

HARTLEPOOL BOARD

AGENDA

Friday 4 September 2026, 9:00am to 10:30am

Six8nine Community Centre
Stockton Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1TX

Agenda Item		Lead	Item Decision
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interest		
3.	Minutes and Actions from the Last Meeting		
Pride in Place Matters			
4.	Launch of PiPP Open Call for Proposals – Approval of Funding Priorities and Next Steps <i>(Report Attached)</i>	Scott Campbell	For Decision
5.	Programme Update, by exception: • Risk Register <i>(Verbal Update)</i> • Changes to Programme Guidance <i>(Verbal Update)</i> • Monitoring & Evaluation <i>(Verbal Update)</i> • Renaming the Hartlepool Board <i>(Verbal Update)</i> • HOP Quarterly Progress Report <i>(Report Attached)</i>	Scott Campbell & Iain Caldwell	For Information
Strategic Matters			
6.	Hartlepool Town Centre Crime & Safety Funded Project <i>(Presentation)</i>	Scott Campbell	For Information
7.	Developing Hartlepool’s Town Goals <i>(Discussion & Activity)</i>	Scott Campbell	For Discussion
8.	Any Other Business • Powered by Imagining Event <i>(Information Attached)</i>	All Haani Hasnain	For Discussion

Date of Next Meeting:
Thursday 1 October 2026, Town Hall Theatre

Agenda Item 4

Hartlepool Board

Friday 4 September 2026

Subject: Pride in Place Open Call for Proposals

Decision Type: For Decision

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from the Hartlepool Board on the proposed decision-making process and priorities for the first Pride in Place Open Call for Proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its previous meeting, the Hartlepool Board agreed the principle of launching the first Open Call for Proposals as part of the Pride in Place Programme in October 2026.
- 2.2 The Open Call will provide an opportunity to pilot the Board's approach to investment during the first year of delivery, whilst supporting visible, community-led improvements that reflect the priorities identified by residents through the development of Hartlepool's Pride in Place Regeneration Plan.
- 2.3 It was agreed by Board that up to £200,000 of capital funding is made available through this initial open call. This approach will enable the Board to test and refine the decision-making process, build a pipeline of community-led projects, and demonstrate early delivery progress against the priorities of the Government's Pride in Place Programme.
- 2.4 The proposed priorities have been informed by:
- Hartlepool's 10-Year Pride in Place Regeneration Plan
 - Community engagement with over 1,400 residents in Summer 2025
 - Innovation Days held in March 2026 involving over 100 residents, community groups, businesses, and stakeholders across Hartlepool
- 2.5 As the first Open Call delivered through the Pride in Place Programme, this initial round has been designed as a pilot approach. This will provide the Board with an opportunity to test the proposed decision-making processes, whilst generating a pipeline of community-led projects and learning that can inform future funding rounds through the Pride in Place Programme.

3. PROPOSED FUNDING PRIORITIES

3.1 To ensure the first Open Call remains focused, community-led, and capable of delivering visible change using the available funding, it is proposed that applications are invited under two priorities that were consistently identified through community engagement, stakeholder consultation and the Innovation Days which were held in March.

3.2 The proposed priorities align with the approved Regeneration Plan providing opportunities for community-led delivery of visible improvements that can be implemented during the first year of the Pride in Place Programme.

3.3 Priority 1 – Activating Parks, Public Spaces & Beaches

3.3.1 The enhancement and activation of parks, public spaces and beaches emerged as one of the strongest recurring themes throughout the development of the Pride in Place Programme. Residents consistently identified the importance of improving access to green spaces, making greater use of natural assets, and creating welcoming environments that support health, wellbeing, social connection, and community activity.

3.3.2 During the Innovation Days, attendees prioritised a range of proposals focused on enhancing green spaces, improving parks, investing in outdoor infrastructure, and encouraging greater use of coastal and open spaces. These interventions were seen as opportunities to deliver visible improvements whilst supporting wider outcomes relating to the identified themes for the first four years of the Pride in Place Programme.

3.3.3 Examples of projects may include:

- Improvements to parks and green spaces
- Beach and coastal enhancements
- Outdoor community infrastructure
- Play, recreation and physical activity infrastructure
- Projects that encourage greater use of public and open spaces

3.3.4 This priority aligns with all four of the investment themes which are Safety and Security, Health and Wellbeing, Community Cohesion, and High Street, Heritage, and Regeneration.

3.4 Priority 2 – Community Assets & Neighbourhood Spaces

3.4.1 Access to local community buildings, facilities and neighbourhood spaces was a consistent theme identified through both the community engagement and Innovation Days. Residents highlighted the importance of having places where people can meet, access support, participate in activities and develop stronger connections within their neighbourhoods. Feedback also identified opportunities to bring underused buildings and community assets back into active use within the Borough.

3.4.2 This priority seeks to support community-led improvements to local facilities and neighbourhood assets, complementing the grant scheme already delivered through the Impact Fund. Investment in community assets will create opportunities for community ownership, strengthen neighbourhood infrastructure, and provide a foundation for wider community activity.

3.4.3 Examples of projects may include:

- Refurbishment and enhancement of neighbourhood buildings
- Improvements to community assets and spaces
- Bringing underused local assets back into active use
- Accessibility improvements
- Equipment and infrastructure to increase community use of facilities

3.4.4 This priority aligns with all four of the investment themes which are Safety and Security, Health and Wellbeing, Community Cohesion, and High Street, Heritage, and Regeneration.

4. APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 A draft decision-making process is attached at Appendix 1. The process has been designed to ensure investment decisions are transparent, consistent, and aligned with the Pride in Place Regeneration and Investment Plans. The process is intentionally comprehensive to provide assurance to the Board regarding governance, appraisal, due diligence and decision-making. A shorter and simplified version will be developed for applicants, setting out the key stages of the process and assessment criteria in an accessible format for the community.

4.2 Whilst applications will be welcomed from across Hartlepool, priority will be given to projects that deliver clear benefits to areas experiencing the greatest levels of need including the borough's Mission Critical Neighbourhoods. This reflects the Board's commitment to targeting investment where it can deliver the greatest impact for residents and communities which was also a funding requirement from Government.

4.3 Applicants will also be encouraged to maximise the impact of the investment by securing match funding and leveraging additional resources wherever possible. This may include charitable and philanthropic grants, corporate social responsibility contributions, volunteer time, or in-kind support. This will ensure that proposals demonstrate an ability to secure additional investment and deliver wider community benefit for Hartlepool.

4.4 The Open Call for Proposals will launch in early October 2026 and remain open for a period of six weeks. This will provide sufficient time for local organisations to develop high-quality proposals and collaborative projects. Through the existing commission, HOP will provide development support to any applicants throughout this period, helping communities to shape proposals, identify partners and maximise the impact of potential projects.

4.5 The proposed decision-making process includes:

- Initial eligibility checks undertaken by the Council with support from Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership.
- Assessment of applications against strategic fit, community benefit, value for money and alignment with the Regeneration Plan.
- Appropriate appraisal and due diligence in relation to deliverability, risk, procurement, and subsidy control requirements.
- Opportunities for community involvement and feedback which will be facilitated by Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership.
- The extent to which proposals secure match funding or leverage wider resources to maximise community impact.
- Recommendations being presented to the relevant decision-making body in line with the governance of the Hartlepool Board.

4.6 The Council will administer the Open Call on behalf of the Board, including promotion, application management, appraisal, and due diligence processes in line with our responsibilities as Accountable Body.

4.7 The Pride in Place Programme is intended to be community-led and it is recognised that organisations represented on the Hartlepool Board, its subgroups and wider partnership arrangements may wish to submit applications through any Open Calls. Appropriate arrangements will therefore be in place to identify, declare, and manage any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest throughout the assessment and decision-making process.

4.8 Any board member with a conflict of interest in relation to a funding application will be required to declare that interest and will not participate in the assessment, recommendation or decision-making process relating to that application. All conflicts of interest will be recorded and managed in accordance with the Board's Conflict of Interest Policy and the Council's responsibilities as the Accountable Body.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The Hartlepool Board is recommended to:

- Agree the two proposed funding priorities and requirements for the Pride in Place Open Call for Proposals. The call will launch in early October 2026 and remain open for a six-week period.
- Agree that submitted applications will be considered in accordance with the decision-making process, with recommendations presented to the appropriate decision-making body of the Board.
- Delegate authority to the Council to finalise the documents, guidance, and decision-making process, and undertake all necessary actions required to launch the Open Call for Proposals on behalf of the Board.

5.2 Members will receive regular updates on the progress and outcomes of the Open Call alongside recommendations for future investment rounds through the Pride in Place Programme.

Pride in Place Decision-Making Process



Agenda Item 5



Hartlepool Opportunity Partnership (HOP)

Update Report – August 2026

1. Progress and Key Developments

Pride in Place Programme

- **Governance** – HOP has continued to strengthen its governance with recruitment of an Independent Chair and additional Trustees progressing through an open recruitment process, with opportunities promoted through social media, partner networks, and VCSE channels across Hartlepool. The aim is to further diversify representation and strengthen strategic capacity as the organisation grows and delivers its role as Hartlepool's Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO).
- **Pride in Place** – HOP and Hartlepool Community Trust continue to work in partnership to deliver the Community Power element of Pride in Place. Engagement activity is taking place across neighbourhoods, involving residents, community groups, volunteers, service users, and local organisations. This is helping to identify residents interested in ongoing participation with Pride in Place and future co-design activity. New community groups are starting to form on the back of the resident engagement and conversations demonstrating growing levels of involvement in Hartlepool.

Core Local Infrastructure Organisation Activity

Alongside Pride in Place delivery, HOP has continued to develop and strengthen its wider LIO functions across Hartlepool. Key achievements since April include:

- Progression of a National Lottery funding phase 2 application to support the development of a strategic borough-wide volunteering programme, with a funding decision expected by the end of September.
- Active participation within the Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership (TVIP), contributing to regional work relating to support for victims and survivors of crime, rural infrastructure, and community health linked to NHS 10-year Plan.
- Establishment of the VCSE Leaders Network, bringing together sector leaders to identify strategic priorities, share learning and strengthen collaboration across the Borough.



- Delivery of a volunteer recognition and celebration event in June, which was successful in highlighting the contribution of grassroots volunteers and community groups across Hartlepool.
- Launch of the HOP website; [Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership](http://hopvcse.org) (hopvcse.org). This provides access to information, resources, support and will develop more over the coming months as we consult with the wider VCSE.
- Continued provision of governance, financial planning, business planning and strategy, and volunteering support to local VCSE Organisations.
- Increased facilitation of partnerships and collaborative working across the VCSE sector and wider stakeholders within Hartlepool.
- Development of partnership working with both the Council's Jobs & Skills Service to build a holistic volunteering offer and with Diversity Network to support their volunteer academy for young people in Hartlepool.
- Allocation of independent VCSE representatives to strategic boards, including Health & Wellbeing Board and Education & Community Safeguarding Sub-Group. HOP is in the process of allocating reps to Tobacco Group and DA Subgroup.
- Launch of the HOP Into Funding Portal, supported by funding from Thirteen Group. There have been 35 registered users and 138 funding searches undertaken since launch at the end of April.
- Increased community visibility with the Development Lead undertaking regular outreach and hot-desking within community locations across the borough including the Thirteen Shop to raise awareness of Pride in Place and HOP.

2. Performance Against Agreed Outputs

There has already been strong progress against the year one outputs approved with the Hartlepool Board. The tables below highlight the current performance which has been split to highlight delivery for both HOP as the LIO and the activities for Pride in Place:

HOP Performance:

Output Measure	Year 1 Target	Q1 Position
VCSE Organisations Engaged by HOP	100	Over 250 Groups Engaged
VCSE Organisations Receiving Intensive Support from HOP	25	Over 150 VCSE Groups Supported
VCSEs Receiving Capacity Building Support, with improvements such as Governance	50	85 VCSE Groups
Engagement and Stakeholder Mapping Sessions Delivered	9	25 Sessions Delivered

Cross-Sector Network Meetings	8	21 Meetings Facilitated
Training and Capacity Building Workshops Delivered	9	13 Workshops Delivered
Individuals Upskilled Through Training & Workshops	50	101 Individuals Upskilled
Hartlepool VCSEs Supported to Submit Funding Applications	15	35 VCSE Groups
Establish a VCSE Leaders Network	1	3 rd Meeting in September
Develop Town-Wide Volunteering Strategy with a minimum of 50 new opportunities in 2026/27	50	Lottery Bid Submitted & Hartlepool Volunteer Network Established

Pride in Place Performance:

Output Measure	Year 1 Target	Q1 Position
Deliver borough-wide engagement, engaging at least 500 residents across Hartlepool	500	250 Residents
Establish a Neighbourhood Engagement Model for Hartlepool with at least 60 Unique Members	60	33 Residents
Publish 12 Community Asset Ward Maps to inform priorities and decision-making of Board	12	Ongoing
Support the community to submit at least 10 co-designed proposals via the PiP Open Calls	10	First proposals being developed for October
Create at least 6 new community businesses through this investment from Pride in Place	6	Ongoing
Actively involve at least 150 unique residents through Forums, Workshops, Projects etc.	150	33 Residents
Individuals Involved in Board Advisory Groups	75	Over 100 Individuals Involved

3. Long-Term Outcomes

Progress is also being made towards the longer-term outcomes which were approved with the Hartlepool Board. This includes:



- Three community groups have been established or strengthened through engagement and community activation work, contributing to increased civic participation and community ownership.
- Community confidence and neighbourhood connectivity continue to grow through promotion and support of local community activities across the borough with longer-term solutions being developed through the Comms Subgroup.
- Community Wealth Building activity continue to be embedded through partnership activity and community development work with a future presentation to the Hartlepool Board.
- The establishment of the VCSE Leaders Network is already helping to strengthen collaboration, sustainability, and strategic leadership across the VCSE sector within Hartlepool.

The foundations continue to be established for a community-led model of delivery that will support the Government requirement by year 3 of the Pride in Place Programme.

4. Governance Update

Prospective trustees meet key Board members to understand HOP's work and responsibilities. Individuals wishing to proceed submit a formal application, which is reviewed collectively by the Board to ensure balanced experience and representation.

HOP recruits Trustees through a clear, structured, and transparent recruitment process designed to ensure strong governance, accountability, and alignment with organisational values. The process begins with an initial conversation to explore interest, skills, and suitability. Prospective trustees meet existing board members to understand HOP's work and responsibilities. Individuals wishing to proceed then submit a formal application, which is reviewed collectively by HOP's Board.

Current Trustees

- Iain Caldwell
- Tom Cook
- Catherine Wakefield
- Carl Jorgeson
- Darren Leighton

Trustee Recruitment Progress

- Rebecca Ferguson – Observed a Board meeting and received approval in principle from West View Project Board. Awaiting formal application to HOP.



- Rachel Donaghy – Submitted an initial application and will attend HOP's next Board meeting as an observer.
- Tom Cook – Completed the onboarding process and has formally joined the Board as a Trustee.

Non-Voting Board Attendee

- Juli Simons – The Board agreed for Juli to attend HOP Board meetings as a non-voting member due to the commissioned partnership agreement with Hartlepool Community Trust. Any conflict of interest will be managed through this arrangement between HOP and Hartlepool Community Trust.

5. Summary

HOP is demonstrating strong progress against the funded Pride in Place activity and the wider objectives as the Local Infrastructure Organisation. Governance strengthening is ongoing, with new trustees being recruited and leadership capacity increasing whilst resident participation continues to build momentum across Hartlepool. Engagement across the VCSE sector continues to grow, with significant overachievement in support, training, and funding outcomes. Work is progressing to sustain HOP's core LIO functions through additional funding, including an application with the National Lottery.

Overall, delivery is progressing well against the year 1 outputs agreed by the Hartlepool Board and HOP is continuing to build the foundations for a community-led model of delivery across the Pride in Place Programme.