



Hartlepool
Borough Council

Council

1 October 2026



Hartlepool
Borough Council

Civic Centre

Hartlepool

23 September 2026

Councillors Anderson, Bailey-Fleet, Bruce, Buglass, Clayton, Cook, Cowie, Darby, Dodds, Doyle, Dunbar, Feeney, Gaiety, Gaines, Hall, B Harrison, G Harrison, Holbrook, Hughes, Jorgeson, Lindridge, Little, Male, Napper, Nelson, Oliver, Reeve, Roy, Scarborough, Smith, Stevenson, Storey, Thompson, Wallace, Wiley and Young.

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend the COUNCIL meeting to be held on THURSDAY, 1 October 2026 at 6.30pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

Matt Wilton
Chief Executive

Enc



Hartlepool
Borough Council

Council Agenda

1 October 2026 at 6.30pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

1. To receive apologies from absent Members;
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members;
3. To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business;
4. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2026 and the extraordinary meeting of the council held on 15 September 2026 as a correct record;
5. To answer questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting of Council;
6. To deal with any business required by statute to be done;
7. To receive any announcements from the Chair, or the Head of Paid Service;

Civic centre evacuation and assembly procedure

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone. The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.



8. To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any Committee to which such business was referred for consideration;
 - a) Planning Delegation Scheme and Planning Code of Practice – Constitution Committee
9. To consider reports from the Council's Committees and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
10. To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
11. To consider reports from the Policy Committees:
 - a) proposals in relation to the Council's approved budget and policy framework
 - b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework
12. To consider motions in the order in which notice has been received;

i) Improving Royal Mail Services for Hartlepool Residents

Hartlepool Borough Council values the essential public service provided by Royal Mail and pays tribute to the hard work of local postal workers, who continue to deliver under difficult conditions and who bear no responsibility for current shortcomings.

Nevertheless, this Council is deeply concerned by persistent and widespread reports from residents and businesses across Hartlepool of significant delays in the delivery of letters and other mail. These problems have been ongoing for many months and have been raised both locally and in Parliament by our Member of Parliament, Jonathan Brash.

The consequences for local people have been serious and practical. Residents have reported:-

- Missing or arriving late for hospital and GP appointments because notification letters failed to arrive in time
- Delays in receiving important medical information or medication
- Late arrival of bank statements, new cards, PINs and other financial documents
- Disruption to legal and administrative correspondence

- Extended periods with little or no post, followed by large batches of accumulated mail

Such failures undermine confidence in a service that many people, particularly older residents and those who are less digitally connected, still rely upon for essential communications.

Hartlepool Borough Council believes that a reliable postal service is a basic public expectation and that the current level of performance is unacceptable.

This Council therefore calls upon Royal Mail to restore regular and dependable deliveries in Hartlepool as a matter of urgency, and to provide clearer information to the public and to organisations that use the post (including health services) about realistic delivery timescales.

Hartlepool Borough Council resolves to: -

1. Seek engagement with local postal workers and their union representatives to gain a clearer understanding of the operational difficulties affecting the Hartlepool area;
2. Write formally to Royal Mail requesting a detailed explanation of the causes of the delays in Hartlepool, the concrete steps being taken to resolve them, and a clear timetable for improvement;
3. Write to the relevant Government Minister and to Ofcom, urging them to maintain strong pressure on Royal Mail to meet its Universal Service Obligations and quality-of-service standards, and to take further action if performance does not improve;
4. Review and expand the Council's own methods of communicating important information with residents, including greater use of email, text messaging and online accounts where appropriate and with the resident's consent, so that people are less reliant on postal deliveries for time-sensitive Council correspondence.

Councillor Adam Gaines
Councillor Ronnie Buglass
Councillor Graham Harrison
Councillor Mike Young
Councillor Robert Stevenson
Councillor Nick Anderson

ii) Tackling the Intimidating Use of Balaclavas and Face Coverings in Hartlepool

This Council notes:

1. Concerns raised by residents, businesses and community representatives regarding individuals using balaclavas, masks and other face coverings to conceal their identities while engaging in intimidating, threatening or anti-social behaviour.

2. That deliberate concealment of identity during such behaviour can increase fear within communities, impede identification through CCTV and other evidence, and reduce public confidence that those responsible will be identified.
3. That other local authorities have used Public Spaces Protection Orders to address the use of face coverings to conceal identity while causing harassment, alarm or distress.
4. That the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enables local authorities to introduce Public Spaces Protection Orders where the relevant statutory tests are satisfied.

This Council believes:

1. Residents, businesses and visitors should be able to use public spaces throughout Hartlepool without experiencing harassment, alarm, distress or intimidation from individuals deliberately concealing their identities.
2. Wearing a balaclava, mask, hood, scarf or other face covering should not, by itself, constitute an offence.
3. Legitimate face coverings worn for religious, cultural, medical, disability-related, occupational, safety, sporting or weather-related reasons must remain protected.
4. Any proposed restriction must be evidence-led, lawful, reasonable and proportionate, and must be based on a person's conduct and the surrounding circumstances rather than solely on their clothing or appearance.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To request that the Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Council's Monitoring Officer, Cleveland Police and the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, investigate the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order provision addressing the deliberate use of face coverings to conceal identity while engaging in conduct which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress.
2. That the investigation consider all qualifying public spaces within the administrative boundary of Hartlepool Borough Council, with borough-wide coverage being the Council's preferred position where the evidence satisfies the relevant statutory tests.
3. That, where the available evidence does not support a borough-wide restriction, officers recommend the widest legally supportable geographical area and an appropriate process for extending the restriction should further evidence become available.
4. That any proposed restriction:
 - a. does not make the wearing of a face covering alone an offence;

- b. requires a reasonable connection between the concealment of identity and the conduct causing, or likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress;
 - c. includes appropriate exemptions and reasonable-excuse provisions for legitimate religious, cultural, medical, disability-related, occupational, safety, sporting and weather-related use;
 - d. includes appropriate safeguards for children and vulnerable people;
 - e. protects lawful protest and assembly; and
 - f. is enforced consistently and proportionately.
- 5. That officers obtain relevant local evidence from Cleveland Police, Council services, residents, businesses, retailers, transport providers, schools, housing providers and other appropriate organisations.
- 6. That officers undertake the necessary statutory consultation, Equality Impact Assessment, human-rights and proportionality assessment, together with an assessment of staffing, enforcement and financial implications.
- 7. That officers consider a proportionate enforcement process under which an individual would ordinarily be:
 - a. engaged by an authorised officer;
 - b. informed of the suspected breach;
 - c. given an opportunity to provide a reasonable explanation; and
 - d. directed to cease the prohibited conduct before formal enforcement action is considered.
- 8. That officers consider whether a Fixed Penalty Notice should be available for a breach of any resulting Public Spaces Protection Order, including the appropriate penalty level and the circumstances in which a warning, Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution would be appropriate.
- 9. That nothing within this motion shall be interpreted as authorising a Council officer to physically remove a face covering, detain an individual or exercise any power beyond that lawfully available to them.
- 10. That an officer report be presented to the appropriate Council committee within three months, or as soon as reasonably practicable, setting out:
 - a. the local evidence;
 - b. whether the statutory tests support a borough-wide restriction;
 - c. the recommended geographical area;
 - d. the proposed legal wording and exemptions;
 - e. the proposed approach to children and vulnerable people;
 - f. the consultation and equality implications;
 - g. the proposed enforcement arrangements;
 - h. whether a Fixed Penalty Notice should be introduced and at what level;
 - i. the staffing and financial implications; and
 - j. the proposed implementation and review timetable.

This Council affirms that the purpose of this motion is not to introduce a general prohibition on balaclavas, masks, religious dress, medical masks or other face coverings.

Its purpose is to investigate a targeted and proportionate response to individuals who deliberately conceal their identities while intimidating residents or engaging in behaviour causing, or likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress.

Councillor Adam Gaines
Councillor Graham Harrison
Councillor Nick Anderson
Councillor Mike Young
Councillor Scott Gaiety

13. To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary;

14. To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 9;

15. To answer questions of Members of the Council under Rule 10;

- a) Questions to the Chairs about recent decisions of Council Committees and Forums without notice under Council Procedure Rule 10.1
- b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 10.2
- c) Questions on notice to the Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority
- d) Minutes of the meetings held by Cleveland Fire Authority on 5 June 2026 and the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel on 3 February 2026 and 14 April 2026

For information

Date of next meeting – 10 December 2026 in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

ITEM (4)

**Minutes of the Council
meeting held on 25 June
2026 and the extraordinary
Council meeting held on 15
September 2026**



Council

Minutes and Decision Record

25 June 2026

Meeting commenced

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Little) presiding

Councillors Anderson, Bailey-Fleet, Bruce, Buglass, Clayton, Cook, Cowie, Darby, Doyle, Dunbar, Feeney, Gaiety, Gaines, Hall, B Harrison, G Harrison, Holbrook, Hughes, Jorgeson, Lindridge, Little, Male, Napper, Nelson, Oliver, Reeve, Roy, Scarborough, Stevenson, Storey, Thompson, Wallace and Young.

Also Present:

Officers: Matt Wilton, Chief Executive

Hayley Martin, Director of Legal, Governance and HR

Gemma Ptak, Director of Housing, Growth and Communities

Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Dodds, Smith and Wiley

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None

19. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

20. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 March 2026 and 21 May 2026 having been laid before Council

RESOLVED – That the minutes for 19 March 2026 be confirmed and the minutes of 21 May 2026 be confirmed with an amendment that reference be made to the decision to refer the position of Refugee Champion to Constitution Committee.

21. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

None

22. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair invited those present back to the Parlour to partake of light refreshments and donate to her official charities. The refreshments were personally donated by the Chair.

24. TO DISPOSE OF BUSINESS (IF ANY) REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING AND TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF ANY COMMITTEE TO WHICH SUCH BUSINESS WAS REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION

None

25. TO CONSIDER REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANY OF THOSE REPORTS

(1) Residential Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Report of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services Committee.

The Chair of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services Committee presented a report seeking Members' agreement to adopt the Residential Design Code

SPD in accordance with the recommendations of the Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services Committee in March 2026. This would serve as a tool to aid in the delivery of new high quality residential areas within the Borough in accordance with the 2018 Hartlepool Local Plan. Every stage of the design process would be informed and would ultimately deliver well designed neighbourhoods enhancing the quality of life for residents while respecting the unique characteristics of the borough. This would replace the existing Residential Design Guide SPD and be used as a material consideration when assessing proposals for new residential developments. The Chair of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services paid tribute to the previous chair and members of the Committee under whose tenure the SPD had been progressed.

A request was made that a recorded vote be taken for this and all decisions at this meeting and all future Committee meetings. The Director of Legal, Governance and HR advised that the constitution allows for all votes to be recorded if members wish it.

A recorded vote was taken:

For – Councillors Anderson, Bailey-Fleet, Buglass, Bruce, Clayton, Cook, Cowie, Darby, Doyle, Dunbar, Feeney, Gaiety, Gaines, Hall, B Harrison, G Harrison, Holbrook, Hughes, Jorgeson, Lindridge, Little, Male, Napper, Nelson, Oliver, Reeve, Roy, Scarborough, Storey, Stevenson, Thompson, Wallace and Young

Against – None

Abstained – None

The vote was therefore passed

RESOLVED – That the Residential Design Code Supplementary Planning Document be adopted.

(2) Planning Obligation and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – Report of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services Committee

The Chair of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services Committee presented a report seeking Members' agreement to adopt the Planning Obligations and HMO SPD in accordance with the recommendations of the Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services Committee in March 2026. These would be used to shape future planning applications and as a material consideration in the planning decision-making process. The Chair of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services paid tribute to the previous chair and members of the Committee under whose tenure these SPDs had been progressed.

A member requested the following addition to the HMO SPD:

“Sui Generis HMO accommodating 7 or more residents should provide adequate outdoor amenity specifically proportionate to the scale of occupation. Council will consider quality of space when determining applications”.

The Director of Legal, Governance and HR advised that this request would need to be taken to the Planning Department regards its legality. Members were happy with this and voted on the basis that this wording be included if legally allowable.

A recorded vote was taken

For – Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Buglass, Bruce, Clayton, Cook, Cowie, Darby, Doyle, Dunbar, Feeney, Gaiety, Gaines, Hall, B Harrison, G Harrison, Holbrook, Hughes, Jorgeson, Lindridge, Little, Male, Napper, Nelson, Oliver, Reeve, Roy, Scarborough, Storey, Stevenson, Thompson, Wallace and Young

Against – None

Abstained – Councillors Anderson and Storey

The vote was therefore passed

RESOLVED – That the Planning Obligations SPD and Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD be adopted. The Houses in Multiple Occupation to include the following phrase (if legally allowable):

“Sui Generis Houses of Multiple Occupation accommodating 7 or more residents should provide adequate outdoor amenity specifically proportionate to the scale of occupation. Council will consider quality of space when determining applications”.

26. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS SPECIFIED IN THE SUMMONS TO THE MEETING AND TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANY OF THOSE ITEMS

None

27. TO CONSIDER REPORTS FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEES

None

28. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Two motions had been received as follows:

Motion: Cessation of Unmanaged Out-of-Area Housing Placements

This Council notes with alarm the increasing practice of London Boroughs relocating vulnerable families into Hartlepool and neighbouring Northern authorities. This trend places unsustainable pressure on local services, including schools, social care, and healthcare providers, which are already operating at capacity.

This Council further recognises that the recent Local Government Settlement is profoundly disappointing. The current funding formula relies upon a flawed deprivation index that fails to account for the actual socio-economic challenges faced by Northern communities. Consequently, Hartlepool is forced to support an expanding population with diminishing resources.

This Council believes that "exporting" housing crises from the capital to disadvantaged areas in the North is not a viable or ethical solution to national housing shortages. It undermines the stability of relocated families and the resilience of host communities.

This Council resolves to:

- * Direct the Chief Executive to draft a formal letter to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- * Liaise with all Northern Councils and Members of Parliament to seek their signatures and support for this collective correspondence.
- * Demand a cessation of unmanaged out-of-area placements from London into the North.
- * Call for an immediate review of the deprivation index to ensure future Local Government Settlements reflect the genuine financial requirements of Northern authorities.

By standing together, Northern councils can ensure that central government addresses the housing crisis through national investment rather than the displacement of vulnerable residents into overstretched regions.

Signed by Councillors Scarborough, Hall, Jorgeson, Clayton, B Harrison, Thompson, Wallace, Male, Cook, Nelson, Oliver, Dunbar, Dodds and Holbrook.

Councillor Young moved that under Council Standing Order 11.4 this item be forwarded to Housing, Growth and Communities Committee without

further discussion. This was seconded by Councillor G Harrison and agreed by the Chair of Council.

RESOLVED – That the motion be referred to Housing, Growth and Communities Committee for consideration

Motion: Standing Up for Residents: Action on HMOs, Housing Standards and Neighbourhood Protection

Council notes:

The growing concern expressed by residents across the borough regarding the impact of poorly managed HMOs and the increasing pressure placed on established residential communities.

Persistent complaints from residents relating to anti-social behaviour, waste and litter issues, parking pressures, noise nuisance, poor housing management and the loss of balanced neighbourhoods.

That many residents have repeatedly called on the Council to take stronger action to improve standards in the private rented sector and protect community amenity.

- That substantial work has already been undertaken by the Council in relation to: additional HMO licensing, Selective Landlord Licensing, Article 4 Directions, and the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents relating to housing and neighbourhood management.
- That consultation on Article 4 proposals is currently underway and further evidence gathering work relating to Selective Landlord Licensing is continuing.

Council believes:

- Residents deserve clean, safe and well-managed neighbourhoods.
- Responsible landlords should be supported, while poor management and irresponsible practices should be robustly challenged.
- The Council should continue to use the planning, licensing and enforcement powers available to it to improve housing standards and protect residential communities.
- Work already underway to develop these measures should not be delayed, weakened or abandoned.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Continue and complete without delay all current work relating to: additional HMO licensing, Selective Landlord Licensing, Article 4 Directions, and associated Supplementary Planning Documents.
2. Ensure that all consultation, evidence gathering and statutory processes are concluded as quickly as reasonably practicable and brought forward for formal member consideration.
3. Bring forward recommendations for implementation where supported by the evidence and consultation outcomes.
4. Prioritise enforcement activity against rogue landlords, persistent offenders and properties associated with serious or repeated anti-social behaviour or environmental nuisance.
5. Reaffirm the Council's commitment to protecting residential communities, improving standards in the private rented sector and supporting residents affected by poorly managed accommodation.
6. Request a formal progress report to members within six months setting out progress made, consultation outcomes, next steps and indicative implementation timescales.

Signed by Councillors Scarborough, Hall, Jorgeson, Clayton, B Harrison, Thompson, Wallace, Male, Cook, Nelson, Oliver, Dunbar, Dodds and Holbrook.

Councillor Young moved that under Council Standing Order 11.4 this item be forwarded to Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services Committee without further discussion. This was seconded by Councillor G Harrison and agreed by the Chair of Council.

RESOLVED – That the motion be referred to Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services Committee for consideration

29 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Teesside Pension Fund – Following discussions at Annual Council meeting it had been confirmed that Councillors could legally be a member of the LGPS and sit on the Teesside Pension fund, provided the relevant declarations were made at the start of every meeting. Members were therefore asked to appoint to the vacant positions on Teesside Pension Fund and Teesside Pension Board. Recorded votes were taken as follows:

Teesside Pension Fund – 2 nominations had been received for Councillors Anderson and Scarborough

For Councillor Anderson – Councillors Anderson, Buglass, Bruce, Cowie, Darby, Doyle, Gaiety, Gaines, G Harrison, Hughes, Lindridge, Little, Napper, Reeve, Roy, Storey, Stevenson and Young

For Councillor Scarborough – Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Clayton, Cook, Dunbar, Feeney, Hall, B Harrison, Holbrook, Jorgeson, Male, Nelson, Oliver, Scarborough, Thompson and Wallace

Abstained – Councillor Little

The total votes were Councillor Anderson (17) and Councillor Scarborough (15) with 1 abstention. Councillor Anderson was duly elected.

Teesside Pension Board – 2 nominations had been received for Councillors Bruce and Clayton

For Councillor Bruce – Councillors Anderson, Buglass, Bruce, Cowie, Darby, Doyle, Gaiety, Gaines, G Harrison, Hughes, Lindridge, Little, Napper, Reeve, Roy, Storey, Stevenson and Young

For Councillor Clayton – Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Clayton, Cook, Dunbar, Feeney, Hall, B Harrison, Holbrook, Jorgeson, Male, Nelson, Oliver, Scarborough, Thompson and Wallace

Abstained – None

The total votes were Councillor Bruce (18) and Councillor Clayton (15). Councillor Bruce was duly elected.

Change in Governance Arrangements – Members were advised that under the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 Council would be required to adopt a Leader and Cabinet model of governance in place of the current committee arrangements. Officers were progressing preparatory work which would be reported through Constitution Committee. Members would be kept fully informed and given appropriate oversight throughout the process.

Committee Chairs and Memberships – The following changes had been made under delegated power DLGHR33 by the Director of Legal, Governance and HR:

- Adult and Public Health Services Committee – Councillor Gaines replaces Councillor Doyle with Councillor Stevenson appointed as Vice-Chair

- Constitution Committee – Councillor Gaines replaces Councillor Doyle
- Licensing Committee – Councillor Napper replaces Councillor Doyle
- Planning Committee – Councillor Cowie replaces Councillor Storey

Outside Body Appointments - The following change had been made under delegated power DLGHR33 by the Director of Legal, Governance and HR:

- Local Joint Consultative Committee – Councillor Cowie replaces Councillor Doyle

Tees Valley Combined Authority Investment Committee – At the Annual Council meeting three appointments had been made to the TVCA Investment Committee. Confirmation had since been received that only two representatives are required and members were asked to affirm which 2 Councillors they wished to appoint. As there were 3 nominees (Councillors G Harrison, Scarborough and Young) two recorded votes were taken for each place:

Position 1

For Councillor G Harrison - Councillors Anderson, Buglass, Bruce, Cowie, Darby, Doyle, Gaiety, Gaines, G Harrison, Hughes, Lindridge, Napper, Reeve, Roy, Storey, Stevenson and Young

For Councillor Scarborough - Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Clayton, Cook, Dunbar, Feeney, Hall, B Harrison, Holbrook, Jorgeson, Male, Nelson, Oliver, Scarborough, Thompson and Wallace

For Councillor Young – None

Abstained – Councillor Little

The total votes were Councillor G Harrison (17), Councillor Scarborough(15), Councillor Young (0). Councillor G Harrison was duly elected to the first position.

Position 2

For Councillor Scarborough - Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Clayton, Cook, Dunbar, Feeney, Hall, B Harrison, Holbrook, Jorgeson, Male, Nelson, Oliver, Scarborough, Thompson and Wallace

For Councillor Young - Councillors Anderson, Buglass, Bruce, Cowie, Darby, Doyle, Gaiety, Gaines, G Harrison, Hughes, Lindridge, Little, Napper, Reeve, Roy, Storey, Stevenson and Young

Abstained – None

The total votes were Councillor Scarborough(15) and Councillor Young (18). Councillor Young was duly elected to the second position.

Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Overview and Scrutiny

Committee – At the Annual Council Meeting Councillor Little was appointed as substitute for Councillor Storey on the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Political balance requirements state that the substitute must be a Reform Group member. Council was therefore asked to appoint a member of the Reform Group to this position

RESOLVED – That Councillor Gaiety be appointed as Councillor Storey's substitute

30. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None

31. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a) Questions to the Chairs about recent decisions of Council Committees and Forums without notice under Council Procedure Rule 10.1

A member queried the reason for the cancellation of the next meeting of Housing, Growth and Communities Committee due to a lack of business. The Chair of the Committee advised that this had been due to a lack of business at the time. Members asked that this be reconsidered given a motion at been forwarded to the Committee for consideration.

- b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 10.2

None

- c) Questions on notice to the Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel and Cleveland Fire Authority

None

- d) The minutes of the meetings of the Cleveland Fire Authority on 27 March 2026 and 1 May 2026 were received.

32. TRIBUTES

The Chair noted that the Director of Housing, Growth and Communities would soon be leaving the Authority. She thanked the Director for her service to Hartlepool and wished her well for the future. Members echoed these comments.

The meeting concluded at 7.20 pm

CHAIR



Extraordinary Council

Minutes and Decision Record

15 September 2026

Meeting commenced

Time: 6.30pm

Location: Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Little) presiding

Councillors Anderson, Bruce, Buglass, Clayton, Cowie, Dodds, Doyle, Dunbar, Gaiety, Gaines, Hall, B Harrison, G Harrison, Holbrook, Hughes, Jorgeson, Lindridge, Male, Napper, Nelson, Oliver, Roy, Scarborough, Stevenson, Thompson, Wallace, Wiley and Young.

Also Present:

Officers: Matt Wilton, Chief Executive

Hayley Martin, Director of Legal, Governance and HR

Alison Sutherland, Executive Director of Children's Services

Kieran Bostock, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services

Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

33. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Members observed a minute silence in remembrance for former Councillor Fenwick.

Members observed a minute silence followed by a round of applause in remembrance of PC Matthew Blades and PC Tom Clough.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Cook, Darby, Reeve, Smith and Storey.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest made

36. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE BEFORE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

37. REQUISITION CALLING EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Members were advised that the meeting had been convened by the Chief Executive to consider the appointment of a new Leader. This followed the resignation of Councillor G Harrison as Leader of the Council.

Councillor G Harrison moved that Councillor Bruce be nominated as Leader of the Borough of Hartlepool for the remaining municipal year. This was seconded by Councillor Young.

There were no other nominations.

Councillor Bruce was duly elected.

Councillor Scarborough thanked Councillor G Harrison on behalf of Labour members for the courtesy he had shown to him during his tenure as Leader and his work in support of the town and its residents and wished him well for the future. He congratulated Councillor Bruce on his appointment.

38. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Chair made reference to the positive work being carried out by her nominated charity Beach Access NE and the pride it gave her.

The meeting concluded at 6:40 pm

CHAIR

ITEM (8)(a)

**Planning Delegation Scheme and
Planning Code of Practice - Report of
Constitution Committee**



Council

1 October 2026

Report of: Constitution Committee

Subject: PLANNING DELEGATION SCHEME AND
PLANNING CODE OF PRACTICE

1. Council Plan Priority

Hartlepool will be a place:

with a Council that is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflects its community.
(Organisation)

2. Purpose of Report

2.1. The purpose of this report is to ask Council to consider and approve the Planning delegation scheme and Planning Code of Practice which were referred to Council by Constitution Committee following its meeting on 17 September 2026. The proposed changes are required to reflect national planning reforms introduced through the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and the associated national scheme of delegation for planning functions.

3. Background

3.1. The Council's Constitution sets out how decisions are made and the responsibilities of Council, committees, sub-committees and officers. As part of the ongoing review of the Constitution, the Planning delegation scheme and associated Planning Code of Practice have been considered by Constitution Committee.

3.2 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 introduced national reforms to the way planning committees operate, including provision for a national scheme

of delegation for planning functions. The national scheme is intended to provide greater consistency across local planning authorities by setting out which planning decisions must be delegated to officers and which may be determined by a planning committee or sub-committee.

- 3.3 The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 give effect to the national scheme and introduce requirements relating to the size and operation of planning committees. The Council's local Planning delegation scheme and Code of Practice therefore need to be updated so that they operate consistently with the new national framework.
- 3.4 The purpose of the Planning delegation scheme is to provide clarity on the division of responsibility between Planning Committee and officers when determining planning and related applications and dealing with associated planning matters.
- 3.5 The Planning Code of Practice supports transparent, fair and consistent decision-making by setting out expectations for members and officers involved in the planning process, including conduct, probity and the handling of planning matters.

4. Proposals

- 4.1. It is proposed that Council approves the Planning delegation scheme and Planning Code of Practice as referred by Constitution Committee. The documents have been revised to reflect the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 and the national scheme of delegation for planning functions. They are intended to ensure that planning decision-making arrangements are clear, constitutionally robust, nationally compliant and capable of being understood by members, officers, applicants and the public.
- 4.2 Subject to Council approval, the Planning delegation scheme and Planning Code of Practice will be incorporated into the Constitution and used to guide future planning governance arrangements.

5. Other Considerations/Implications

Risk Implications	The principal risk is that, without clear and up-to-date delegations and supporting guidance, planning decisions may be less transparent or more vulnerable to procedural challenge. Approval of the documents will help mitigate this risk by setting out clear responsibilities and expectations.
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Financial Considerations	There are no direct financial implications arising from the approval of the Planning delegation scheme and Planning Code of Practice.
Subsidy Control	There are no subsidy control implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
Legal Considerations	The Council is required to maintain a Constitution setting out its decision-making arrangements. Planning functions must be exercised in accordance with the statutory planning framework, including the changes introduced by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026. The Council must have regard to statutory guidance on planning committees and the national scheme of delegation when making and operating its arrangements. The proposed documents support lawful, transparent and consistent decision-making within that national framework.
Single Impact Assessment	The recommendations relate to governance arrangements and are not expected to have an adverse impact on service users, employees or other stakeholders.
Staff Considerations	There are no direct staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
Asset Management Considerations	There are no asset management implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations	There are no direct environment, sustainability or climate change implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
Consultation	The Planning delegation scheme and Planning Code of Practice were considered by Constitution Committee on 17 September 2026 and referred to Council for determination.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. Council is recommended to approve the Planning delegation scheme and Planning Code of Practice referred by Constitution Committee for inclusion within the Council's Constitution (link to report <https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/639/Download%2520the%2520Agendas%2520and%2520Reports>) subject to any final typographical, formatting or consequential amendments being delegated to the Director of Legal, Governance and HR in consultation with the Chair of Constitution Committee.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1. To ensure that the Council's constitutional arrangements for planning matters are clear, up to date, aligned with the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and the national scheme of delegation, and support lawful, transparent and consistent decision-making.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1. Report to Constitution Committee, 17 September 2026: Planning delegation scheme and Planning Code of Practice (link to report - <https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/639/Download%2520the%2520Agendas%2520and%2520Reports>)

9. Contact Officers

Hayley Martin, Director of Legal, Governance and HR

Email: Hayley.Martin@hartlepool.gov.uk

ITEM (13)

Chief Executive's Business Report



Council

1 October 2026

Report of: Chief Executive
Subject: BUSINESS REPORT

1. APPOINTMENTS

1.1. Members are asked to note the following membership change made under delegated powers by the Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources.

Outside Bodies

i) Tees Valley Combined Authority:

- **Board** – Councillor Gaiety replaces Councillor Darby as the Leader of the Councils substitute.
- **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** – Councillor Scarborough to replace Cllr B Harrison as Councillor Nelson's substitute.
- **Audit and Governance Committee** - Councillor Dunbar to act as substitute for Cllr B Harrison.

ii) Hartlepool Mayoral Development Corporation – Leader of the Council

iii) Association of North East Councils:

- NEPO Collaborative Procurement Committee – Councillor Young as substitute for Councillor G Harrison
- North East Culture Partnership Board – Vacancy substitute for Councillor Roy

- iv) **Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee** – Reform vacancy to replace Councillor Bruce
- v) **Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership** – Reform vacancy to replace Councillor Bruce

Committee appointments

- i) **Adult Services and Public Health Committee** – Councillor Gaines replaces Councillor Stevenson as Vice-Chair.
- ii) **Planning Committee** – Councillor Cowie replaces Councillor Storey.
- iii) **Audit and Governance Committee:**
 - Reform Vacancy to replace Councillor Bruce.
 - Parish Councillor Glen Murphy replaces Parish Councillor Pat Andrews.

2.2 Members are asked to note the following membership appointments made under delegated powers by the Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources.

- i) **Health and Wellbeing Board** – Councillor Hall as the Non-voting Observer (Audit and Governance Committee Member)
- ii) **Safer Hartlepool Partnership** - Councillor B Harrison as the Non-Voting Observer (Audit and Governance Committee Member)

ITEM (15)(d)

**Minutes of the meetings of the Cleveland
Police and Crime Panel held on
3 February 2026 and 14 April 2026 and
the Cleveland Fire Authority held on
5 June 2026.**

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 3 February 2026.

Present: Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE (Deputy Chair), Councillor John Coulson, Councillor Graham Cutler, Councillor Chris Jones, Councillor Ann McCoy and Councillor Ian Blades

Officers: Steven Newton (Governance Director (Monitoring Officer)), Alison Pearson (Governance Manager) and Sarah Connolly

Also In attendance: Matthew Storey (Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner), Lisa Oldroyd (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) and Michael Porter (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies: Councillor Peter Chaney, Mayor Chris Cooke, Councillor Andrew Martin-Wells and Mr Luigi Salvati

PCP 46/25 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

PCP 47/25 **Minutes of the meetings held on 11 November 2025 and attendance matrix**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025 and the attendance matrix.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025 be agreed as a correct record and the attendance matrix be noted.

PCP 48/25 **Appointment of Non-Political Independent Member**

The Panel considered a report seeking approval for the appointment of one Non-Political Independent co-opted member to the Police and Crime Panel under the provisions within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

RESOLVED

Mr Stan Glover be appointed as Non-Political Independent Member to the Panel, with effect from 3 February 2026 until 1 February 2029 (the remainder of the term of office for the vacant position).

PCP 49/25 **Force Update by Chief Constable**

The Chief Commissioner presented the Police & Crime Panel Update which provided a high level outline of current performance, trends and key challenges, as follows:

- Cleveland continues to face high and complex daily demand, with a significant proportion relating to mental health, missing persons and safeguarding cases—types of demand the force stresses should not fall primarily to policing.
- Data illustrates that the area experiences challenges similar to large metropolitan forces but does not receive metropolitan-level funding.
- The force area has some of the highest levels of deprivation in England, which directly drives higher demand and reinforces the importance of strong partnerships across agencies.
- Funding allocation remains misaligned with need; the government's police funding formula has not been reviewed in 20 years, contributing to Cleveland having 200 fewer officers than in 2010. HMICFRS has commented on the inequity in the current system.
- Despite pressures, officer numbers have increased through Police Uplift. Officers are currently operating at over 100% utilisation, supported by robust performance management and strategic demand modelling.
- Cleveland is one of a small number of pilot forces trialling Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs), with 389 orders having been granted and 294 breaches acted upon.
- In terms of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, winter activity contributed to a 10% reduction in retail crime an introduction of new shift patterns and improvements to radio channels have reduced noise.
- A work experience programme for ages 14–19 launched July 2025 and was extremely successful; to be repeated this year.
- Rapid Video Response (RVR) was launched in November 2025 for domestic abuse victims with satisfaction rates having risen to 99%.
- A pilot of Drones as First Responders (DFR) was launched in January 2026.
- Cleveland is the only force deploying drones in this way, with early results showing 17 deployments in first two weeks and the recovery of a stolen quad.
- In terms of progress Against HMICFRS Findings, Cleveland was assessed as inadequate in 2019 but has now exited special measures. The latest PEEL inspection places Cleveland as the second most improved force nationally, behind Greater Manchester. Improvement has been particularly strong in preventing crime, efficient use of resources, and protecting vulnerable people.
- Performance Outcomes (12 months to Dec 2025) were reported, with significant positive trends outlined.
- In terms of issues that matter to the public, criminal use of off-road bikes remained a priority, with 390 illegal bikes have been seized for destruction.
- The Chief Constable advised that the Op Unified project was a major organisational reform launched December 2025 with the intention of providing clearer governance, specialist capability, consistent service for victims, and a more victim-centred approach in relation to complex and serious crimes.
- Areas with rising demand were identified, and included sexual offences (+13%), personal robbery (+7%), anti-social behaviour (+9%), sexual offences (+13%) and serious violence (+8%). Increases were partly due to low baseline comparison points or increased reporting confidence.

- The financial outlook was presented and identified current financial pressures including a budget gap of £3.9m which may affect future deployable officer numbers. The Neighbourhood Policing Grant (£4.386m) requires maintaining 21 NHP roles by March 2027, though the baseline remains unclear.
- There is a Continued focus on innovation, strategy refresh, police reform and ongoing improvement with a commitment to “Policing Cleveland Together” and maximising limited resources.

The following comments and questions were noted:

- A member asked about the prospect for recruitment of addition PCSOs given the current financial restraints. It was noted that, if finances remain tight, increases in PCSO numbers are unlikely without new funding.
- A Member highlighted impressive progress in policing domestic abuse affecting children.
- The Chief Constable confirmed that, in relation to the Neighbourhood policing grant, commitments remain in place until March 2026 with future arrangements dependent on the next funding settlement.
- A member praised the commitment and professionalism of the cadets.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

**PCP
50/25**

Precept Proposals

A report from the Commissioner regarding the proposed precept for the financial year 2026/27 was considered by the Panel. The proposal was to set the Band D Police element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2026/27 at £332.73. This is an increase of £15, or 4.72%, over the 2025/26 level.

The Commissioner indicated that he had considered the following in making his proposal for the 2024/25 precept:

- The views of the public of Cleveland
- The financial impact on the people of Cleveland and the current financial environment.
- The financial needs of the organisation as currently projected both for 2026/27 and in the future.
- The limits imposed by the Government on a precept increase before a referendum would be triggered in Cleveland.

The PCC has discussed the proposals with both the Chief Constable and engaged and consulted with the public on the options available to him.

The Panel noted that the Provisional Police Funding Settlement 2026/27 had been announced on 18 December in a written statement by the Minister for Policing and Crime. This stated that funding available nationally to PCCs would increase by up to an additional £746m in 2026/27, assuming full take up of local flexibility to increase council tax by the maximum amount which was £15.

The Panel received a presentation from the Chief Constable, Victoria Fuller,

covering progress made by the force in the preceding 12 months, key constraints and a forward look, including the following:

- A Domestic Abuse Protection Order pilot, one of a handful across the country, was progressing to provide longer term flexible protection for victims. 389 orders have been granted, which are robustly policed, with the force having acted on 294 breaches.
- July 2025 saw the launch of a successful work experience programme for young people aged 14- 19 wanting to get a taste of the work. The programme would be repeated in 2026.
- 390 illegal bikes had been recovered and crushed
- A pilot was underway for the Drone as First Responder programme with 17 deployments in the first 2 weeks, including recovery of a stolen quad.
- An increase in anti-social behaviour, personal robbery, sexual offences and serious violence had been recorded.
- Limitations of current funding formula and its impact on Cleveland Police.

The Panel had regard to the detailed information contained within the Commissioner's report in relation to the overall funding position, and specifically how this related to Cleveland. In determining the budget strategy and LTFF for Cleveland in 2026/27, it was noted that the following future funding and planning assumptions had been made:

- Precept increases of £15 per annum throughout future years of the plan.
- Government Grant increase of: 2.4% in 27/28, 1.0% in 28/29 and 2% per annum thereafter.
- Tax Base increases of 1.4% per year.
- Pensions Grant continued at current level.
- Pay Awards 3% (26/27), 2.5% (27/28) and 2% thereafter.
- General Reserves are projected to be around £6m throughout the plan. This would be around 3% of Core Grant plus Precept.

The Panel considered the report that had been prepared by the Task and Finish Panel and thanked the Members for their time in looking at the budget strategy and precept proposals in greater depth.

The Task and Finish Panel had recommended that, assuming no significant change from the currently stated position, the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to increase the precept element of the Council Tax within Cleveland for 2025/26 by £15 (Band D equivalent) be supported.

Alongside this recommendation, the Task and Finish Panel had made three further recommendations, namely:

1. The Police and Crime Panel be recommended to request that the Police and Crime Commissioner implement a robust Communication Strategy to ensure the public are made aware of the reasons for the current financial circumstances.

2. Given such limited flexibility in precept proposals resulting from the financial position, the Police and Crime Panel be recommended to request local MPs to support any government lobbying regarding the settlement.
3. The analysis of the consultation responses be shared with the Police and Crime Panel.

The Panel welcomed the information shared by the Commissioner in relation to these recommendations, as summarised below:

Making representations on the funding formula – The Provisional Police Settlement for 2026/27 has provided the PCC with the worst funding settlement in the country considering funding provided from the Government and the amount that can be raised from the Local Precept. The funding formula relied on outdated census data and its continued application results in an unfair distribution of funding which sees wealthier areas of the country receiving more generous settlements and Cleveland receiving insufficient funding to meet its needs based on current census and deprivation data. The police force needs the same equity in funding as other public sector organisations, such as local government. Three attempts at formal correspondence had not yet received a response, and additional meetings with ministers were ongoing with every opportunity being taken to highlight the impact of the current formula on more grant-dependent, deprived and urban areas resulting in funding allocations not matching need.

The Panel wished to add its support to the lobbying effort and agreed that a collaborative, cross party response echoing the above sentiments would be prepared and forwarded to the Home Secretary, Policing Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of the Panel, local MP's and council leaders.

The analysis of the consultation responses – A total of 1,223 responses were received during the consultation period, representing a 133% increase on last year's response rate, where 524 responses were received. This included 149 participants in face-to-face sessions and 1,074 respondents to the online survey. Analysis had been undertaken which showed that over 50% of respondents from each of the 4 council areas had indicated they would be willing to pay at least £15 per year for policing in the Cleveland area and that anti-social behaviour was the key concern area for residents.

Whilst this was a positive and welcome response to the consultation, the Panel felt it was important that the Commissioner had a clear communication strategy acknowledging that even with the maximum precept acknowledged, the financial settlement from Government did not provide sufficient resource to meet policing need in Cleveland.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Task and Finish Panel's recommendation be endorsed and the Commissioner's proposal to set the Band D Police Element of the Council

Tax within Cleveland for 2025/26 at £332.73 representing an increase of £15, or 4.72%, over the 2025/26 level be supported.

2. A formal letter be sent on behalf of the Panel to the Home secretary and the Policing Minister, copying the Chancellor, setting out concerns regarding the settlement and the impact on policing in Cleveland.

PCP 51/25 Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's scrutiny programme.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PCP 52/25 Decisions of the Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner made all decisions unless specifically delegated within the Scheme of Consent/Delegation. All decisions demonstrated that they were soundly based on relevant information and that the decision-making process was open and transparent.

In addition, a forward plan was included and published on the OPCC's website which included items requiring a decision in the future. This was attached to the report.

Each decision made by the Commissioner was recorded on a decision record form with supporting background information appended. Once approved it was published on the OPCC's website.

Decisions relating to private/confidential matters would be recorded; although, it may be appropriate that full details were not published.

Decisions made since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel were attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PCP 53/25 Police and Crime Plan Delivery and Performance Update 2025/26 Q3

The Panel received a detailed update on progress against the Police and Crime Plan, supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) published Q3 performance report.

The PCC reported the following:

- A year-on-year 8.6% decrease in antisocial behaviour (ASB), contrasting with long-term rising trends nationally was reported. The Safest Summer in five years was recorded, supported by the Safer Streets Summer initiative, although ASB and neighbourhood issues continued to be a priority area.
- Off-road/motorbike-related ASB remains a significant problem, with 208

illegal motorbikes seized this year. Members were encouraged to promote public reporting of sightings.

- Project Salus continues to demonstrate strong partnership performance with over 4,500 hours of hotspot patrol activity, 1,883 Cleveland Police patrols and 2,646 local authority patrols. Engagement had taken place with 249 residents and 160 businesses with enforcement activity including fixed penalties and fly-tipping action. The PCC noted pride in this work as an example of effective local partnership delivery.
- A Retail Crime Summit was held with around 60 attendees. Cleveland has a comparatively strong solve rate for retail crime but challenges remain. A new Retail Crime Partnership to be developed.
- Improved call-handling performance for both 999 and 101 services was reported. Members noted an increase in visible policing, with localised proactive patrols being praised—particularly recent activity in Redcar.
- The PCC emphasised the need for sustained funding to safeguard visible policing capacity and support broader community safety initiatives.
- The PCC updated on local and national developments in relation to Safety for Women and Girls. An Emergency Summit on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) highlighted the need for clarity on future funding and stronger national support. The PCC expressed support for the new national VAWG Strategy, noting that it is well-framed but must be properly resourced.
- The PCC continued to advocate for earlier intervention, positive requirements for perpetrators, and quicker decisions by the Home Office to avoid losing momentum on local programmes.
- Cleveland had secured funding to implement the Drive perpetrator intervention scheme, with roll-out expected early 2026.
- Work continued on improving the response to stalking; local agencies participated in a learning session, with follow-up planned for early 2026.
- The PCC praised the strength of local victim services and reaffirmed their commitment to keeping services locally commissioned rather than moved to national contracts. Recent engagement with victims highlighted powerful personal experiences informing future service improvements.
- Financial Fraud Advocacy work has recovered nearly £690,000 for vulnerable victims across Teesside.
- A Migrant Myth-Buster leaflet has been launched in partnership with neighbouring PCCs to counter misinformation.
- The Hate Crime Awareness Campaign (“Hate Ends Here”) was commended for its quality and impact.
- Community engagement remains strong, with 67 separate engagements

in Q3 via the Shape Your Safety programme.

- Key community concerns continue to be ASB, violent crime, drug-related crime, and lack of visible policing.
- Young people involved in the programme visited London to present their report on knife crime, online safety, VAWG and county lines to the Policing Minister.
- The Committee noted the achievements of the external Independent Ethics Committee, chaired by Dave Smith, recently recognised with a Lord Ferrers Award.
- Cleveland Police has seen increases in Out of Court Disposals since October, contributing to reduced arrest numbers.
- Concerns previously raised by the PCC regarding reoffending rates have led to operational work that is now showing improvements in disposals since October.
- A scrutiny session took place regarding the management of sexual and violent offenders, and the PCC is assured that robust processes are in place.
- Community Payback activity was highlighted as impactful and often more effective than short custodial sentences. Ward councillors are encouraged to contact the service to propose local projects.

The following comments and questions were noted:

- A Member welcomed the increased visible policing, noting more officers on foot patrol in Redcar and improved proactive policing in hotspot areas. The need for continued investment to sustain visibility was emphasised.
- A Member raised concerns about increasing ASB levels highlighted in the Chief Constable's report. The PCC advised that ASB remains a top priority.
- Scrutiny will include case studies to understand impact and trends. The PCC suggested that improved reporting reflects increased activity and confidence.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
54/25**

Members' Questions to the Commissioner

There were no questions for the Commissioner.

**PCP
55/25**

Public Questions

There were no questions from members of the public.

**PCP
56/25** **Forward Plan**

Members reviewed the Forward Plan for the Panel 2026-27.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan 2026-27 be noted.

**PCP
57/25** **Exclusion of the Press and Public.**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**PCP
58/25** *** Complaint Update**

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer providing an update on various complaint matters.

RESOLVED

1. In relation to complaint 2025-01, the complaint be referred to the Complaint Sub-Committee for informal resolution.
2. In relation to complaint 2025-02, the Panel requested further clarification and it was agreed that the complainant be contacted with a specific deadline for receipt of further information. In the event that no further information is received in the timeframe, the matter be closed.

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 14 April 2026.

Present: Councillor Tony Riordan (Chair), Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE (Deputy Chair), Councillor Peter Chaney, Councillor Chris Jones and Councillor Ann McCoy

Officers: Steven Newton (Governance Director (Monitoring Officer)) and Alison Pearson (Governance Manager)

Apologies: Councillor Ian Blades, Mayor Chris Cooke, Councillor John Coulson, Councillor Graham Cutler, Mr Luigi Salvati and Stan Glover

PCP 59/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

PCP 60/25 Exclusion of the Press and Public.

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

PCP 61/25 * Complaint Update

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer providing an update on the following complaint matters: 2026-01; 2026-02; 2026-03; 2026-04.

RESOLVED:

1. In relation to Complaint Ref: 2026-01, the Panel:
 - Confirmed that this matter met the definition of a complaint for the purposes of the Regulations and should be formally recorded;
 - Accepted that it was the correct panel for dealing with the complaint;
 - Considered that the complaint should be referred to the IOPC as a serious complaint;
 - Directed that the PCC/OPCC take immediate steps to preserve all relevant documents, records and correspondence of any nature (electronic or otherwise) and/or other evidence that maybe relevant to the issues raised within the complaint;
2. In relation to Complaint Ref: 2026 02, the Panel:

- Did not record this complaint, on the basis it was actually a request for a review of a previous complaint which has been subject to the informal resolution process, and was ended at a meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee on 20 March 2026; and
- Confirmed that, had it accepted the complaint, then it would have disapplied the requirement for informal resolution on the basis that it duplicated the previous complaint and was “repetitious”, and was also “vexatious, oppressive or otherwise an abuse of the procedures for dealing with complaints” under regulation 15(3)(e) and (f) of The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.
- Noted the correspondence from the complainant in terms of his proposed judicial review and confirmed the position adopted in relation to this by the Monitoring Officer.
- Confirmed that no further action would be taken.

3. In relation to Complaint Ref: 2026-03 the Panel:

- Did not record this complaint, on the basis it was about alleged widespread systemic failures and the role of the PCC, rather than the personal conduct of the PCC himself; and
- Confirmed that, had it accepted the complaint, then it would have not referred this matter to the IOPC as a serious complaint and that it would have disapplied the process of informal resolution on the basis that this complaint is repetitious - a previous complaint having been made in relation to the same matters (general oversight of the PCC), and been the subject of informal resolution.
- Confirmed that no further action would be taken.

4. In relation to Complaint Ref: 2026-04, the Panel:

- Agreed this matter met the definition of a complaint for the purposes of the Regulations and should be formally recorded;
- Accepted that it was the correct panel for dealing with the complaint;
- Did not refer this to the IOPC as a serious complaint;
- Disapplied the usual complaints procedure under regulation 15(3)(e) of The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 on the basis that this complaint was “vexatious, oppressive or otherwise an abuse of the procedures for dealing with complaints”.

CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

5 JUNE 2026



PRESENT:

CHAIR

Cllr David Coupe – Middlesbrough Council

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Leisa Smith, Christine Wiley

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs John Kabuye, Naweed Hussain

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Peter Chaney, Steve Kay, Mary Ovens, David Taylor

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Jim Beall, John Gardner, Stefan Houghton, Andrew Sherris, Mick Stoker

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Interim Chief Fire Officer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer, Treasurer,

ACFO - Director of Strategic Planning, People & Resources

Temporary ACFO - Director of Service Delivery

Assistant Director of Assets

Assistant Director of Governance & Assurance

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Chris Wallace – Hartlepool Borough Council

Councillor Dennis McCabe – Middlesbrough Council

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) opened the meeting and welcomed new Members Councillors Leisa Smith and Christine Wiley from Hartlepool Borough Council. He sought nominations for the position of Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2026/27

Councillor David Coupe was subsequently proposed and seconded. A vote was taken and Members voted unanimously in favour of Cllr Coupe.

RESOLVED – that Councillor David Coupe be appointed Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2026/27.

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no Declarations of Interests were submitted to the meeting.

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2026/27. Councillor Peter Chaney was proposed and seconded. A vote was taken and Members unanimously voted in favour of Councillor Chaney.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Peter Chaney be appointed as Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2026/27.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of 27 March 2026 and Extraordinary meeting of 1 May 2026 be confirmed.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 15 May 2026 and Executive (Appeals) Committee on 29 May 2026 be confirmed.

6. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

No communications were received by the Chair.

7. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Business Report 2026

The Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer (LAMO) referred Members to The Constitution at Appendix A which included:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • CFA Membership 2026/27 | • Ethical Governance Framework |
| • Calendar of Meetings 2026/27 | • Standing Orders of the Authority |
| • Terms of Reference | Regulation of Proceedings & |
| • Scheme of Delegation | Business |
| • Financial Procedure Rules | • Contract Procedure Rules |
| • Code of Corporate Governance | • Members Allowance Scheme |

Voting took place on the nominations received for Committees and outside bodies. With the consensus of the Members present, it was agreed that the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Audit & Governance Committee would take place at this Annual meeting and not at the initial committee meeting on 26 June 2026.

Appointment of Audit & Governance Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations took place for the position of Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee. Councillor Jim Beall was subsequently proposed and seconded with Members voting unanimously in favour of Councillor Beall.

Nominations took place for the position of Vice Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee. Councillor Kay was subsequently proposed and seconded with Members voting unanimously in favour of Councillor Kay.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Constitution as outlined at paragraph 3 and Appendix A be approved.
- (ii) That Member appointments to committees and outside bodies (as nominated and outlined in the table below) be approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CON	COUPE (CHAIR)	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	CHANEY (VICE CHAIR)	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
MICA	MCCABE	MIDDLESBROUGH
LIB DEM	OVENS	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
LAB	STOKER	STOCKTON ON TEES
CON	TAYLOR	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
LAB	WALLACE	HARTLEPOOL

7.1 Business Report 2026 cont.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

LAB	BEALL (CHAIR)	STOCKTON ON TEES
IND GRP	KAY (VICE CHAIR)	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CON	GARDNER	STOCKTON ON TEES
CON	HOUGHTON	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	HUSSAIN	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	KABUYE	MIDDLESBROUGH
CON	SHERRIS	STOCKTON ON TEES
INDEPENDENT	SMITH	HARTLEPOOL
REFORM	WILEY	HARTLEPOOL

FPS LOCAL PENSION BOARD 2026/27

CON	COUPE	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	KABUYE	MIDDLESBROUGH
INDEPENDENT	SMITH	HARTLEPOOL
REFORM	WILEY (SUB)	HARTLEPOOL

REPRESENTATIVES FOR OUTSIDE BODIES 2026/27

LGA FIRE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE	COUPE
Substitute:	CHANEY
REDCAR & CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	TAYLOR
STOCKTON SAFER PARTNERSHIP REPN	SHERRIS

7.2 Member Development Plan

The LAMO presented the Member Development Plan 2026/27, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, and informed Members that any additional development needs should be directed to Louise Tindall, Executive Officer – Democratic Services.

RESOLVED – that the Member Development Plan 2026/27, at Appendix 1, be approved.

8. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

8.1 Strategic Induction - Presentation

The Interim Chief Fire Officer (ICFO) provided Members with a detailed strategic presentation which provided an up-to-date picture of the context in which Cleveland Fire Brigade (CFB) will operate locally, regionally and nationally over the next 4 years. This included:

- National Context – policy & funding
- Community Profile
- Purpose & Values
- Plans
 - Corporate Plan 2026-30
 - Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2026-30
 - Service Plan 2026/27
 - Performance & Efficiency Report
 - Statement of Assurance
 - Strategic Assessment of Risk

8.1 Strategic Induction - Presentation cont.

- Finances
- Performance
- Incident Performance Overview
- Strategic Assessment of Risk
- Service Strategy – CRMP
- Service Delivery
 - People
 - Prevention
 - Protection
 - Response
 - Resources
 - Strategic Planning

The Chair thanked the ICFO for the presentation. Members asked if they could receive incident data by Ward area. The ACFO-SPPR agreed this could be included in the Audit & Governance Committee papers in future. Members also asked what was being done to address the increase in rural fires, particularly in the East Cleveland area. The Temporary ACFO – Service Delivery (TACFO-SD) acknowledged that this was an emerging risk and the Brigade had invested in new equipment and technology to ensure firefighters were well equipped to tackle wildfires. He added that they were also linked in to the NFCC nationally and with Northumberland FRS to ensure they had the latest data on rural fires.

Members asked how successful defibrillators were on appliances. The ICFO confirmed these were still on all appliances as well as in every station. They continued to be working very successfully and had been used in recent years to save an operational firefighters' life.

Members referred to the on-call firefighter recruitment and asked what challenges they faced. Officers confirmed that the national on-call model had been established in 1947 and was very much based on people living and working in the same area. Nationally, work was underway to explore alternative systems and CFB had representatives on national, regional and internal project groups to look at how this can be achieved. The ICFO confirmed that in Cleveland the on-call contracts had been changed to allow reduced hour contracts which had had a significant impact on availability.

Members sought assurance regarding inflation on the current budget. The Treasurer confirmed that while the current year should not be impacted the ongoing war in the Middle East was pushing inflation up although the full impact would not be known until later in the year and could potentially be higher than anticipated. The Treasurer added that the National Pay Offer had been received that week and would need to be considered by the unions which added to the uncertainty.

Members noted the increase in deliberate fires and asked how CFB was working with Cleveland Police to address these and whether it would utilise their off-road vehicles or drones. Officers confirmed that the Brigade has an Arson & Deliberate Fire Plan in place and an agreement to request the use of drones from Cleveland Polices if required, which was considered the most efficient way of accessing drones. CFB also has a dedicated wildfire vehicle and works with community safety partnerships, including local authorities and Police, to tackle deliberate fires.

8.1 Strategic Induction - Presentation cont.

Members highlighted two other key incident areas – road traffic collisions (RTCs) and call outs to Holme House Prison for fires that are usually out on arrival but nevertheless require a response.

The ICFO confirmed that the Brigade attended more RTC incidents than fires and prevention work was targeted in this area with a dedicated road safety officer visiting schools and colleges to deliver hard hitting presentations to students of driving age. Regarding Holme House Prison, the TACFO confirmed that CFB was working closely with the prison to break down those behaviours by educating some inmates about fatal fires.

Members asked whether the Brigade would get additional levy from the significant increase in new homes and how many extra 'higher band' houses would be required tip the scale. The Treasurer confirmed that the Authority would not benefit from Section 106 agreements and agreed to cost out how many higher band new homes would be required.

Members asked what opportunities there were to provide coordinated advocacy with other organisations to improve fire safety. Officers confirmed that there was significant work ongoing nationally and gave assurance that CFB was proactive in driving this forward.

RESOLVED - That the Strategic Induction presentation be noted.

8.2 Priorities 2026/27

The ACFO-SPPR presented the Service Plan 2026/27 which contained the priorities and actions arising from the CRMP 2026-2030 for delivery in year one.

Members were given assurance that the Plan would be published on the website and delivery of these priorities would be monitored via regular updates to the Executive Committee and performance scrutinised quarterly by the Audit & Governance Committee.

The ACFO-SPPR thanked the Assistant Director - Governance & Assurance (AD-G&A) for the significant work undertaken by her Team to ensure all actions were achievable and trackable moving forward.

RESOLVED – That the Service Plan 2026/27, detailed at Appendix 1, be approved and the arrangements to monitor delivery be noted.

8.3 Information Pack

8.2.1 Employer Circular

8.2.2 Campaigns

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 WhatsApp Group

The Chair asked Members if they wished to establish a CFA WhatsApp group for the ICFO to share live updates on serious incidents. Members discussed difficulties accessing social media platforms on their council devices and that it would be helpful for this to be locked down so councillors cannot reply.

9.1 WhatsApp Group cont.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to consider joining a CFA WhatsApp group subject to having clear terms of reference.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006

RESOLVED - “That Under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information and namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.”

11. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

RESOLVED – That the Confidential Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on 1 May 2026 be confirmed.

12. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee on 17 May 2025 be confirmed.

**COUNCILLOR DAVID COUPE
CHAIR**