

REPLACEMENT AGENDA

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 15 September 2017

at 3.00 pm

in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors S Akers-Belcher, Cook, Cranney, Lindridge, Loynes, Moore and Vacancy

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017 (*previously circulated and published*)

4. **BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

4.1 Savings Programme 2018/19 – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

4.2 Hartlepool Local Plan Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan to Support the Habitats Regulations Assessment – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

5. **KEY DECISIONS**

No items.

6. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

6.1 Great Place: Greater Tees Programme – *Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Regeneration*

7. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

No items.



REPLACEMENT AGENDA

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION:

Date of next meeting – Thursday 19 October 2017 at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool



**REGENERATION SERVICES
COMMITTEE**
15 September 2017



Report of: DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION &
NEIGHBOURHOODS

Subject: SAVINGS PROGRAMME 2018/19

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Members to consider proposals to achieve further savings in 2018/19.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A comprehensive report on the “Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy – Capital and Revenue” was considered at the Finance and Policy Committee on 2nd December 2016. The report stated that despite the impact of continuing austerity and cuts in Government funding the Council needs to remain ambitious for the town.

3.2 The Council Plan 2017 to 2020 sets out the priorities we are committed to delivering and is based around six strategic priorities:

- Growing our economy, jobs and skills;
- Regenerating our town;
- Developing and promoting Hartlepool as a great place to live;
- Developing new services for people and communities;
- Building better beginnings and futures for our children and young people;
- Providing effective leadership based upon innovation and efficiency.

3.3 A report to Council on 23rd February 2017 approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2017/18 to 2019/20. The multi-year MTFS enabled a balanced budget be set for 2017/18. It also approved savings of £1.685m in 2018/19 and £0.785m in 2019/20 to begin to reduce the budget deficits in these years.

- 3.4 However, the savings proposals approved for 2018/19 and 2019/20 did not address the full deficits and savings of £2.320m still need to be identified. This deficit is after reflecting forecast increases in Council Tax income and the use of the Budget Support Fund, as summarised below:

Summary of measures to reduce 2018/19 and 2019/20 gross budget deficits

| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | Total 2018/19 and 2019/20 |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| | £'m | £'m | £'m |
| Gross Deficit | 7.314 | 3.758 | 11.072 |
| Less - Social Care Precept (3% 2018/19, 0% 2019/20) | (1.093) | 0 | (1.093) |
| Less - Council Tax increase 1.9% | (0.692) | (0.740) | (1.432) |
| Less - Growth in Council Tax base (742 Band D equivalent properties over the period 2018/19 and 2019/20) | (0.574) | (0.478) | (1.052) |
| Sub Total – Deficit after Council Tax increases and forecast housing growth | 4.955 | 2.540 | 7.495 |
| Less – Use of Budget Support Fund | (2.448) | (0.257) | (2.705) |
| Less – Savings approved February 2017 | (1.685) | (0.785) | (2.470) |
| Cuts still to be identified | 0.822 | 1.498 | 2.320 |

- 3.5 An update of the MTFs was considered by Finance and Policy Committee on 24th July and this confirmed the financial forecasts detailed in the previous paragraph. The update report also highlighted the continuing financial risks facing local authorities over the next few years. This underlines the importance of ensuring the Council sets balanced budgets for 2018/19 and 2019/20. For 2019/20 this needs to be based on minimising the use of one off funding to avoid deferring a budget deficit to 2020/21.
- 3.6 The MTFs forecasts are currently based on the Government's 1% pay cap remaining in place for 2018/19 and 2019/20. If actual pay awards are greater than 1% and the Government does not provide additional funding, the budget deficit will increase. Each additional 1% equates to an increase in the budget deficit of approximately £400,000.
- 3.7 The financial position facing the public sector for 2020/21 and future years is extremely uncertain and will depend on the state of the economy, including the impact of Brexit, policies adopted at a national level in relation to the overall size of the public sector and the level of national debt.
- 3.8 For Local Authorities policies implemented by the national Government will have a significant impact and cover the following key issues:

- **100% Business Rates Retention** - the exclusion of a bill to move from 50% to 100% Business Rates Retention creates significant financial uncertainty regarding future funding arrangements for local authorities;
- **Business Rates indexation** - confirmation by the Treasury at the end of July 2017 that Business Rates indexation will switch from RPI (Retail Prices Index) to CPI (Consumer Prices Index) from 2020 will be welcomed by the businesses. However, from local government's perspective this change will result in lower annual increases in this income stream, which will not keep pace with increases in the cost of delivering existing services.
- **Reform of the Local Government funding system** - the Government has indicated that work is continuing on a 'Fair Funding' review and they will be consulting on proposals during 2017. However, without 100% Business Rates Retention it is unclear how any changes will be funded. The Department for Communities and Local Government has recently indicated that this may not be implemented until 2020/21. Based on our current understanding of the significant work which needs to be completed before the Government can consult on detailed proposals the suggestion that any changes will be delayed until 2020/21 seems realistic;
- **Adult Social Care funding** - the significant financial challenges in this area were recognised by the Government prior to the General Election and short term funding has been provided. The Government has indicated they will be consulting on a number of options regarding the long term funding arrangements in due course;
- **Children's Social Care funding** - many councils, including Hartlepool, are experiencing significant financial pressures in this area. The Local Government Association (LGA) has recently issued a reporting warning of the significant financial challenges facing children's social care services. The LGA report shows that three quarter of English councils exceeded their budget for children's services last year, totalling a £605m overspend. The LGA forecast a £2 billion funding gap by 2020. This issue has not yet been recognised by the Government providing increased funding;
- **National Council Tax policy** - following a policy of encouraging Council Tax freezes for five years there was a significant shift in Government policy when they introduced the Adult Social Care precept for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20. Government Council Tax policy for 2020/21 and future years will have a significant impact on the financial sustainability of councils.
- **Public Sector pay levels and funding arrangements** - public sector pay has been subject to a prolonged period of restraint and the Government had previously indicated that a 1% Public Sector pay cap would continue for 2018/19 and 2019/20. However, there have been increasing calls on the Government to remove the pay cap and to fund

higher pay increases. If, or when, the Government remove the pay cap there will be significant financial pressures if additional Government funding is not provided for public sector organisations, including councils.

- 3.9 A further update report will be considered by Finance and Policy Committee on 18th September 2017 and detailed corporate savings which can be achieved in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to reduce the savings still to be identified from £2.320m to £1.641m. As these measures are front loaded this provides a slightly longer lead time to implement additional savings and the revised deficits for these years are as follows:

| | 2018/19 £'000 | 2019/20 £'000 | Total £'000 |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Savings still to be identified | 822 | 1,498 | 2,320 |
| Less Corporate savings/updated planning assumptions | (544) | (135) | (679) |
| Revised Savings still to be identified | 278 | 1,363 | 1,641 |

- 3.10 Additional savings proposals to be considered by individual Policy Committees in September are designed to address the remaining 2018/19 deficit of £278,000. Proposals to address the remaining forecast 2019/20 deficit will be developed during 2017/18 and will be reported to future meetings.

4. SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2018/19 AND 2019/20 – INCLUDING FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The 2018/19 and 2019/20 savings proposals approved in February 2017 are summarised below:

| Regeneration Services Committee | Approved Savings 2018/19 £'000 | Approved Savings 2019/20 £'000 | Total Approved Savings £'000 |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cultural services | 30 | | 30 |
| Total regeneration Services Committee: | 30 | | 30 |

- 4.2 In relation to the 2018/19 approved savings work is progressing to implement these proposals and Member are advised that the savings will be achieved as planned. With regard to the savings to be identified from Cultural Services and Heritage and Countryside this will be achieved by implementing the following savings:

- **Cultural Services - £30,000**

Deletion of one post

- 4.3 In addition to the savings proposals outlined above the following additional savings are recommended for implementation over the next two years. Part of these savings needs to be earmarked to fund departmental budget pressures. . Departmental pressures relate to cost associated with domestic waste and recycling collection services and the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Burn Road. In addition the income risk reserves set aside for Building Control, Planning and Economic Development and Car Parking inflation have been fully used in 2016/2017 so there is no reserve funding currently to manage this risk going forward.
- 4.4 As summarised in the following table the net impact of these savings and pressures is a net saving towards the remaining budget deficits for 2018/19.

| | Pressure /(saving) 2018/19 £'000 |
|---|---|
| Additional savings | |
| Regeneration | |
| Economic Development | (50) |
| Housing | (80) |
| Planning | (20) |
| Neighbourhoods | |
| Highways Trading account | (20) |
| Traffic & Transport | (40) |
| Sustainable transport | (20) |
| Passenger Transport | (40) |
| Finance & Policy | |
| Community Safety | (50) |
| | |
| Sub Total – Recommended additional savings | (320) |
| Less Departmental pressures | 100 |
| Additional savings towards remaining budget deficit | (220) |

- 4.5 In addition to the savings proposals outlined above the following additional savings are recommended for implementation over the next two years. Part of these savings needs to be earmarked to fund departmental budget pressures. Departmental pressures relate to cost associated with domestic waste and recycling collection services and the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Burn Road. In addition the income risk reserves set aside for Building Control, Planning and Economic Development and Car Parking inflation have been fully used in 2016/2017 so there is no reserve funding currently to manage this risk going forward.
- 4.6 In relation to the 2018/19 savings referred to in table 4.4 above they will be achieved by implementing the following :

- **Economic Regeneration - £50,000**

Deletion of one vacant post (bumped redundancy)

- **Housing - £80,000**

Proposed restructure will result in the deletion of two posts through accepting voluntary redundancy requests.

- **Planning - £20,000**

Proposed restructure will result in the deletion of one fixed term contract post.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are a number of risks implicit in the delivery of any package of savings and it is important to recognise these as part of any decision making. The primary risk relates to maintaining capacity to deliver the front line services and support to the Council/departments.

5.2 It is considered that the proposed 2017/18 savings can be delivered, although not without difficulty or some degree of risk. This can be managed in the coming year; however achieving these savings becomes more difficult each year.

5.3 The risks are real and should not be ignored, particularly taken in the context of previous savings which have been made. The assessments which have been undertaken, the summary of the conclusions from this are included in the sections above in the context they have been described are viewed as being manageable but only with there being a significant need to review workloads, priorities and for the potential scaling back of a number of current activities in line with the resources available.

5.4 It is considered that these savings can be delivered, although not without difficulty or some degree of risk but that this can be managed in this year, however achieving these savings becomes more difficult each year, which is the case in other departments. The following points highlight the key risks;

- Reduced staff morale. Where restructuring or reducing budgets has a continuing impact as the level of staff left to deliver services, it is essential to engage fully with those staff in order services are delivered in an effective and efficient way.
- Reduced operational budgets can lead to a reduced ability to deliver key targets, outputs and outcomes.
- Response times to enquiries and subsequent actions.
- Income targets not been met.
- Insufficient reserve to fund posts.
- Reputational damage for the Council. With the continued reduction in budgets and the ability to deliver frontline services through reduced staffing capacity, there is a real danger the Council's reputation will suffer. There may be an increase in the number of complaints or a reduction in the level of customer satisfaction.

- The Regeneration of the town and the key priorities referred to in the report are dependent upon capital funds, without external grants or loans we will not be able to deliver our ambitions and regenerate our town. The TVCA will be the vehicle for direct investment in the Tees Valley and it is essential the Council plays a full and active role within it.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 For each of the proposed savings areas where there is likely to be a direct impact on customers/service users and/or staff, consideration is given to the impact across each of the protected characteristic groups. This is recorded through an Equality Impact Assessment (see **Appendix 1**).
- 6.2 More than 90% of the above savings will be made by reducing staffing levels (mainly from vacant posts and ER/VR applications and changes to funding arrangements) with some changes to day to day running costs and significant savings being made from different funding arrangements for the Tees Valley Combined Authority.
- 6.3 This impact assessment will be reviewed by the Corporate Equality Group alongside those for the other Department savings proposals. An overall Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken to identify if there is any Council-wide cumulative impact on protected groups from the savings proposals for the current proposed savings framework.

7 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific legal considerations relating to this report

8 CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 8.1 There are no specific child and family poverty considerations relating to this report.

9 STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There will be staffing implications associated with the savings proposals considered by individual Policy Committee and these will be managed at a corporate level by the Finance and Policy Committee. This approach will seek to maximise staffing reductions which can be achieved by managing vacancies and accepting requests for voluntary redundancies, where this can be achieved within the requirements of the service. Where compulsory redundancies cannot be avoided the corporate approach will seek to maximise redeployment opportunities.

10 ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific asset management considerations relating to this report.

11 CONSULTATION

- 11.1 The majority of the approved savings for 2018/19 and 2019/20 were subject to consultation as part of the 2017/18 budget process. Where these proposals have changed significantly they will be subject to separate consultation alongside any additional savings proposed for 2018/19 and 2019/20. This consultation will include Trade Unions and individual staff groups affected by the proposals.

12 CONCLUSION

- 12.1 The Council approved a multi-year financial strategy in February 2017, which included the phased use of reserves to help manage budget reduction over the period 2017/18 to 2019/20. The strategy also approved savings for implementation in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to begin to address the budget deficits for these years.
- 12.2 The proposals in this report details changes to the approved 2018/19 and 2019/20 savings to reflect changes in circumstances since February. In addition, further savings proposals are outlined to address departmental pressures and to make a contribution towards addressing the remaining 2018/19 and 2019/20 budget shortfalls.
- 12.3 At a corporate level the proposal identified for individual Policy Committees will enable a balanced budget to be set for 2018/19. The position for 2019/20 is less positive and a significant budget deficit remains. Proposals for addressing the remaining 2019/20 of £1.363m will be developed during 2017/18.
- 12.4 Achievement of further savings for 2019/20 will be challenging and will require further changes, whilst ensuring services are maintained as far as practical, or the implications of reducing capacity are reflected in service requirements.
- 12.5 There are a number of risks which may increase the 2019/20 deficit, including the funding arrangements for Children's Services and the actual level of pay awards. These issues will be kept under review and details of any changes will be reported to future meetings.
- 12.6 The multi-year strategy being adopted by the Council is designed to manage the impact of continuing cuts in Government funding on a phased basis to minimise, as far as is possible within the reduced resources available to the Council, the impact on services and jobs. The strategy also aims to ensure

the Council is in the best possible financial position to manage the challenges and uncertainty facing councils in 2020/21 and future years.

- 12.7 Recognising the austere climate and the savings the Council has to achieve in line with Government policy, the department has aligned and prioritised resources to focus on achieving the Council's ambition for Economic Growth and development.
- 12.8 It is important to note that in addition to the savings required to support the Council's overall savings programme it has been necessary to identify savings to fund budget pressures within the department. Pressures include the income pressures of £100k in relating to the cost associated with domestic waste and recycling collection services and the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Burn Road. In addition the income risk reserves set aside for Building Control, Planning and Economic Development and Car Parking inflation have been fully used in 2016/2017 so there is no reserve funding currently to manage this risk going forward. Inflation adds pressure each year and this should be removed as part of the budget build – which requires savings to be identified in other areas. There is a possibility of a 20% fee increase in Planning which will reduce the risk on planning income but we await full and final guidance. A reserve may be another way to manage this risk if budgets cannot be reduced permanently and would have to be considered as part of this year's reserves review.

13 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 It is recommended that Members of the Committee note the content of the report and formulate a response to be presented to Finance and Policy Committee on 20th November 2017.

14 **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 The proposals included in this report have been identified as being sustainable and deliverable.

15 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-
- i. Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2017/18 to 2019/20 - 25th February 2017
 - ii. Finance and Policy Committee - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2018/19 to 2019/20 - 24th July 2017

16 CONTACT OFFICERS

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APPENDIX 1

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

| Department | Division | Section | Owner/Officer | |
|--|--|---|---------------|--|
| Regeneration and Neighbourhoods | Regeneration | All | Denise Ogden | |
| Function/Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Housing Services • Building Control • Economic Regeneration • Estates & Regeneration • Adult Education-Learning and Skills • Culture and Information | | | |
| Information Available | <p>A significant range of information is available at both macro and micro levels. Socio economic data is provide by the Office of National Statistics, which can be broken down to local areas. In addition data is collected via employability and training programmes. Housing data is collected at both a national and local level. Cultural Services derive data directly from service users including residents using, libraries and community centres'. The development of the new Local Plan sets out a framework for growth thereby positively impacting on socio economic wellbeing.</p> | | | |
| Relevance | Age | | X | |
| Identify which strands are relevant or may be affected by what you are reviewing or changing | Disability | | X | |
| | Gender Re-assignment | | X | |
| | Race | | X | |
| | Religion | | | |
| | Gender | | X | |
| | Sexual Orientation | | X | |
| | Marriage & Civil Partnership | | X | |
| | Pregnancy & Maternity | | X | |
| | Information Gaps | <p>The proposals do not specifically impact on 3rd parties. There are no specific gaps in information relating to the proposals.</p> | | |
| | What is the Impact | <p>The impact on Council employees has been minimised and the savings are largely based on ER/VR requests and deletion of vacant and fixed term posts. Impacts on service users has been minimised although in some instances response times maybe affected..</p> | | |
| Addressing the impact | <p>The outcome of the impact assessment may be one or more of the following four outcomes; You must clearly set out your justification for the outcome/s.</p> <p>1. No Impact- No Major Change –</p> <p>2. Adjust/Change Policy - Whilst at this stage the proposals for savings are not likely to have a significant adverse impact as noted in the main report a review should be carried out 6 months</p> | | | |

APPENDIX 1

| | |
|--|---|
| | after any changes are implemented in the areas that may see slower response times and possible reductions in the hours that services are available to the public. In addition progress on income targets should be reviewed at 6 month intervals. |
| | 3. Adverse Impact but Continue - |
| | 4. Stop/Remove Policy/Proposal – |

Actions

It will be useful to record and monitor any actions resulting from your assessment to ensure that they have had the intended effect and that the outcomes have been achieved.

| Action identified | Responsible Officer | By When | How will this be evaluated? |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Date sent to Equality Rep for publishing | 00/00/00 |
| Date Published | 00/00/00 |
| Date Assessment Carried out | 09/08/2016 |

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

15th September 2017



Report of: Director (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)

Subject: HARTLEPOOL LOCAL PLAN MITIGATION
STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN TO SUPPORT
THE HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek endorsement of the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan which has been produced to sit alongside the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Hartlepool Local Plan. The Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan was a requirement of Natural England to illustrate that any negative impacts that the Local Plan will have on the environmental designations along the coast can be suitably mitigated.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A key element in the production of the Hartlepool Local Plan has been the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This is a statutory requirement of the process as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) where it is considered that the Plan will have significant effects on European habitats or species, located in the local planning authority's area or in its vicinity.

3.2 The Habitats Regulations Assessment undertaken as part of the Publication Local Plan Stage and Submitted to the Secretary of State in March this year was assessed for its impact on European Sites (Nature 2000 Sites – N2K sites). All of the 86 emerging Local Plan policies have been screened using the 'Natural England guidance on scoring policies from The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents (2009)'. A total of 55 policies were initially screened out, leaving 29 policies requiring further assessment. The RSPB proposal of examining Likely Significant Effect (LSE) through the source-pathway-receptor method was used. Each of the 29 policies were assessed in more

detail, examining proposed mitigation and with regard to the precautionary principle, to test for LSE. Seven housing policies could not be ruled out of causing LSE.

- 3.3 Seven housing policies were subjected to a stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. The possibility of a direct adverse impact was ruled out for all policies and all N2K sites. The possibility of indirect LSE was examined. For each issue, evidence is presented within the Appropriate Assessment and analysed and the Council's conclusions given. The following indirect issues were ruled out for all N2K sites: atmospheric pollution and nutrient enrichment from dog faeces.
- 3.4 The most complex issue was the possibility of indirect LSE through recreational disturbance. N2K sites other than the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/ Ramsar are ruled out. Evidence and analysis regarding the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA/ Ramsar are discussed within the HRA. The report presents some evidence that overall bird numbers on the SPA have fallen since the site was designated in 1995 and evidence of disturbance (especially by dogs off lead) but also accounts of birds seemingly habituated to human and canine presence and not disturbed. However, in line with neighbouring local authority areas, the likelihood of increased disturbance as a direct result of new housing is accepted.
- 3.5 Mitigation is required for indirect recreational disturbance and the appropriate assessment notes that these will be delivered through three pathways:
- Strategic policy guidance from Hartlepool BC
 - Hartlepool BC day to day Foreshore Services provision
 - Developer contributions
- 3.6 Proposed changes to policy wording put forward within the Modifications documents has ensured that developers know that mitigation is required through Planning Obligations. Developers will be expected to provide mitigation and this will mainly be in the form of maximum provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) for the application site and/ or a financial developer contribution. The financial developer contribution will be made to the Council and distributed to an external organisations (eg: Durham Heritage Coast; T&CC European Marine Site; INCA) to provide a warden. The detail and costing of the various requirements identified to mitigate the indirect effects identified are set out within the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan attached as **Appendix A**.
- 3.7 Hartlepool BC assesses that with the above precautions and mitigation in place, LSE for the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA/ Ramsar is negated. The HRA reviews neighbouring Local Authority and sub-regional plans and policies in terms of in-combination LSE. Each of the coastal Local Planning Authorities have (or will) conclude LSE through indirect recreational disturbance alone and each is developing mitigation to deal with it.

- 3.8 Through the work on the HRA and the development of the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan the local authority has worked closely with Natural England and they, as the Statutory Consultee for this element of the plan, have now withdrawn their objections to the plan and now consider the plan to be sound and legally compliant.
- 3.9 The Planning Inspector appointed to examine the Local Plan has queried whether the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan has been reported to, or signed off by, the Council. As such, and to help to illustrate the deliverability of the strategy it was considered prudent to report it to Regeneration Services Committee prior to the Hearing session into this matter which takes place on the 11th October 2017.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No risk implications are identified in relation to the endorsement of the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan illustrates the cost of the necessary mitigation and illustrates how this can be funded through developer contributions paid by the housing developers. There is no identified financial burden on the Council.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is required to Submit a Local Plan in accordance with Part 20(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012. A key element in the production of the Hartlepool Local Plan has been the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This is a statutory requirement of the process as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) where it is considered that the Plan will have significant effects on European habitats or species, located in the local planning authority's area or in its vicinity.

7. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 7.1 There are no Child and Family Poverty issues in relation to this report.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific identified negative equality and diversity impacts in relation to this report.

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

9.1 There are no crime and disorder impacts in relation to this report.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 There are no staff considerations relating to this report.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 There are no asset management considerations in relation to this report.

12. CONSULTATION

12.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment was part of the consultation on the Local Plan at Publication Stage and the earlier Preferred Options Stage. The Mitigation Strategy and Action plan was added to the Local Plan Examination Page on the 18th August 2017 and is available for those participating in the Examination process to use. The Council have consulted with Natural England and the RSPB to seek their views on the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan which has resulted in Natural England withdrawing their objection to the Local Plan.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 Members are asked to endorse the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan attached as Appendix A.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 To formally endorse the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan and to support the Local Plan examination process.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 Copies of the Local Plan and supporting documentation are available on the Councils website:

https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/20209/local_plan

16. CONTACT OFFICER

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APPENDIX 1

Hartlepool Local Plan Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan, associated with the Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Summary

The European Commission Habitats Directive (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010) requires a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of all plans and projects. This assesses any 'likely significant effect' (i.e. adverse impact) on European Sites or their qualifying features. A HRA has been produced for the Publication Hartlepool Local Plan 2016-2031, to assess the impact of all policies. For a number of policies, 'likely significant effect' was found and appropriate mitigation has been devised to manage this. This will ensure that there is no harm to European Sites and their interest features. The mitigation measures have been drawn up into this 'Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan'.

- The Hartlepool Local Plan is a 15 year plan (2016 to 2031).
- The policies likely to have an adverse affect on European Sites through indirect recreational disturbance are housing, tourism and retail policies.
- The number and extent of tourism and retail developments is an unknown.
- The number of planned new houses is a known figure.
- HRA mitigation is needed for housing developments which will cause recreational disturbance that impacts protected birds.
- There are 6,199 new dwellings in Local Plan + ca: 300 windfall sites.
- 1,805 houses trigger the need to mitigate impacts, including with a financial contribution (Table 2).
- The metrics used to calculate the financial contribution are based on the level of likely impact and includes commuting distance to the European Sites and number of dog-owning families (Table 3).
- A sum of £434,550 is expected to be raised through Section 106 agreements, from house building. Each development is expected to contribute between £200 and £300/house.
- Financial contributions will be collected by Hartlepool BC and used to deliver the Hartlepool Foreshore and Countryside Site Management Action Plan (Table 4).
- Hartlepool BC works in partnership with the Durham Heritage Coast, INCA (Industry and Nature Conservation Association), Durham County Council and the Tees Valley Nature Partnership and will use these organisations to deliver projects.
- Hartlepool BC will not directly employ a coastal warden, but will contribute to Durham County Council, Durham Heritage Coast and INCA initiatives.
- Partner agencies already employ wardening staff for various projects including wardening of the colony of breeding little terns.
- Some Hartlepool Foreshore & Countryside Site Management Action Plan tasks are routinely delivered and funded in-house and some will be funded by historic S106 agreements (e.g. from the Britmag development) or through the England Coast Path National Trail initiative.
- Some Hartlepool Foreshore & Countryside Site Management Action Plan tasks are delivered by the Hartlepool Countryside Wardens service including the use of volunteers.

APPENDIX 1

Table 1 Local Plan Mitigation Strategy – 15-year funding plan.

| Action | Year 1 cost (£) | On-going cost | Total (£) |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Financial contribution to a third-party delivery body, to support a coastal warden post, hosted by partners. | 20,000 | 20,000/year | 300,000 |
| Financial contribution to a third-party delivery body, to support capital improvements, shared with partners. | 5,000 | 5,000/year | 75,000 |
| Creation of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) & Byelaws. | 3,000 | 1,000 every 3 years (from Year 4) | 7,000 |
| Interpretation panel at Crimdon Dene. | 3,260 | 5 N ^o replacement @ £1,200 | 9,260 |
| Interpretation panel at West harbour. | 3,260 | 5 N ^o replacement @ £1,200 | 9,260 |
| Interpretation panel at Newburn Bridge. | 3,260 | 5 N ^o replacement @ £1,200 | 9,260 |
| Contingencies. | 1,000 | 1,000/year | 15,000 |
| Total | 46,780 | | 424,780 |

NB: Routine in-house tasks, such as the maintenance of HBC owned countryside sites, not included.

Table 2 Contributing housing developments (including recent and estimated windfall sites)

| Policy | Area | Mitigation expected | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|
| | | £/house | £ | SANGS | Other (e.g.info packs) |
| HSG3, Urban | John House Gds - 20 | 250 | 5,000 | - | - |
| HSG3, Urban | Carr and Hopps - 70 | 250 | 17,500 | - | - |
| HSG3, Urban | Briarfields - 14 | 250 | 3,500 | - | - |
| HSG3, Urban | Coronation Drive - 65 | 300 | 19,500 | - | Y |
| HSG4 | *SW Extension – 1,260 | 0 | 0 | Y | Y |
| HSG5a | High Tunstall – 980 | 250 | 245,000 | Y | Y |
| HSG5b | Quarry Farm - 220 | 250 | 55,000 | Y | Y |
| HSG6 | Wynyard - 732 | 0 | 0 | Y | - |
| HSG7 | Elwick - 35 | 200 | 7,000 | - | - |
| HSG8, Hart Village | Nine Acres - 30 | 250 | 7,500 | - | Y |
| HSG8, Hart Village | Glebe Farm - 20 | 250 | 5,000 | - | Y |
| Windfall | Land adjacent to Glebe Farm - 27 | 250 | 6,750 | - | Y |
| Windfall | Southbrooke Farm - 14 | 200 | 2,800 | - | - |
| Windfall | Estimated - 300 | 200 | 60,000 | - | - |
| Total (£) | 3,797 | - | 434,550 | - | - |

*Outline planning permission has been granted and HRA stage 1 screened out Likely Significant Effect.

SANGS = Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space.

APPENDIX 1

Table 3 Suggested funding formula - £/house. Based on two factors. Applies to new applications from 01/01/2017.

| Parameters | £/house | Notes |
|--|---------|--|
| Accessibility of the coast | | |
| Walking possible (0-1km) | 200 | |
| Car required (1-6km driving route) | 100 | Actual route |
| Car required (6-12km driving route) | 50 | Actual route |
| Car required (12+km driving route) | 0 | Only applies to Wynyard development which is 12+km driving route. |
| | | |
| Provision of SANGS/ reliance on Council sites | | |
| No SANGS & no Council runs sites used | 150 | |
| Reliance on Council run sites (even if some SANGS also provided) | 100 | Just as SANGS provided on-site, requires a financial commitment (and a costed, long-term, management and maintenance programme), developers reliant on HBC run recreational sites, need to pay a one-off fee to accommodate the additional use. Council tax payers will subsequently contribute. |
| Adequate SANGS provision | 0 | Natural England SANGS guidance used. |
| | | Range is £0 to £350 per dwelling |

SANGS = Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space.

APPENDIX 1

Table 4. Hartlepool Foreshore and Countryside Site Management **Action Plan 2018**

| Action | Timescale | Materials | 2018 Cost £ (approx.) | HBC Lead officer |
|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Maintain barrier at Brus Tunnel to prevent off-road vehicular access to North Sands shore. | Quarterly | Metal barrier (new or repair) & installation | 500 | Access Officer |
| Create Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to legislate for dogs to be on a lead at appropriate times and in certain locations. | 31 December | Officer time, signage | 1,000 | Community Safety & Engagement Team |
| Enforcement of dog fouling. | Random weekly site visits | Enforcement Officer time | 0 (HBC legal duty) | Enforcement team |
| Enforcement of dog PSPOs. | Random weekly site visits | Enforcement Officer time | 12,000 | Enforcement team |
| Way marking and promotion of England Coast Path National Trail | 31 December | Access Officer time, way marking materials, installation costs | 0 (HBC Access budget, NE funding) | Access Officer |
| Deliver Dune Management Plan at Marine Point (North Sands). S106 agreement. | 31 December | Heavy plant, chestnut paling fencing | 0 (Olnato funding) | Ecologist |
| Deliver 5 N ^o interpretation panels at Marine Point (North Sands). S106 agreement. | 31 December | Officer time, designer time, boards & materials, installation | 9,260 | Access Officer, Ecologist |
| Deliver 1 N ^o interpretation panel within a seating shelter (North Sands only) | 31 December | Officer time, designer time, boards & materials, installation | 5,000 | Access Officer, Ecologist |
| Update content on HBC website and social media | Monthly | Office time | 500 | Ecologist, Media Officer |
| Funding contribution for seasonal Little Tern Warden, including erection & dismantling of fencing at Crimdon Dene (reduced level in 2018 as only one or two S106 | 31 December | Warden time, fencing, installation & dismantling | 5,000 (year 1) | Ecologist to liaise with INCA |

APPENDIX 1

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|------------------|--|
| agreements are likely to be in place). | | | | |
| Funding of wider-Durham Coast Warden, shared with other Local Authorities (reduced level in 2018 as only one or two S106 agreements will be generating money). | 31 December | Warden time | 5,000 | Ecologist to liaise with DCC |
| Review Seaton Common LNR Management Plan | 31 December | Ecologist time | 1,000 (In-kind) | Ecologist |
| Support NE bid to HLF for Saving England's Silver Meadows bid, to include Seaton Common | 31 December | Ecologist time | 1,000 (In-kind) | Ecologist |
| Maintenance & management of HBC countryside sites, inc Summerhill Country Park, Seaton Common, North Gare & Hart to Haswell Walkway. | On-going | Countryside Wardens, Natural England, Summerhill CP staff & volunteers. | 10,000 (In-kind) | Summerhill CP Manager, estates team, Countryside Wardens |
| Total | | | 50,260 | |

Further management tasks to be integrated in to the Action Plan

- Physical improvements to access points
- Barriers/ management of off-road vehicles
- Additional PSPO &/or byelaws
- Enforcement of dogs off lead regulations
- Promotion of England Coast Path National Trail
- Way marking of access routes
- Environmental education
- Additional interpretation panels
- Leaflets
- Websites and social media

Spatial maps have been created which show bird use at different states of tide, on the different beaches. The most vulnerable sections of beach will be targeted for priority management action. HBC has evidence which shows that some beaches are more populated with birds and therefore will be primarily the ones targeted for action. The key aims are to prevent an increase in recreational use and to reduce existing use of vulnerable areas, although it is accepted that established use is difficult to reverse. The key breeding and roosting sites will be included in the dog control section of the Hartlepool Public Space Protection Order, which will be out to public consultation in late 2017.

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

15 September 2017



Report of: Assistant Director (Economic Growth and Regeneration)

Subject: GREAT PLACE: GREATER TEES PROGRAMME

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the recent announcement regarding the successful Great Place bid to the Arts Council and Heritage Lottery and seek approval to provide a financial contribution to the *Greater Tees* programme from the Council's museum acquisition reserve.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Great Place Greater Tees programme is three year multi partner, Tees Valley wide programme led by Tees Valley Combined Authority. The programme was devised through consultation with a wide range of arts and heritage organisations who work with people and in communities across the Tees Valley. The programme aims to use culture to create a genuine shared and positive sense of place and identity across the Tees Valley that will inform local social and economic policies.

3.2 Alongside strengthening and increasing the resilience of the cultural infrastructure, skills and sustainability of creative organisations the programme will connect communities particularly those disempowered or marginalised, through high quality participatory work, delivering a range of outcomes including empowerment and personal development. Tees Valley communities will explore and celebrate the artistic life and heritage that's meaningful to them and place our communities and arts and heritage organisations at the heart of delivery in the Tees Valley.

3.3 The Tees Valley Combined Authority adopted an ambitious cultural strategy and embraced the idea that the five unitary authorities initially developed, that the Tees Valley will bid to become UK City of Culture in 2025.

4. GREAT PLACE: GREATER TEES PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The Great Place Greater Tees programme funding has been awarded £1.1735M including VAT on the basis of the projects and descriptions of activity provided by each partner for the submission to Heritage Lottery Fund /Arts Council England and Heritage England and each place's partnership funding commitment.
- 4.2 The programme objectives are:-
- To connect communities across the Tees Valley, particularly those frequently disempowered or marginalised, through a range of high quality participatory work, delivering a range of outcomes including empowerment and personal development;
 - Support local communities to explore, celebrate artistic life and heritage of Tees Valley that's meaningful to them, through events and activities;
 - Work in partnership with organisations and agencies outside cultural Sector; enabling local people to influence plans, strategies and services;
 - Strengthen cultural infrastructure through interventions aimed, increasing skills and sustainability for cultural and creative workers;
 - Increase resilience of arts and heritage organisations, placing them at the heart of delivery.
- 4.3 There is a shortage of skills and experiences, severely limiting growth and ambition within the cultural sector, and outside of the key arts and heritage organisations whilst not unique to Hartlepool it is a concern if we are to deliver on our overall ambition regarding creative industries including arts and heritage.
- 4.4 This programme will build capacity in Hartlepool working with the strengths of existing Tees Valley cultural organisations targeting communities, bringing together the strengths of existing TV cultural organisations i.e. ARC, Hullabaloo, Mima, Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF), Festival of Thrift, CCAD, Teesside University and Tees Valley Arts, *Greater Tees* will involve communities in high quality participatory work delivering a range of outcomes including empowerment and personal development of individuals, creative skills and collective voices
- 4.5 The original ask from Hartlepool was £76,000 and has been provided in full. TVCA have allocated additional funding of £14K to Hartlepool to allow for additional identity work to be carried out making the total Hartlepool budget £90K. In addition there are a number of overarching programmes that will be delivered across Tees Valley and have flexibility within the overall programme for work in Hartlepool, to the sum of circa £120,000. TVCA have also allocated a share of the overall Programme Management, Evaluation and Marketing reserve to each of the five Boroughs. This makes

the overall contribution to Hartlepool £262,400. This is a significant amount, recognising the intensive work required to address the capacity concerns referred to earlier and put in place sustainable measures for the future. Members should note some places are providing Tees Valley wide programmes and have not requested funds for a detailed programme of work in their own area, e.g. Stockton. They will however provide six carnival production projects in other parts of Tees Valley, of which two carnival opportunities are identified for Hartlepool which will build on and add value to existing projects centred upon the regeneration of Church Street and Church Square area, the historic heart of Victorian West Hartlepool.

- 4.6 TVCA will act as lead authority for the Partnership, reporting to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Arts Council England (ACE) and be accountable for the grant. They will project manage day to day operations of the partnership, employing a lead Project Manager through the term of the programme. TVCA will produce and deliver financial and progress reports to ACE and/or HLF as required by the terms and conditions of the grant and organise monthly steering Groups of the Partnership.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If the local authority chose not to contribute to the programme there is a reputational risk for the Council and the wider Tees Valley and the wider aspirations for an ambitious cultural strategy, as mentioned earlier in the report.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Each partner local authority must contribute the sum of £8,500 per annum for each year of the agreement. It is proposed the Council's contribution of £25,500 be funded from the Council Museums Acquisition Reserve which is an earmarked reserve which was established back in the 1960's from donations to procure cultural assets relevant to Hartlepool.
- 6.2 The local authority will be responsible for any financial obligations which arise from participation in the programmes activities. The authority will be responsible for maintaining records of financial claims as appropriate to the terms and conditions of the Grant and deliver reports as required to TVCA
- 6.3 Members are reminded that significant additional Government Grant cuts will be made over the period 2017/18 to 2019/20. By 2019/20 this means Government funding will have been cut for 9 years. In addition, the Government's current policy in relation to Council Tax, including the Social Care precept, is increasing the proportion of the overall budget funded from Council Tax. An update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy was submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 9th January 2017 and informed Members that the Council faces a gross budget deficit over the next three year of £20.8m. The implementation of corporate savings, forecast Council Tax increases, housing growth and increased Better Care

Funding reduces this to £8.8 million over the next three years, which equates to 10% of the 2016/17 budget. Detailed savings proposals totalling approximately £6.6m were approved by Finance and Policy Committee on 9th January 2017, which means the Council still needs to make further savings of £2.2m over the next two years. This figure may increase if existing budget pressures cannot be managed by reducing demand for demand led services. Any additional budget pressures that are created will increase the level of budget cuts which will need to be made and will need to be referred to the Finance and Policy Committee for consideration.

7 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The local authority will be responsible for any legal obligations which arise from participation in the programmes activities.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The bid was the result of consultation across a variety of cultural organisations including the five local authorities in the Tees Valley, CCAD and Tees University.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty implications relating to this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.

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

- 11.1 There are no Section 17 considerations relating to this report.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 The funding will provide for the employment of one fixed term project officer post employed by Hartlepool BC for the duration of the programme.
- 12.2 Partners will attend at least 3 steering group meetings per year.
- 12.3 An overall Programme Manager, employed by the TVCA, will also look for opportunities to further develop work in Hartlepool through work with HLF, ACE and HE including running bid writing sessions, developing the work

on the HAZ and also developing any other funding or joint working opportunities across the 3 years.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 There are no asset management considerations relating to this report.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 It is recommended that Members approve the scheme and agree to using an element of the Museums acquisition fund to fund the Council's contribution to the project as set out in the financial implications above.

14.2 Use the Museum reserve to fund the business case in year 1.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The project will make a huge contribution to the cultural aspirations of Hartlepool Borough Council, and address capacity issues around skills and experience.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 There are no background papers relating to this report.

17. CONTACT OFFICER

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