - improvement plan for the Health Authority and Primary Care Trust

Implementation - carrying out a plan or strategy

Housing Partnership – partnership leading work on the Housing Theme

Inclusion - giving all people equal opportunity to be part of society and the economy

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD) - a national measure of disadvantage

Indicators - headline and others - measures of conditions

Inequalities - gaps between the most advantaged and the most disadvantaged

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) - modern technology such as computers and the Internet

Joint Investment Plans (JIPs) - joint plans between Social Services, Health and other partners for joint use of resources

Key Stages - in education stages when progress is measured

Learning and Skills Council - organisation responsible for the co-ordination of post 16 years training and education in the Tees Valley

Lifelong Learning - learning throughout life, children and adults, in work and out of work or in retirement

Local action on learning plan – Part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy that sets out measures to improve the skills, knowledge and training needed to successfully deliver Neighbourhood Renewal

Local Agenda 21 - the local sustainability strategy

Local Area Agreement – Agreement between Hartlepool Borough Council, the Hartlepool Partnership and Central Government that sets out the priorities for Hartlepool along with indicators and three year targets.

Local Plan – sets out the Council's policies for guiding and controlling the way that buildings and land are used and developed

Local Strategic Partnership - the Hartlepool Partnership - the strategic partnership in the town, which prepares the Community Strategy

Mainstreaming – directing public sector resources to target the most deprived areas and joining up programmes

Milestone - important stages or events with date - used to indicate the progress a partnership is making toward its aims

Monitor - regular measure of the progress of projects

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) - national standard qualifications

Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAPs)– document produced to set out the vision and objectives of the community for their neighbourhood and which details the actions and initiatives which will help to achieve them

Neighbourhood Consultative Forum – forums at which the public can become involved in issues which affect their area

Neighbourhood Management - management of services recognising local needs

Neighbourhood Renewal - improvement and revitalising of the quality of life in neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - special funding initiative to help Councils point main programme activity to neighbourhoods most in need

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy - strategy for improvement of most disadvantaged neighbourhoods - part of the Community Strategy

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit - special team set up in central government

Neighbourhood Support Fund – funding aimed at working with disaffected young people

New Deal for Communities (NDC) - a Government initiative that provides money for a 10-year programme of regeneration in the West Central Hartlepool area

Objectives - short or medium term aims that can usually be measured

One North East - the Regional Development Agency (RDA) for the North East of England responsible for delivery of an economic strategy and regeneration

Outcome - something that follows from an action e.g. as a result of an initiative, the unemployment rate is reduced by 15%. The long-term effects you want to see created by a strategy or programme

Output - something produced directly as a result of an action and usually more easily counted e.g. as a result of an initiative 10 jobs were created and 6 people gained qualifications - tells you about the immediate results of a project, programme or strategy

Participation - a two-way process involving the sharing of information and ideas, where residents are able to influence decisions and take part in what is happening

Partnership - a group of organisations and individuals working together with a common purpose

Performance Management Framework/Indicators – a measurable target applied to find out if something is meeting its aims

Pilot Project - a small-scale study or trial of a larger project

Primary Care - health care given outside hospital often in the community

Primary Care Trust - Hartlepool based trust responsible for primary care

Principles - applied by all partners in all their activities - the basis of a code of conduct

Private Sector - businesses and other non-public agencies such as trusts and charities

Programme - group of projects with similar aims that support each other

Projects - an individual activity or action

Public Sector - organisations run or paid for with public money

Public Service Agreement (PSA) – contracts of agreement with government to work towards certain targets with various strategies

Qualitative - information, which shows the quality of something

Quantitative - information, which shows the numbers of something

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) – the name given to housing associations/organisations and landlords that are registered with the local authority

Regeneration - improving an area and community

Renewal – improving or reviving an area or community

Resources - money, time, property, people, information and infrastructure

Resources analysis - looking at the use of resources in an area and how it relates to the aims and priorities

Review - scrutinise, evaluate and change plans or services

Safer Hartlepool Partnership - main partnership promoting community safety and the reduction of crime and disorder

Single Pot – funding allocated by the Tees Valley Sub Regional Partnership

Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) - special regeneration programmes currently operating in North Hartlepool.

Social Exclusion – people or areas that suffer from a combination of factors that include unemployment, high crime, low income and poor housing

Standardised Mortality Ratios - death rates taking into account age structures

Standards of attainment - levels achieved in education and training

Strategy - a plan with aims and steps to their achievement

Strategy Group (Health and Care) - key partnership for Health and Care

Super Output Areas (SOAs) – standardised areas at around 1500 population in size

SureStart Programme - special programme for young children and their families

Sustainable Development - can continue to take place without harm to the interests of future generations

Sustainable Communities - meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, their children and other users, contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunity and choice.

Target Hardening - physical measures to make areas or properties more secure

Targets - measurable level being aimed for, usually within a set time period

Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit – responsible for strategic planning on local services and issues in the Tees Valley Area

Tees Valley Partnership - a partnership for the Tees Valley

Tees Valley Vision - a vision being prepared by the above

Tenure - degree of ownership of a property or home e.g. owner-occupier, privately rented, Council Housing, Housing Association

Truancy & unauthorised absences - school absence without permission

Viability - in relation to the town centre - businesses can make enough money to continue to operate and invest

Viewpoint 1000 - regular sample survey of a panel of residents

Vision - a view of what a community will be like in the long term

Vitality - in relation to the town centre - liveliness and level of activity and investment

Voluntary Organisation - groups whose activities are not carried out for profit, and are not public bodies or a local authority. They rely on a high proportion of their activity being done by volunteers

Voluntary Sector - a name to describe all the voluntary organisations in a town. In Hartlepool 400 organisations make up the voluntary sector

Welfare to Work - a Central Government Programme, which aims to deliver wide-ranging job, training and local employment opportunities

White Paper – statement of policy intent issued by the Government

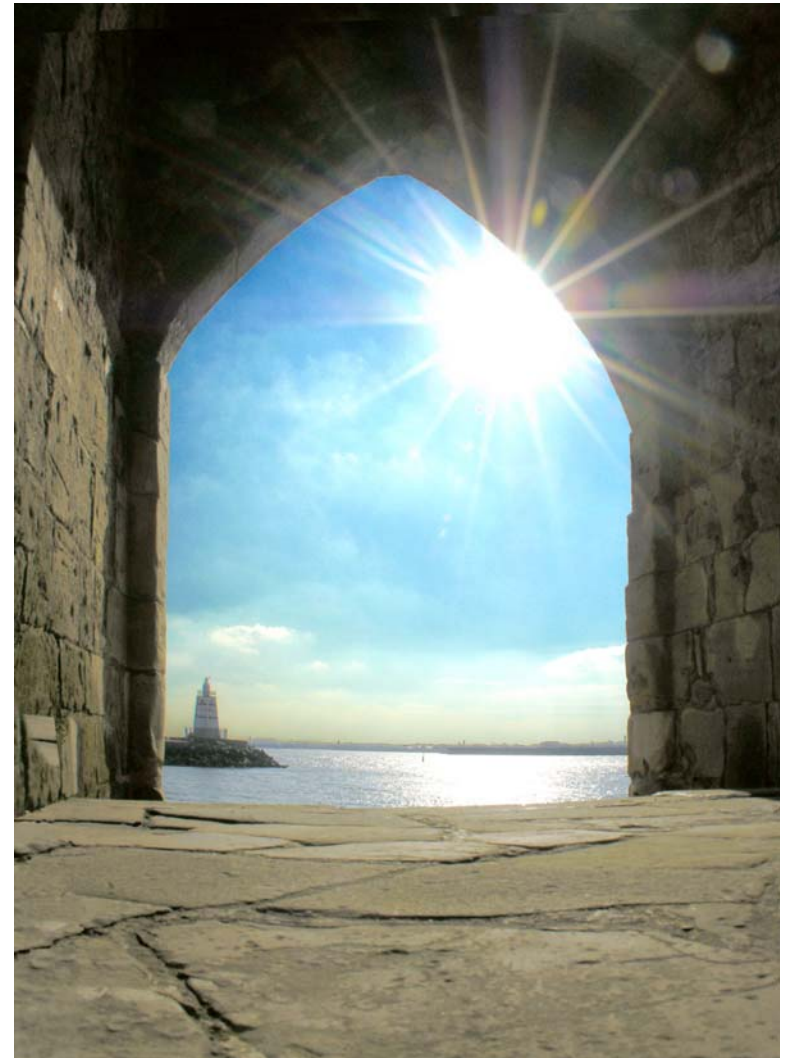
Youth Offending Service - team established to address youth offending

List of Abbreviations

CCF	Community Chest Fund	NAP	Neighbourhood Action Plan
CEF	Community Empowerment Fund	NCF	Neighbourhood Consultative Forum
CS	Community Strategy	NDC	New Deal for Communities
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government	NHP	North Hartlepool Partnership
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	NRF	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act	NRS	Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
DETR	Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions	NRU	Neighbourhood Renewal Unit
DFES	Department for Education and Skills	NSF	Neighbourhood Support Fund
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education	ORCEL	Owton Rossmere Community Enterprise Ltd
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems	ONE	One North East
GONE	Government Office for the North East	ONS	Office for National Statistics
GP	General Practitioner	PAT	Policy Action Team
HImpP	Health Improvement Programme	PCT	Primary Care Trust
IB	Incapacity Benefit	PI	Performance Indicator
ICT	Information & Communication Technology	PMF	Performance Management Framework
ILM	Intermediate Labour Market	PSA	Public Service Agreement
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation	RDA	Regional Development Agency
JSA	Job Seeker's Allowance	RSL	Registered Social Landlord
LA	Local Authority	SDA	Severe Disablement Allowance
LAA	Local Area Agreement	SMR	Standard Mortality Ratio
LEA	Local Education Authority	SOA	Super Output Areas
LPSA	Public Service Agreement	SRB	Single Regeneration Budget
LSC	Learning & Skills Council	SWAN	South West Area Network (Hartlepool)
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership	TVJSU	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit
MORI	Market & Opinion Research International	TVP	Tees Valley Partnership
MRUK	Market Research UK	URC	Urban Regeneration Company

Endnotes

This Strategy was compiled by Joanne Smithson (Team Leader), Chris Barlow, John Potts, Catherine Frank and Dawn Clennett with contributions from colleagues across the Hartlepool Partnership, and over 1100 submissions received during the public consultation that ran from May to July 2006.



Published August 2006.

PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL
AREA

**NORTH HARTLEPOOL
BRUS/ST'HILDA**

THROSTON

**DYKE HOUSE/STRANTON
GRANGE**

BURBANK

**RIFT HOUSE
BURN VALLEY**

**WEST CENTRAL
HARTLEPOOL
NEW DEAL
FOR
COMMUNITIES**

OWTON

ROSSMERE



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: MINOR WORKS REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider schemes for potential funding from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Budget.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 **Stephen Street Alleygate Boards.** Residents and members of the forum will be aware of the anti social behaviour problems in the Stephen street area, residents from Hartwell Resident Association have been working alongside representatives from the police and the council to resolve the situation. Activities undertaken have revolved from increased police and warden patrols, reducing crime and carrying out environmental enforcement action. The private sector team continue to work with private landlords to raise their awareness and where necessary evict anti social tenants. To assist the process the forum is asked to consider the installation of alleygate notice boards at a cost of £46.00 each. The residents association will be able to use the boards to raise awareness of the services available and promote community involvement. The cost of this scheme **£400.**
- 2.2 **Lansdowne Road Street Lighting.** Residents have raised with the Ward Councillors concerns regarding poor street lighting provision in Lansdowne Road compared to neighbouring streets. A survey has been undertaken and the engineer has confirmed that whilst previously a number of lanterns have been replaced the problem is down to the spacing between columns, i.e. they space is too bin to have a good impact by just replacing lanterns. The total cost of replacing all the columns is £9,000, £3,000 has been obtained from the social lighting fund, the forum is asked to contribute **£6,000.**
- 2.3 **Waverley Terrace Allotments.** Residents have complained to ward councillors about what is perceived as abandoned and derelict allotments on Waverley Terrace. The area has been subject to a lot of anti social behaviour such as illegal fires, youths drinking and drug related litter is present on site. The Adult and Community Services Department have recently demolished half the plots and rebuilt some new ones, all of which have been allocated. Residents have requested the remaining plots be demolished and grassed over as open space. The works involved include the removal of fencing and trees on the recreation side, the removal of buildings, loose materials and

overgrown greenery, enabling the site to be cultivated. The cost of carrying out these works is estimated to be in the region of £12 - 15,000. Adult and Community Services can contribute £5,000 towards the scheme, the Rift House Burn Valley NAP Community forum have allocated £2000. The forum is requested to approve the remaining **£5000** to enable the scheme to go ahead this financial year.

2.4 Morton Street shrub bed.

There is a circular shrub bed in Morton Street, plants have been removed over the years and it is now looking tired. Residents have requested the area be blocked paved with a tree planted in the middle, protected by a metal cage. The Neighbourhood Management team have managed to source a cage keeping the cost down. The total cost for the scheme is **£950**.

2.5 Brenda Road Roundabout

Requests have been received from the community to improve the aesthetics of the above roundabout. Environmental improvements include the supply and planting of crocus bulbs around the perimeter in the grass verge area. Planting of lavender, hebe and phormium to full the central area between the trees. The cost of this scheme is **£2,410**.

2.6 Bulb Planting

To continue the forums beautification programme and improve a strategic route into town. The forum is asked to approve the planting of crocus bulbs on the Corner of Hart Lane/Dunston Road on the bankside opposite the Aldi store. The cost of this scheme is **£540**.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve the expenditure of subject to approval of the Portfolio Holder for Town Care Management.
- 3.2 The cost of schemes proposed is **£15,300**.
- 3.3 The total cost of the schemes approved at previous forums is **£60,207**.
- 3.4 Minor works monies remaining is **£11,493**, residents and members are reminded to contact members of the Neighbourhood Management team if there are any schemes you would like the forum to consider.