



Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

2 September, 2019

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, Johnson, King, Lauderdale, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Mincher, Moore, Prince, A Richardson, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant, Thomas, Ward, Young.

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend the COUNCIL meeting to be held on THURSDAY, 12 September 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

G Alexander
Chief Executive

Enc

COUNCIL AGENDA



12 September 2019

at 7.00 pm

**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 last meeting of the Council held on 20 June 2019 and the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 30 July 2019 as the correct record;
- (5) To answer questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meetings 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;
- (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;
- (9) To consider reports from the Council's Committees and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
 - (1) Annual Performance Report – Children's Social Care – Report of Children's Services Committee
- (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;
 - (1) Statement of Community Involvement – Report of Regeneration Services Committee
 - (2) Residential Design Supplementary Planning Document – Report of Regeneration Services Committee
 - (3) Community Safety Plan – Report of Finance and Policy Committee
- (b) proposals for departures from the approved budget and policy framework;

(12) To consider motions in the order in which notice has been received;

- 1. “That this Council resolves to:
 - (i) Join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim.
 - (ii) Call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.

Signed: Councillors Lindridge, Hunter, C Richardson, Howson, Thomas, Prince and Hamilton.

- 2. “In the event that Neighbourhood Services Committee are requested to consult upon increasing allotment rent, the Committee also consider the feasibility of and includes in the consultation alternatives options for bridging the shortfall such as:
 - Creating a split plot/plot sharing service for those who wish to utilise it
 - Consider raising rates for new plot holders whilst maintaining rates for current/long term holders
 - Allow allotment holders to sell extra produce to raise money “

Signed: Councillors Lindridge, Hamilton, Thomas, Howson, Hunter, Prince and C Richardson.

(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 the Cleveland Fire Authority held on 7 June 2019.



<p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 June 2019</p>

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT:-

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Loynes) presiding:

COUNCILLORS:

C Akers-Belcher	S Akers-Belcher	Black
Brewer	Brown	Cartwright
Cassidy	Fleming	Hall
Hamilton	Harrison	Howson
Hunter	James	King
Lauderdale	Lindridge	Little
Marshall	Mincher	Moore
Prince	A Richardson	C Richardson
Smith	Stokell	Tennant
Thomas	Ward	Young

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive
Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor
Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Ed Turner, Communications and Marketing Manager
David Cosgrove, Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Buchan.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None.

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

None.

18. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The Minutes of Proceedings of the Council held on the 21 March 2019 and the Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2019 (reconvened on 23 May 2019), having been laid before the Council.

RESOLVED - That the minutes be confirmed.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chairman.

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

Further to minute 116 of the meeting of Council held on 21 March 2019 and following a request for an update from a Member, the Chief Solicitor advised Council that consideration of a ban on the purchase of alcohol by the Authority for Civic functions was to be considered at the next meeting of the Constitution Committee.

20. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

None.

21. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive announced that the Headland Coastal Defences Project had been recognised with four top awards at a regional construction awards ceremony.

Members joined the Chief Executive in expressing appreciation to the Council's Transport & Infrastructure team and congratulated the team on their achievement. It was proposed that a congratulatory letter be sent to the Team, by the Ceremonial Mayor, on behalf of Council.

22. 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.

1. Further Review Of The Council's Constitution - Report of Monitoring Officer

A comprehensive report relating to a review of the Council's Constitution had been submitted to Council on the 21 March, 2019. A number of those changes, owing to their amendments to Council Procedure Rules, had stood adjourned to take effect at the next ordinary meeting of Council under Procedure Rule 24.2. The report referred to those technical changes to Council Procedure Rules, which take effect from this meeting of Full Council.

The proposed technical changes to the Council Procedure Rules had been recommended by the Constitution Committee. The amendments to the Procedure Rules ensured they were compliant with the relevant legislation and reflected current practice. A copy of the updated Procedure Rules, with changes highlighted, were appended to the report.

In response to a proposal that consideration of the changes be deferred until the next Ordinary Council meeting, it was highlighted that the changes were technical, the report had been submitted previously to the March Council meeting and the report was, therefore, to be noted at this meeting of Full Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Brewer:-

“That the Constitution Committee be requested to consider changes to changes to Council Procedure Rule 11 – Questions from the Public- in relation to supplementary questions”.

It was moved by Councillor Brown that a recorded vote be taken on deferring consideration of the changes to the Council Procedure Rules.

Following further clarification from the Chief Executive, it was:-

RESOLVED –

- (i) That Full Council note that the technical changes to its Procedure Rules become effective from this meeting and that the Council’s Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (ii) That the issue of supplementary public questions be referred to the Constitution Committee.

23. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES

None.

24. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS SPECIFIED IN THE SUMMONS OF THE MEETING

None.

25. REPORT FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEES

- (a) Proposal in relation to the Council’s budget and policy framework

None.

- (b) Proposal for Departure from the Budget and Policy Framework

1. Urgent Works to Christ Church (Report of Finance and Policy Committee)

At its meeting on the 18th June, 2019 the Finance and Policy Committee had considered a report, relating to the above, which was appended to the report to Full Council. The report set out an overview of actions taken to assess the structural condition of Christ Church and identified that urgent works were required to protect Christ Church from further erosion and remove the risk of further potential incidents of masonry falling from the building and thereby protect the public. The estimated cost of the works was £245,000. There was currently no funding identified to cover the costs of these works as they were unexpected, which meant it had not been included in any allocation of funding from the Council's property budgets.

The Committee had agreed unanimously the following recommendations and determined that the proposals be referred to Full Council:-

- Approves the reallocation of capital funding of £190,000 for the Bowls Club previously allocated to this building to help fund the urgent works required to Christ Church;
- Note that the recent surveys have identified that the proposed works to the Bowls Club are not urgent, and therefore they can be considered as part of a future funding allocation. In the unlikely event that the condition of the Bowls Club building deteriorates any necessary work will need to be prioritised within the available corporate planned maintenance budget.
- Note that £55,000 will also be allocated to the Christ Church Scheme from the corporate planned maintenance programme.
- Approve an overall budget of £245,000 associated with carrying out the urgent repairs to Christ Church.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Young.

Following presentation of the report, the Chair of the Committee responded to clarification sought from a Member in relation to potential funding from English Heritage and assurances sought from Members regarding the tendering process for the works. It was highlighted that the work involved was of a specialist nature.

Following a vote by show of hands, the recommendations of the Finance and Policy Committee were agreed unanimously.

26. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

None.

A Member advised that the Labour Group considered that there had been a break in Protocol relating to the notice period required for the submission of Motions on Notice.

The Chief Solicitor clarified that in accordance with Council Procedure Rules, written notice of every motion on notice must be delivered to the Chief Executive during normal office hours at least 7 clear working days before the date of the meeting of Full Council. It was highlighted that the Motion to which the Member was referring, had been delivered late and had been refused for that reason. The Member added that he considered the Council Procedure Rules to be ambiguous.

It was moved by Councillor C Richardson and seconded by Councillor Hunter:-

“That Council Procedure Rules be suspended and the Motion be heard at this meeting of Full Council and that a recorded vote be taken”.

The view was expressed that to debate the Motion at the meeting would not be in accordance with the Constitution and was unacceptable. It was proposed that the Motion be submitted for consideration at the next ordinary meeting of Full Council scheduled for September.

The Chief Executive advised that she considered it appropriate for the meeting to be adjourned to seek advice from the Chief Solicitor.

Council agreed that the meeting be adjourned for 5 minutes.

Upon reconvening the meeting, the Chief Solicitor referred Members to Council Procedure Rule 24.1 that Council Procedure Rules may be suspended if:-

- i. At least one half of the whole number of Members of the Council are present, and
- ii. The Chair agrees, and
- iii. The Monitoring Officer has provided advice on whether or not the rules should be suspended.

The Chair advised Council that she was not prepared to agree to the suspension of Council Procedure Rules as to hear the Motion tonight would set a precedent. The Chair advised that as a compromise, she would be willing to call an Extraordinary Council meeting in July, rather than the Motion wait until the next ordinary Council meeting in September.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

27. PLASTIC FREE HARTLEPOOL

The Chief Executive reported that she had been approached by the Plastic Free Hartlepool Group which was trying to achieve plastic free community status. Council approval was sought to pass the following resolution:-

“supporting the journey to Plastic Free community status, committing to plastic-free alternatives and plastic-free initiatives within the Borough”.

This will commit the Council to lead by example to

- (i) remove single-use plastic items from our premises,
- (ii) encourage plastic-free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting events, and
- (iii) allocate a representative of the Council to be on the Plastic Free community steering group.

Tribute was paid to the work of the Group and the wider community and it was suggested that a letter be sent, on behalf of Council, to congratulate the Group on their work in the town.

RESOLVED – Council approved:-

1. supporting the journey to Plastic Free community status, committing to plastic-free alternatives and plastic-free initiatives within the Borough”. This would commit the Council to lead by example to
 - (i) remove single-use plastic items from our premises,
 - (ii) encourage plastic-free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting events, and
 - (iii) appointing a representative of the Council to be on the Plastic Free community steering group.
2. That Councillors Hunter and Prince be nominated as Council representatives on the Plastic Free Community Steering Group.
3. That a letter be forwarded to the Plastic Free Hartlepool Group congratulating them on their work in the town.

28. OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS – UPDATE REPORT

The Chief Executive reported that following the appointments made to Outside Bodies at the Council meeting on 21 May 2019, a number of vacancies remained as detailed in the report.

Members were reminded that Council had agreed that Councillor Young, Deputy Leader of the Council, be appointed to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chief Executive had been informed that members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee may not be a Member or substitute member of the Combined Authority’s Cabinet or its Sub-Committees. Therefore, following discussion with Group members, Councillor Loynes has been nominated to replace Councillor Young’s nomination on the Committee.

Notification had been received also of a change to the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel with Councillor Cartwright replacing Councillor Tony Richardson.

Members were reminded that a number of appointments had been referred to Committees. The subsequent appointments made by the Audit and Governance Committee was reported in a schedule tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (1) Council agreed the following appointments:-
 - (i) Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-
Councillor Loynes to replace Councillor Young.
Councillor Prince to the Labour vacancy.
 - (ii) Cleveland Police and Crime Panel - Councillor Cartwright to replace Councillor Tony Richardson.
 - (iii) Fairtrade Town Steering Group - Councillor Harrison.
- (2) Council noted the appointments made by Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 6 June 2019.

29. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

Council was reminded of the resignation of Jean Robinson as a Borough Councillor for the Hart Ward. A letter of resignation had been received on 5 June 2019. A notice of a casual vacancy arising through this resignation had been published on 5 June 2019.

The Chief Executive updated Members that a request had been received through two local government electors and that a by-election would be held on 25 July 2019.

Members paid tribute to Jean Robinson as a former colleague and referred to her admirable qualities as a ward councillor.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

30. PUBLIC QUESTION

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 12.1

None.

- b) Questions on notice to the Chair of any Committee or Forum under Council Procedure Rule 12.2

None.

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

None.

- d) Minutes of the meetings held by the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of the meeting of Cleveland Fire Authority held on 15 February 2019 and the Police and Crime Panel held on 5 February 2019 and 9 April 2019 were noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.07 pm.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

30 July 2019

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Loynes) presiding:

COUNCILLORS:

C Akers-Belcher	S Akers-Belcher	Black
Brewer	Brown	Buchan
Cartwright	Cassidy	Fleming
Hall	Hamilton	Harrison
Howson	Hunter	James
Johnson	King	Lindridge
Little	Marshall	Mincher
Moore	Prince	A Richardson
Smith	Stokell	Tennant
Thomas	Ward	Young

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive
Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy
Julian Heward, Senior Communications and Marketing Officer
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor
Amanda Whitaker, Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Ceremonial Mayor referred in terms of regret to the recent death of former Councillor, Jean Kennedy. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENT MEMBERS

Councillors Lauderdale and C Richardson

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Personal interests were declared by the following Members:-

Councillor Thomas – Trustee of West View Project and employee of

Healthwatch

Councillor Ward – Director, Bringing Communities Together

Councillor Young – Director, Bringing Communities Together

The Chief Executive reminded Elected Members that the Monitoring Officer had written to all Elected Members highlighting that whilst the issue of declaring an interest (whether personal or pecuniary) is a matter for individual councillors, it is her view that, at this time, the general nature of the Motion does not require Elected Members to declare an interest and leave the meeting at the outset, or seek a dispensation. It was recognised that this could change should a councillor address the meeting on the Motion, then a personal interest may need to be declared.

No further interests were declared at the meeting.

The Ceremonial Mayor welcomed Councillor Ann Johnson to her first meeting of Full Council since she was elected at the recent by-election.

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

None

35. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The meeting had been convened to consider the following Motion:-

Motion moved by Councillor Prince and seconded by Councillor Brown as follows:-

“Hartlepool’s Labour Councillors requests that this Council:

1. Review its decision making procedures around the awarding of funding to any organisation to which an elected member is affiliated in a capacity, such as an employee, trustee or director.
2. Ensures that any organisation in receipt of funding from Hartlepool Borough Council in excess of £1000 in total per annum be subject to stringent processes of auditing and reporting with an additional requirement to submit full accounts, prepared and audited by an independent qualified accountant to Hartlepool Borough Council at the end of each financial year within which local authority funds have been received.
3. Makes known its systems and processes for ensuring and evaluating ‘value for money’ relating to the funding provided to individual organisations and makes public the results of any and all such evaluations on an annual basis.”

The Motion was signed by Councillors Howson, Lindridge, C Richardson, Prince and Hamilton.”

Councillor Moore, Leader of the Council, advised that the Independent Union, Conservative and VAPP coalition fully agreed with the intent behind the Motion, however considered that in this current form it does not go far enough to afford any hope of restoring public confidence in this Council.

It was moved by Councillor Moore:-

“That the Chair of Council utilise her power under procedural rule 11.5 for this Motion to be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee to set up a working group, chaired by an independent person to be appointed by the Committee and open to both other Elected Members and the public to attend.”

Councillor Moore concluded that if Elected Members or the public had specific concerns they would like the working group to review he would urge them to make representation to the Audit and Governance Committee.

The Chair of Council, Councillor Loynes, responded that she supported the approach set out by Cllr Moore and having consulted the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, she invoked section 11.5 of the Council Procedure Rules for the matter to be referred without discussion to the Audit and Governance Committee.

It was highlighted that the Motion would be debated when it comes back to Full Council once Audit and Governance Committee had completed the investigation.

The meeting concluded at 7.10 p.m.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

COUNCIL

12 September 2019



Report of: Children's Services Committee

Subject: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable Council to consider the report received by Children's Services Committee in relation to the performance of children's social care for the year 2018/19.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 09 July 2019 (**see APPENDIX 1**) Members of Children's Services Committee considered the report outlining information about the performance of children's social care and discussed at length the level of demand that continues to place significant pressures upon the resources of the council.
- 2.2 The report summarises performance information taken from the Children's Services Analysis Tool (ChAT) as well as providing information on the workforce and complaints and compliments regarding the service.
- 2.3 Children's Services Committee recorded the following discussion on this item:

Members were advised of the substantial capacity pressures in children's services despite the increases in the number of children's social workers employed by the Council as teams have had to absorb additional demand.

Members welcomed the continuous positive activity and good level of performance provided to children and young people given the ongoing and increasing high levels of need and vulnerability for children in Hartlepool. Reference was made to various letters which had been sent to Government Ministers in relation to budget and capacity pressures and it was suggested that a further letter be distributed to Government and that this be raised at full Council. It was noted that these concerns had been discussed at the

Combined Authority with other local authority leaders who would also be writing to Government Ministers in this regard.

A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to the various options available in terms of addressing the funding deficit, the specific drivers behind the increasing numbers of looked after children, the impact of the changes to the benefit system and Universal Credit and the difficulties meeting increased levels of demand. The need to publicise the costs associated with keeping children safe as well as the impact on other Council services was emphasised.

The Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services and Co-opted Members responded to a number of further issues/queries in relation to the type of referrals received and the challenges facing social workers.

- 2.4 Children's Services Committee noted the report and further recommended that:

That the concerns of Members in relation to Children's social care budget pressures, as detailed above, be considered at a future meeting of full Council and that a letter is sent to the Secretary of State outlining these pressures.

3. **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 A budget progress report, including forecast outturn for 2019/20, is currently being prepared and will be submitted to Finance and Policy Committee. The report will advise Members that a significant year end overspend is forecast in relation to Looked after Children costs, reflecting the ongoing service pressures reported to Children's Services Committee. A strategy for addressing these additional unbudgeted costs will also be reported to Finance and Policy Committee and then referred to Council.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that Council consider the attached report at Appendix 1 and agree action to be undertaken to raise awareness of the challenges faced by children in Hartlepool and the impact of demand on the Council's resources.
- 4.2 It is recommended that a letter is sent to the Secretary of State setting out the pressures facing children's social care as discussed at the Children's Services Committee on 9th July 2019.

5. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Children's Services Analysis Tool (ChAT) Hartlepool 2018/19

6. **CONTACT OFFICER**

Sally Robinson
Director, Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
01429 523910
sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

09 July 2019



Report of: Director, Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To present to Children's Services Committee the annual performance report for children's social care in Hartlepool.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the Children Act 1989, local authorities are required to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. The Children Act defines a child in need as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled.
- 3.2 In exercising its statutory duties under the Children Act 1989, local authorities undertake assessments of the needs of individual children in order to determine what services, if any, to provide. Assessments must be informed by the views of the child as well as his/her family and the wishes and views of a child must be sought regarding the provision of services to be delivered.
- 3.3 Some children in need may require accommodation because there is no one who has parental responsibility for them, because they are lost or abandoned or because the person caring for them is prevented from providing them with suitable accommodation or care. Under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, the local authority has a duty to accommodate such children in need.

- 3.4 Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to make enquiries to decide whether to take any action to safeguard or promote a child's welfare.
- 3.5 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local agencies to ensure they consider the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when carrying out their functions.
- 3.6 This report covers activity in children's social care for the period from 1st April 2018 to 31th March 2019.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 **Appendix 1** to this report is a performance report using the Children's Services Analysis Tool (ChAT). This report provides details of the demand and activity in children's social care as well as performance against key performance indicators which are reported annually via statutory returns. The data contained within this report is a provisional outturn at this stage but is unlikely to change significantly when the statutory return is submitted.
- 4.2 The following section of this report will summarise and analyse key headline performance data.

Contact, referral and assessment

- 4.3 Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) continues to receive a high volume of demand for support services for vulnerable children and young people. The police refer the highest number of children to social care followed by local authority which, in the main, relates to those cases that step up from early help as the family require statutory services. The rate of referrals per 10,000 of the child population continues to be above the national average and broadly in line with the statistical neighbour authority average. Of those referral received, only 8% are re-referrals, i.e. a child who has already been referred for support and services within the previous 12 months. This is good performance as it indicates that decision making and intervention is effective when children are referred to social care, their needs are met and they do not come back into the service (revolving door).
- 4.4 Children's social care undertake a high number of assessments, these are completed on all new cases referred to social care as well as active cases where a re-assessment of need is required, either in response to a safeguarding concern or to ensure that the needs of the child are fully understood and information is up to date. The ChAT information tells us that 90% of children are seen during the preparation of an assessment, this is an essential element of assessment work. With regard to the remaining 10%, 3% were unborn children who therefore could not be seen, leaving a balance of 7%. Evidence from file audit practice would indicate that children are seen during the preparation of an assessment and their wishes and views inform

the assessment process. We therefore consider that this is a recording error where workers are not completing the documentation correctly which prevents the data being pulled from the system. Nevertheless, managers will undertake a review of the cases where the data suggests a child is not seen to assure ourselves that this is not a practice issue. Workers will be given advice and guidance accordingly including the need to accurately record data in the Integrated Children's System.

- 4.5 Performance in 2018/19 shows a slightly improving picture in relation to the timeliness of assessment when compared with the previous year, however HBC continues to be in the lowest 25% quartile in relation to this performance measure. Since September 2018, team and service managers have received weekly management information reports on assessment timescales to support improvement in the timeliness of assessments and this has yielded positive results. Performance in this area is impacted upon by the volume of demand and the capacity within the service to respond. If there are vacancies or sickness absence in the social work teams, this can have a detrimental impact upon performance.

Child in need including those in need of protection

- 4.6 Over the past year, children's social care has undertaken 436 section 47 enquiries of which 40% proceeded to an Initial Child Protection Conference. The information on page 7 of the ChAT report shows HBC performs well in terms of holding child protection conferences in a timely way and performs well when compared to the national and statistical neighbour averages.
- 4.7 As page 8 of the ChAT shows, in the last 12 months, a higher number of children (1372) became children in need and the rate per 10,000 of the child population increased significantly in comparison to previous years and statistical neighbour and national averages. Fewer children, (1313) ceased to be children in need during the same period and the service has had to stretch its capacity to meet the needs of an additional 59 children. As the graph on page 9 shows, over the last three years, the rate of open children in need per 10,000 of the child population has increased year on year with abuse and/or neglect being the primary reason for social care intervention (49%) 13% of children active to social care have a disability.
- 4.8 As at 31/03/2019 131 children were subject to a child protection plan. 69% of those who became subject to a protection plan did so under the category of neglect which is in keeping with performance in previous years and reflects the high levels of demand arising from neglect associated with adult substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health issues. 21% of those who became subject to a child protection plan in the year had been the subject of a previous child protection plan and 6% had been subject to a protection plan for two or more years when the plan ended.

Children looked after

- 4.9 As at 31/03/2019, 292 children were looked after by Hartlepool Borough Council. As the data on page 12 of Appendix One shows, there was a net increase in the number of children looked after as more children became looked after than left care. HBC continues to have high rates of children looked after per 10,000 of the child population. This reflects the vulnerabilities and needs of children in Hartlepool. The Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) which was undertaken by Ofsted in July 2018 examined decision making by the local authority with regard to children becoming looked after and was satisfied that HBC was *'making the right decisions for children and young people, and services are consistently good or better'*.
- 4.10 The majority of children in care, 63%, are looked after under a Care Order. 80% of children in care are placed with foster care and 70% are within HBC provision. Both of these performance measures compare favourably with the national and statistical neighbour averages. 73% of reviews for looked after children were held within timescales, this is an area where we need to improve our performance. Our focus is on ensuring that reviews are held in a timely way, but also in a way that is meaningful for children, young people, their families and their carers. This means there may be occasion when a decision is made that it is in the best interest of the child for the review to be held out of timescales. This should be an informed evidence based decision that is recorded in the child's record. In the last year, 27% of reviews have not been held within timescales and this is too high. We have therefore requested a peer challenge through our regional sector led improvement programme around the Independent Reviewing Officer role and how HBC can strengthen this role and improve performance.
- 4.11 HBC has always performed well in relation to providing stable placements for children in care. There are two performance indicators that measure this as shown on page 14 of the ChAT report. Both our short term and long term placement stability continues to be excellent, and we perform in the highest quartile.
- 4.12 There are currently 117 young people aged 16 – 25 who are Hartlepool care leavers. Our focus with care leavers is to provide continuity of care for as long as young people need this and to keep in touch with and support them to make a successful transition into adulthood. This entails supporting them to be economically active and in education, employment or training as well as living in suitable accommodation where they are and feel safe.
- 4.13 Of the children who ceased to be looked after during 2018/19, 11% were adopted. HBC adoption service is now delivered by Adoption Tees Valley (ATV) which is a regional adoption agency provided on behalf of Hartlepool and the other four Tees Valley local authorities. Adoption Tees Valley went live in May 2018 and is working hard to improve performance against the Department for Education performance thresholds for adoption. The Annual

2018/19 Report from ATV will be presented to Children's Services Committee in the coming months.

4.14 As noted previously HBC received its short Ofsted ILACS inspection which took place in July 2018. This inspection scrutinise all aspects of the performance of HBC's children's social care and gave the service an overall effectiveness judgement of good. Children's services have worked hard over the past year to deliver continuous improvement in the areas Ofsted identified we needed to improve as well as maintaining the good quality services across the whole service. Most notably we have increased our number of children's safeguarding teams to six in order to strengthen the capacity of managers to have oversight of frontline practice and strengthened our practice in relation to case audit activity.

4.15 Over the course of the year, children's services has undertaken three 'practice weeks' where a number of managers across all levels within the department spend time based in social work teams discussing cases with social workers, observing practice and auditing case records. The findings from practice week identify areas of strength and good practice as well as areas for development where managers think performance can be strengthened to deliver continuous improvement. In summary, managers identified strengths in relation to:

- Relationships with children who are being seen regularly;
- Implementation of the Signs of Safety practice framework;
- Child's voice being clearly articulated in records; and
- Impact and improving outcomes for children.

Areas for improvement include:

- Quality of plans and implementing an improved template;
- Frequency of formal supervision recorded on integrated Children's System;
- Inclusion of genograms in children's records.

4.16 Feedback from service users during practice week was mostly positive with people reporting they felt treated with respect by social workers and listened to. In terms of the practice observations, auditors gave positive feedback that people were treated with respect, reasons for visits were explained and outcomes explained. Following each practice week, an action plan is developed which outlines action to be taken to tackle areas for development, the implementation of which is monitored by the Assistant Director, Children and Families.

Workforce

4.17 Overall the children's social care workforce is reasonably stable and managers invest in their staff to ensure they feel supported and guided in the challenging work that they do. During 2018/19 the social care workforce turnover rate was 12%. HBC has a low dependency on agency workers and

during the last year, only 4 agency workers have been used to cover vacant or absent (sickness or maternity leave) posts and ensure there is sufficient capacity within the teams to meet demand. The annual average full time equivalent sickness rate across children's services was 10.59 and within the social care teams the average rate was 8.22.

- 4.18 The average social worker caseload is 18 children per social worker, this is a manageable caseload for a social worker and allows them the capacity to deliver high quality and effective social work interventions. However, maintaining manageable caseloads for social workers is a challenge in the context of the increasing demand for services as the experience level of the worker impacts on the type and number of cases they can carry. Experienced social workers take the more complex child protection and child looked after cases, these cases are usually very demanding and time consuming as they require a high level of visiting frequency as well as complex court work. Newly qualified social workers have a protected caseload to support their learning and professional development, they have a lower number of cases which only builds up slowly as they become more knowledgeable, confident and skilled in their role. Therefore, although the average is 18, the range of caseloads varies between 6 and 34.

Complaints and Compliments

- 4.19 Complaints about children's social care are governed by The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006. During the year 2018/19, there were 31 complaints received regarding children's social care. Of these:
- Eleven could not be progressed as they related to matters before the court (in accordance with the Regulations);
 - One was not accepted as the outcome could not be achieved via the complaints procedure and was dealt with via the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (who found no fault with the Council's actions);
 - Four were withdrawn by the complainant and therefore not progressed;
 - Nine were resolved at stage 1 (local resolution);
 - Three concluded at stage 2 (independent investigation); and
 - Three remain ongoing at stage 2 (independent investigation)

During the year 2018/19, eight compliments were logged in relation to children's social care.

Conclusion

- 4.20 HBC children's social care performs well and this reflects the findings of Ofsted in the recent inspection judgments of both children's services and our children's homes. There are high levels of need and vulnerability for children in Hartlepool and this leads to a high level of demand for statutory services. Hartlepool is has significantly above average numbers of children in need, including those in need of protection, as well as children looked after when

compared to the national and statistical neighbour averages. We know that much of the demand in children's services arises from adult issues that are affecting their ability to care for and meet the needs of their children. To this end, children's services is working corporately to tackle the drivers of demand associated with parental substance misuse and domestic abuse.

- 4.21 There are substantial capacity pressures in children's services, despite increases to the number of children's social workers employed by the council. Caseloads are higher than we would like for some workers, as the teams have had to absorb the additional demand as outlined in this report. Lower caseloads provide workers with more time to deliver effective work with their families which creates sustainable improvement and the delivery of outstanding services for children and young people.
- 4.22 Despite the challenges, HBC benefits from a highly skilled and dedicated workforce who are committed to providing the best possible care and support for children and young people. Our social work practice is strong, and this means that children in Hartlepool are kept safe. Our looked after children and care leavers benefit from good quality stable care, the vast majority continue to live in their home town which provides them with continuity of education, health care and social relationships.
- 4.23 Children's services is committed to continuous improvement and through our performance management arrangements scrutinises both qualitative and quantitative performance data. We identify areas of strengths but more importantly areas for development in order to continuously improve the services and support we provide to children and young people.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Children's social care has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Failure to deliver these services well and in accordance with legislation and statutory guidance increases the risk of harm to children and young people and the reputation of the Council. Social care services are regulated by Ofsted and judgements are made on the quality of services provided. Children's social care is currently judged as good in terms of the overall effectiveness of the service.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Children's social care services are delivered in accordance with legislation and statutory guidance as they relate to this service area.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Children, young people and their families' wishes and views are taken into account in the delivery of children's social care services and they are consulted during practice weeks on the quality of service they receive.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 9.1 The delivery of children's social care services aims to improve the life chances of vulnerable children and young people.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 10.1 The delivery of children's social care services aims to improve the life chances of vulnerable children and young people.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no staff considerations arising from this report.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no asset management considerations arising from this report.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 For members of children's service committee to note the annual children's social care performance report for 2018/19.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 It is part of the Children's Services Committee's role to ensure the effective discharge of the local authority's statutory functions in relation to children's social care.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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COUNCIL

12 September 2019



Report of: Regeneration Services Committee

**Subject: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)
2019**

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been forwarded from Regeneration Services Committee following a public consultation on the SCI and amendments being made to the SCI. This report seeks the Council's approval to adopt the SCI.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The SCI forms part of the Council's Local Development Framework and aims to set out how the Council intends to engage with the community in respect of planning matters within the Borough.

3.2 There have been significant revisions of the planning process in an attempt to increase the ease with which plans can progress. One key part of this is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in February 2019. The NPPF was produced in order to simplify the information provided from the Government in regards to planning policies for England and how they are to be applied.

3.3 The NPPF, alongside the Localism Act 2011, encourages Local Authorities to place much more of an emphasis on community engagement and to make planning more inclusive to those who wish to be involved.

3.4 This SCI is an updated version to reflect changes in legislation and revisions within the planning system, to ensure that the Council is fully compliant with any recommendations regarding community involvement and matters such as consultation.

3.5 At the Regeneration Services Committee meeting of 17 December 2018, it was approved that the Draft SCI be circulated for public consultation. During

a nine week consultation period, starting in December 2018, a total of eight consultees made representations on the Draft SCI. Where appropriate, the SCI has been revised accordingly. On 15 July 2019, the Regeneration Services Committee agreed the contents of the revised SCI and approved for it to be considered for adoption at Council.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 No options submitted for consideration other than the recommendation.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The current Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in 2010. Without the adoption of this updated Statement of Community Involvement consultation on planning documents may not be carried out in accordance with updated national guidance and legislation.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 No implications.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Under section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), it is a statutory duty of a Local Planning Authority to prepare a SCI.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Draft SPD has been subject to a nine week consultation period, starting on 18 December 2018 to 22 February 2019. The consultation was carried out in accordance with the Council's existing adopted SCI.
- 8.2 96 external and internal consultees were contacted via email or letter. This included housebuilders, residents' associations, Parish Councils and adjacent Local Authorities. The statutory consultees Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England were consulted. The consultation was available on the Council's website to enable any interested party to comment on.
- 8.3 A total of eight consultees made representations on the Draft SCI. A small number of minor amendments were requested to the SCI, namely clarity regarding the Council's Development Control delegation process, neighbourhood planning, the emerging Wynyard Masterplan and heritage assets. Appropriate minor revisions have been made to the SCI.

- 8.4 A Consultation Statement, including the full schedule of representations, along with an officer response and proposed SCI amendments is provided at Appendix 2 of the Regeneration Services Committee Report.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 No implications.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The SCI will ensure that people from all backgrounds are given opportunities to comment and gain greater knowledge of the planning system. Section 3 in the SCI sets out how a range of groups who have been traditionally hard to reach will be encouraged to become involved in the planning system.

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

- 11.1 No implications.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 No implications.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 No implications.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 It is recommended that the Council formally adopt the SCI.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 This SCI is an up-to-date version of the previous document and reflects relevant changes to the planning system to ensure that consultations undertaken across the Planning service of the Council are in accordance with relevant legislation and national guidance.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee Report, 15 July 2019.

- 16.2 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5>

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Report of: Regeneration Services Committee

Subject: RESIDENTIAL DESIGN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The updated Residential Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been forwarded from Regeneration Services Committee following a public consultation on the SPD and amendments being made to the SPD. This report seeks the Council's approval to adopt the SPD.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 This SPD links to a number of relevant 2018 Hartlepool Local Plan policies. This includes policies CC1 (Minimising and adapting to Climate Change), QP3 (Location, Accessibility, Highway Safety and Parking), QP4 (Layout and Design of Development), QP5 (Safety and Security), QP7 (Energy Efficiency), HSG1 (New Housing Provision), HE1 (Heritage Assets) and NE1 (Natural Environment).

3.2 The purpose of the SPD is to provide further detail on how the above Local Plan policies can be implemented by setting out the Council's design aspirations for new residential development. The SPD contains guidance and best practice relating to several aspects of design including density, local distinctiveness, accessibility, safety and energy efficiency.

3.3 The Council seeks to move away from generic "anywhere estates" that can lack identity. This SPD will assist developers in creating sustainable residential areas, ensuring dwellings and spaces are of high quality, energy efficient design that reflect the Borough's heritage and instils a sense of pride and place in residents.

3.4 The SPD does not contain any policies. It sets out a series of best practice recommendations that will be a useful tool in shaping planning proposals and it will be a material consideration when determining planning

applications. Developers are advised to consider the SPD prior to the submission of a planning application and aim to incorporate its design principles where possible.

- 3.5 The SPD will be applied in the consideration of all new residential development, across all wards within the Borough.
- 3.6 At the Regeneration Services Committee meeting of 18 June 2018, it was approved that the Draft SPD be circulated for public consultation, for officers to make any amendments to the Draft SPD and for the final version to be brought back to the Regeneration Services Committee.
- 3.7 During a nine week consultation period, starting in November 2018, a total of 12 consultees made representations on the Draft SPD. Where appropriate, the SPD has been revised accordingly. On 24 July 2019, the Regeneration Services Committee agreed the contents of the revised SPD and approved it to be considered for adoption at Council.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 No options submitted for consideration other than the recommendation.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No implications.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 No implications.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The SPD has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) (as amended).
- 7.2 As set out in under section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019), Local Planning Authorities must set out planning policies for the creation of high quality buildings and places. Paragraph 126 of the NPPF advises that SPDs could be used to provide maximum clarity about design expectations.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Draft SPD has been subject to a nine week consultation period, starting on 12 November 2018 and ending 14 January 2019. The statutory minimum timeframe for consultation on a SPD is four weeks, as set out in regulation

12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The consultation was carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which requires 8 weeks consultation. The period was extended given the consultation period ran over the Christmas week.

- 8.2 139 external and internal consultees were contacted via email or letter. This included housebuilders, residents' associations, Parish Councils and adjacent Local Authorities. The statutory consultees Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England were consulted. The SPD was available on the Council's website to allow any interested parties to make representations on the SPD.
- 8.3 A total of 12 consultees made representations on the Draft SPD. Representations mainly focused on a concern that the SPD would be setting out a policy requirements. Some revisions have been made throughout the SPD to be clear that it sets out best practice considerations and recommendations, rather than requirements. Several representations sought clarity in the text and layout, and appropriate revisions have been made.
- 8.4 A Consultation Statement, including the full schedule of representations, along with an officer response and suggested SPD amendments is provided at Appendix 2 of the Regeneration Services Committee Report 24th July 2019.

9. CHILD/FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 No implications.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The consultation on the SPD was carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted SCI, which has been prepared in compliance with relevant protocols relating to equality and diversity.
- 10.2 The SPD itself is unlikely to have any adverse impacts upon any people with protected characteristics. The SPD encourages consideration of design that would respond to the needs of the disabled, elderly and those with dementia and so some positive impacts are envisaged.

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

- 11.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. The Council is committed to securing safe and secure environments within the Borough.

- 11.2 The SPD contains a section entitled “Creating Safe Housing Areas” that focuses on creating homes and areas that are resilient to crime and antisocial behaviour. The section provides guidance on matters including natural surveillance, location of parking, appropriate lighting and secure dwellings.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 No implications.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 No implications.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 It is recommended that the Council formally adopt the SPD.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The Residential Design SPD, when adopted, will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Following the SPD's recommendations will allow for a higher standard of design quality within new residential development within the Borough.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Regeneration Services Committee Report, 24 July 2019 (Appendix 1) including Residential Design Supplementary Planning Document and Consultation Statement
- 16.2 Hartlepool Local Plan (2018)
https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/4393/hartlepool_local_plan_-_adopted_may_2018pdf
- 16.3 National Planning Policy Framework (2019)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf
- 16.4 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/made>
- 16.5 Hartlepool Statement of Community Involvement (Consultation Draft, 2018)
https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/4844/statement_of_community_involvement_-_consultation_version_-_december_2018

- 16.6 Residential Design SPD (final version for adoption)
[https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/4776/residential_design_spd -
final_adoption_version_-_september_2019](https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/4776/residential_design_spd_-_final_adoption_version_-_september_2019)

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COUNCIL
12th September 2019



Report of: Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: **COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2017-20 (YEAR 3)**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report was considered by Finance and Policy Committee on 22nd July 2019 and the Safer Hartlepool Partnership on 21st June 2019. Council are asked to adopt the Community Safety Plan 2017-20 (Year 3).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is required to produce a three year Community Safety Plan to set out how it intends to tackle crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in Hartlepool with a refresh of the plan being undertaken on an annual basis.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2017-20 (YEAR 3)

- 3.1 The Community Safety Plan Year 3 (attached at **Appendix A**) provides an overview of progress made during 2018-19 with an update on end of year performance. It describes some of the Partnership activity undertaken to reduce crime and improve safety during the last 12 months, and incorporates the proposed 2019-20 annual priorities.
- 3.2 In developing the plan a strategic needs assessment has been undertaken which alongside local intelligence and analysis has included consultation with the local community (statutory, voluntary and community, and private sector) through the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Face the Public Event; an online survey; and the Police Local Public Confidence Survey.
- 3.3 The Plan was agreed by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership on 21st June and was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee on 25th July, and the Finance and Policy Committee on 22nd July.

4. RECCOMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that Council adopts the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Safety Plan 2017-20 (Year 3).

5. CONTACT OFFICER

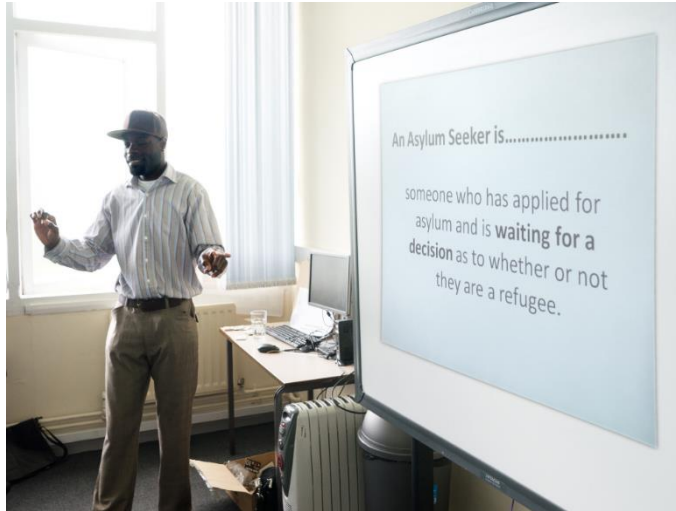
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Safer Hartlepool Partnership

APPENDIX A



Community Safety Plan 2017 – 2020 (Year 3)



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Foreword

In 2017, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership introduced Hartlepool's Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020 where we set out our bold vision for maintaining and improving community safety in Hartlepool and identified our priorities to help us achieve this. These were to:

- Reduce crime and repeat victimisation
- Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
- Create confident, cohesive and safe communities
- Reduce offending and re-offending

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher
Chair of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership



Since that time, there have been a number of key community safety achievements, not least the introduction in March 2018 of the integrated Hartlepool Community Safety Team. During a highly successful first year, the Team have gone from strength to strength and strong working relationships have now developed between officers from the partner organisations that make up the multi-agency team.

A key achievement by the team has been the successful use of powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act to curb persistent anti-social behaviour including the closure of 'drug-houses', execution of arrest warrants for drug dealing and other offences, the recovery of cash, drugs and stolen property and the serving of Community Protection Warnings and Notices. A highlight of the year was the successful prosecution of two 'neighbours from hell' resulting in one receiving a Criminal Behaviour Order and one receiving a Harassment Injunction.

Victims remain at the heart of the service and during 2018 over 200 victims were supported through the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS). We have also been able to improve pathways for victims of domestic abuse with complex needs through receipt of further funding for the Domestic Abuse Navigator project. This project brought together six local authorities (Hartlepool, Redcar & Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Durham and Darlington), housing providers, Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and a range of voluntary sector agencies. This partnership pioneered the development of a new model of support targeted at vulnerable victims of domestic abuse with complex needs and those from BAME backgrounds, including people with no recourse to public funds.

These case studies serve as brief examples of what we can achieve by collaborative working both locally and at a Cleveland wide level; and as we go into the final year of this Community Safety Plan we will continue to engage with residents, who are the eyes and ears of the community. Residents reporting issues and passing on intelligence to us is the back-bone of our service.

Introduction

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership is Hartlepool's statutory Community Safety Partnership as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Partnership comprises of a core group of statutory partners, Elected Members and a range of other stakeholders from the public and voluntary sectors. Their main aim and purpose is to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in Hartlepool. The full current membership is detailed in **Appendix A**.

It is a statutory requirement of all Community Safety Partnerships that they regularly prepare and publish a Plan that shows how they will work together to address community safety issues in the local area. The aim of this Plan is to inform people about the work of the Partnership, its priorities for the next three years and how these will be achieved.

Our priorities continue to be informed through analysis of crime and community safety data, and by listening to the views of those living and working in Hartlepool through surveys and events such as our annual Face the Public event, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership annual on-line survey, and Cleveland Police Public Confidence Survey.

The Partnerships vision is that 'Hartlepool will be a safe place to live, work and visit'. Our approach for achieving this vision will be to focus on 'prevention'. We want to stop problems from happening in the first place by tackling root causes, and where problems do exist we want to stop them from escalating by intervening early and focusing our resources where they are most needed. We also remain committed to safeguarding and protecting vulnerable people from harm, and exploitation in the community. To do this we will work collaboratively and flexibly to deliver integrated models of service delivery, in conjunction with other Boards and Partnerships such as the Safeguarding Children's Board, Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Local Criminal Justice Board.



Hartlepool is the smallest unitary authority in the North East region and the third smallest in the country comprising of some of the most disadvantaged areas in England. Issues around community safety can be understood by a number of contextual factors:

Population

At 92,500 the Hartlepool population has remained relatively unchanged over the last decade.

Health & Wellbeing

There is a higher prevalence of long term health problems, including mental health, in Hartlepool.

Deprivation

Hartlepool is the 18th most deprived local authority area out of 326 local authorities.

Housing

The percentage of long term empty properties in Hartlepool is higher than the Tees Valley average.

Geography

Community Safety issues are concentrated in geographic hotspots, particularly in the most deprived wards in Hartlepool.

Unemployment

Unemployment rates in Hartlepool are above the regional average and double the national average.

Partnership Activity 2018-19

During the second year of the Community Safety Plan for 2017-2020, the Partnership has delivered a number of activities against its strategic priorities to make Hartlepool safer some of which are outlined below:

Strategic Objective 1: Reduce crime and repeat victimisation

Provided support to more than 200 victims of crime and anti-social behaviour through the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS).

Promotion of 'Clare's Law' has led to an increase in the number of requests for information under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

2 'neighbours from hell' successfully prosecuted at Court resulting in a Criminal Behaviour Order and Harassment Injunction.



Strategic Objective 2: Reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol

In 2018 Hartlepool achieved its highest ever testing rate for Hepatitis C testing among its substance misuse service users.

Following a 6 year reduction, just 27% of the treatment population are now in treatment for 6 or more years. This is better than the national average of 32%.

Nearly two thirds of service users reporting injecting drug use had stopped injecting in the first six months of their substance misuse treatment.



Strategic Objective 3: Create confident, cohesive and safe communities

Nearly 2,000 young people have been engaged with by the Targeted Outreach Service.

Proactively used powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to curb persistent anti-social behaviour.

27 Community Protection Warnings, 8 Community Protection Notices and 4 Fixed Penalty Notices issued to individuals engaging in serious ASB.

3 'drug houses' closed using Premise Closure Orders



Strategic Objective 4: Reduce re-offending

Preventative work undertaken by Hartlepool Youth Justice Service has resulted in fewer First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System.

Launch of the 'Divert: Cleveland Custody Diversion Scheme', which offers an alternative way to engage with first time and low-level offenders, instead of prosecuting them at Court.



Strategic Assessment 2018 – Key Findings (January – December 2018)

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership Strategic Assessment contains information to aid the Partnership's understanding of the priority community safety issues in Hartlepool. The Assessment forms part of an intelligence-led approach to community safety which enables a more focused, resource-effective and partnership-oriented delivery of options.

Strategic Objective 1: Reduce crime & repeat victimisation

- 12% increase in crime, 1,263 more offences.
- 151% increase in stalking and harassment, 689 more offences
- 84% increase in public disorder, 294 more offences
- 23% reduction in burglary (business and community), 81 fewer offences
- 36% reduction in vehicle crime, 476 fewer offences

Strategic Objective 2: Reduce the harm caused by drugs & alcohol

- 24% reduction in the number of young people in treatment for substance misuse
- The rate of drug poisoning fatalities is almost three times the national average
- Hartlepool has one of the highest death rates from drug misuse, and from alcohol related liver disease, in the North East region
- Alcohol-specific hospital admissions are 4.5% above the regional average
- The rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under-18s is almost half the regional average

Strategic Objective 3: Create confident, cohesive & safe communities

- 17% reduction in anti-social behaviour, 1,215 fewer incidents
- The percentage of people who think that the police and local authority are dealing with the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter locally has declined by around 10%
- 9% increase in hate crime, 12 more offences, with evidence of an increase in the number of 'on street' incidents in neighbourhoods and public places

Strategic Objective 4: Reduce offending and re-offending

- 1,866 offenders were detected in relation to 1,505 crimes
- 1,424 offenders (76.3%) were detected in relation to 2 or more crimes
- The number of offenders committing 15 or more offences has more than doubled
- The number of young people entering the criminal justice system is following a decreasing trend

A range of consultation activities are carried out throughout the year, including:

- The annual Community Safety Survey
- The annual 'Face the Public' event
- Cleveland Police's Local Public Confidence Survey

The annual Community Safety Survey highlighted that many residents feel that crime and anti-social behaviour is a problem in their area and that this is getting worse compared to the previous 12 months. However, the Survey results also suggest that there is a discrepancy between people's perception of crime and anti-social behaviour and their actual experience of being victims. Although the comments throughout the survey indicate that fear of crime is high, only 56% of respondents had been a victim of crime in the past 12 months. Of these, the majority were victims of 'minor' crimes such as criminal damage or had their vehicle broken into. Only 26 respondents had been the victim of more serious crimes such as burglary, assault/violence or robbery.

When asked if they had reported the crime to the Police, 60% had done so. Of those who hadn't, the most common reason for not doing so was that the incident was dealt with by other means (most commonly that it was resolved by the bank/insurance company or the damage was minor so they victim just fixed it themselves). A high proportion also commented that the lack (or anticipated lack) of a Police response meant they did not report the incident, which suggests there is further work to be done around encouraging the reporting of incidents to help us tackle crime in Hartlepool.

The Survey also revealed that residents have concerns around levels of violence, particularly violence associated with young people and there were lots of references to 'gangs' in the free text comments, although the context of these comments suggests that this phrase is primarily used to mean loose groups of young people in one place rather than official, named 'Gangs' with territories, etc. However, in contrast, when asked 'how big a problem' is physical violence in your local area, 85% of respondents selected 'not a problem at all' or 'not a very big problem'. Further research into the violence situation in Hartlepool is planned for 2019 to help clarify this discrepancy and to establish an accurate picture of violence in Hartlepool.

Suggestions made by attendees to the Partnership's Face the Public event held in March 2019 as to how these concerns could be addressed included getting schools more involved, for example through providing lessons about racism and providing more support for parents. Challenging negative perceptions about the town by promoting positive role models and success stories was also highlighted.

Partnership Strategic Objectives 2017 - 2020

Based on the findings in the annual Strategic Assessment and consultation with the local community, the Partnership will retain the following four strategic objectives during the lifetime of the three year plan:

Strategic Objectives 2017-2020	
Reduce crime and repeat victimisation	Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
Create confident, cohesive and safe communities	Reduce offending and re-offending

Partnership Priorities 2019-2020

Annual Priorities 2019-2020	
Re-offending –reduce re-offending through a combination of prevention, diversion and enforcement activity.	Acquisitive Crime —reduce acquisitive crime through raising awareness and encouraging preventative activity.
Domestic Violence and Abuse –safeguard individuals and their families from violence and abuse and implement programmes to tackle those identified as ‘high risk’.	Anti-social behaviour —reduce anti-social behaviour through a combination of diversionary, educational, and enforcement action and restorative interventions.
Substance misuse —reduce the harm caused to individuals, their family and the community, by drug and alcohol misuse and alcohol related violence.	Vulnerable Victims - work together to identify and support vulnerable victims and communities experiencing crime and anti-social behaviour.
Communications – increase public confidence through communication of positive results and crime prevention messages	

Key Activities 2019-2020

Partnerships	Crime Prevention	Anti-Social Behaviour	Vulnerable Victims
<p>Improve multi-agency problem solving approaches through the provision of training to key front-line staff.</p> <p>Undertake multi-agency prevention and disruption activities in relation to organised crime.</p>	<p>Undertake a Public Health approach to tackle violence</p> <p>Continue to provide crime prevention advice and target hardening to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>Focus on reducing parental conflict to build on the foundations laid by the Troubled Families Team utilising a 'whole-family' approach to tackle families who make their neighbours' lives a misery.</p> <p>Build on the learning from initial use of ASB powers to ensure problems are tackled more quickly and efficiently.</p>	<p>Promotion of support services available to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour following the appointment of a new Victim Services Officer.</p>
Domestic Violence & Abuse	Substance Misuse	Offenders	Communications
<p>Develop a new and updated Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2020-2023.</p> <p>Deliver a communications campaign promoting domestic abuse services, myth-busting and breaking down barriers.</p>	<p>Improve understanding of drug-related deaths through the work of the Tees-wide Drug Related Deaths Coordinator, coroner and police to look at patterns and trend across the region and what learning can be achieved on the back of this.</p>	<p>Embed the Divert Scheme to engage with first time and low-level offenders, as an alternative to prosecuting them at Court.</p>	<p>Develop a refreshed Partnership Communications Strategy to ensure that the activities of the Task Groups are communicated to partners and residents.</p>

Delivering and Monitoring Performance

This chart outlines the Partnership delivery structure as amended to reflect the additional priority around communications outlined above. Performance monitoring will be undertaken on a quarterly basis to assess progress against key priorities drawn from the strategic assessment and identify any emerging issues using the indicators outlined in **Appendix B**



Safer Hartlepool Partnership Plan 2018-2019

SHP Vision	"Hartlepool is a safe place to live, work and visit"				
Landscape	Increased crime in Hartlepool	Fewer resources	Organisational Change	Rise in complex cases impacting on demand	
Statutory Functions	Crime and Disorder	Anti Social Behaviour	Substance Misuse	Reducing re-offending	
Strategic Objectives	Reduce crime and repeat victimisation	Create confident, cohesive and safe communities	Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse	Reduce re-offending	
Priorities	Reduce Acquisitive Crime with a focus on domestic burglary Safeguard individuals and their families from domestic abuse	Reduce Anti Social Behaviour and support Vulnerable Victims and Communities	Reduce the harm to individuals, and the community by drug and alcohol misuse and alcohol related violence	Reducing offending and re-offending by a combination of education, diversion and enforcement	
Cross Cutting Themes	Early intervention & prevention	Vulnerable individuals with complex needs	Substance misuse	Domestic abuse	Child sexual Exploitation
Supporting Partnerships	Health & Wellbeing Board	Hartlepool Safeguarding Childrens Board	Tees Adult Safeguarding Board	Local Criminal Justice Board	Youth Justice Board
Performance Measures	Reduce crime and repeat victimisation	Create confident, cohesive And safe communities	Reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol misuse	Reduce re-offending	
	Total recorded crime rate per 1,000 population % of violent crime that is domestic related % of repeat cases of domestic abuse (MARAC)	Anti-social behaviour rate per 1,000 population Number of reported hate crimes and incidents % of people who think the Police & Local Authority are dealing with crime & ASB issues that matter locally % of people who feel that they belong to their local area	% of opiate users successfully completing treatment % of non opiate users that have successfully completed treatment Rate of alcohol related hospital admissions per 10,000 population Number of young people known to substance misuse services	Number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders % of offenders that re-offend Average number of re-offences per offender	

Membership of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Membership of the Partnership reflects the statutory requirements and consists of senior representatives from the five responsible authorities¹ plus additional stakeholders as follows:

Responsible Authorities	Other Members
<p>Hartlepool Borough Council – Two Elected Members including Leader of the Council</p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council – Chief Executive</p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council - Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council – Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Environment</p> <p>Cleveland Police – Chief Superintendent – Neighbourhoods and Partnerships</p> <p>Cleveland Fire and Rescue Authority – District Manager</p> <p>Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company - Director of Operations</p> <p>Cleveland National Probation Service – Head of Area</p> <p>Representative of Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>Youth Justice Board - Chair</p>	<p>Hartlepool Borough Council – Director of Public Health</p> <p>Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland</p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council – Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services</p> <p>Hartlepool Borough Council – Director of Adult and Community Based Services</p> <p>Representative of Voluntary & Community Sector – Chief Executive, Safe in Tees Valley</p> <p>Thirteen – Director of Customer Support Services</p>

This group is the ‘strategy group’ for the purposes of the statutory regulations. New members may be added to the Partnership by agreement of existing members. There is also the potential for co-opting members onto the Partnership to undertake specific pieces of work or for specialist knowledge and skills as and when required.

¹ Responsible Authorities – Police, Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group, National Probation Service, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

Strategic Objectives and Performance Indicators 2019-2020

Strategic Objective	Performance Indicators
Reduce crime and repeat victimisation	Total recorded crime rate per 1,000 population
	Domestic burglary rate per 1,000 household
	Vehicle crime rate per 1,000 population
	Robbery rate per 1,000 population
	Shoplifting rate per 1,000 population
	Violent crime (including sexual violence) rate per 1,000 population*
	% of violent crime (including sexual violence) that is domestic related
	% of repeat cases of domestic violence (MARAC)
	Violent crime (including sexual violence) hospital admissions for violence per 100,000 population*
Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse	Drug offences per 1,000 population
	% of people who think drug use or dealing is a problem
	% of opiate drug users that have successfully completed drug treatment*
	% of non-opiate drug users that have successfully completed drug treatment*
	% of alcohol users that have successfully completed alcohol treatment
	Alcohol related hospital admissions rate per 100,000 population*
	Number of young people known to substance misuse services

*Indicators link to the Public Health Outcome Framework

Strategic Objective	Performance Indicators
Create confident, cohesive & safe communities	Anti-social behaviour incidents per 1,000 population
	Public order offences per 1,000 population
	Criminal damage rate per 1,000 population
	Deliberate fires rate per 1,000 population
	Number of reported hate crimes & incidents
	% of the population affected by noise - number of complaints about noise
	% of people who feel safe during the day
	% of people who feel safe after dark
	% of people who think rubbish or litter lying around is a problem
	% of people who think groups hanging around the streets is a problem
	% of people who think people being drunk or rowdy in a public place is a problem
	% of people who think vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property is a problem
	% of people who think noisy neighbours or loud parties is a problem
	% of people who think abandoned or burnt out cars are a problem
	% of people who think that they belong to their local area
	% of people who feel that they can influence decisions that affect their local area
	% of people who believe that people from different back grounds get on well together
	% of people who think that people in the area pull together to improve the local area
Reduce offending & re-offending	Rate of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System per 100,000 population*
	Re-offending levels - percentage of offenders who re-offend*
	Re-offending levels – average number of re-offences per offender*
	Re-offending rate of Prolific & Priority Offenders
	Re-offending rate of High Crime Causers
	% of Troubled Families who have reduced their offending behaviour

*Indicators link to the Public Health Outcome Framework



Protecting local communities



CLEVELAND
POLICE



Durham Tees Valley
Community Rehabilitation Company

thirteen

thirteen group
thirteen
Erasmus Housing
Housing Hartlepool
Tees Valley Housing
Tristar Homes

NHS
*Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees
Clinical Commissioning Group*



**National
Probation
Service**



COUNCIL
12 September 2019



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT

1. HART BY-ELECTION

My previous report to Council noted the resignation of Jean Robinson, as Ward Councillor for the Hart Ward and that a by-election would be held on Thursday 25 July 2019.

At that election Ann Johnson was duly elected to serve in the office of Councillor for that Ward until the local government elections in May, 2020.

Members are requested to note the election of Ann Johnson as Borough Councillor for the Hart Ward.

2. COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Further to item 1 above, I received a request from the Labour Group for a review of the political balance on Committees, Forums, etc. and outside bodies in view of the by-election result. The outcome is set out below:-

Constitution Committee – Councillor Johnson

Licensing Committee – Councillor Young has agreed to relinquish his seat, to be replaced by Councillor Johnson

Councillor Johnson will also replace Councillor Robinson on the North and Coastal Community Forum.

I have been notified by political groups of the following additional changes to Committees and Outside Body appointments:-

Committees

Councillor James to replace Councillor S Akers-Belcher on Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor C Richardson to replace Councillor T Richardson on the Adult and Community Based Services Committee.

Outside Bodies

Councillor Young to replace Councillor Cartwright on North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

Councillor Ward has resigned from the Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust

Council is requested to approve the proposed changes.

3. VETERANS CHAMPION

As part of the refresh of the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the position of Veterans Champion was created to support the Armed Forces Champion. Council on the 23rd May 2019 agreed that consideration of nominations for the position would be referred to Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group. The views of the Group to feed back to Council to inform discussions on the appointment.

In progressing the wishes of Council, the Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group set the 21st August 2019 as the deadline for receipt of applications to be considered by the Group at its meeting on the 4th September 2019. Following consideration of the applications by the Group, nominations for the position will be circulated for consideration by Council.

Council is asked to consider the nominations provided and appoint an individual to take up the position of Veterans Champion for remainder of 2019/20.

4. INDEPENDENT PERSON RESIGNATIONS

Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 the Council is required to appoint at least one Independent Person whose views are to be sought, and taken into account, before a decision is taken as to whether to investigate an allegation against an elected member. In 2017, Norman Rollo, Stan Cronin and Clare Wilson were appointed by Council for a term of 4 years. We have since received letters of resignation from Norman Rollo and Stan Cronin. The Authority remain compliant with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

Council may wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr Rollo and Mr Cronin for their services to the Authority.

5. SPECIAL URGENCY QUARTERLY REPORT

In accordance with the requirements of the Access to Information Procedure Rules included in the Council's Constitution, Council is informed that no special urgency decisions were taken in the periods set out below:-

February 2019 to April 2019 and May 2019 to July 2019

Council is requested to note the report.

6. RENEWAL OF HARTLEPOOL'S FAIRTRADE TOWN STATUS

I am pleased to announce that Hartlepool has had its status as a Fairtrade Town renewed for a further two years.

This follows an application to the Fairtrade Foundation by the Hartlepool Fairtrade Steering Group whose members include Councillor Brenda Harrison as a representative of this Council.

Hartlepool has been recognised as a Fairtrade Town since 2005 and the status reflects our collective commitment as a town to support food growers in some of the world's poorest countries, who are often exploited and badly paid, by promoting the sale and use of Fairtrade products.

7. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION SCHEME - GOLD AWARD

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. It requires organisations to pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

Organisations have the opportunity through the ERS Scheme to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold award status. I am pleased to be able to inform Members that Hartlepool Borough Council has received its Gold Award, demonstrating our:-

- i) Commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.
- ii) Forces-friendly credentials as part of their recruiting and selection processes.
- iii) Strong working links with defence representatives.
- iv) Support for the Armed Forces community and Reserves as an employer with positive employment policies.
- v) Position as an exemplar within our market sector, advocating support to Defence personnel issues to partner organisations, suppliers and customers.

We join only nine other organisations in the North East and become the first Local Authority in the Tees Valley to achieve Gold Award status.

8. UPDATE ON MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Council at its meeting on the 30th July 2019 determined to refer the Motion in relation to decision making procedures around the awarding of funding to any organisation to which an elected member is affiliated in a capacity, such as an employee, trustee or director and related issues to a Working Group of the Audit and Governance Committee for further investigation. The Audit and Governance Committee meet on 15th August 2019 and approved the appointment of Clare Wilson as the Independent Chair of the Working Group and also determined that all Elected Members of the Audit and Governance Committee will serve on the Working Group.

The Audit and Governance Committee also determined that the Working Group investigation should, in addition to the Motion referred from Council, also include:

- The arrangements and procedures for paying a Special Responsibility Allowances and an additional Chair's Allowances. It should be noted the additional Chair's Allowances ended in May 2012;
- A review of the arrangements for letting Council owned buildings to outside bodies / organisations, on a social value basis;
- A review of the processes for approving and monitoring Ward Member budget spending;
- A review of the format and quality of Member Declaration of Interest forms;
- Consider the feasibility of introducing a requirement for any organisation to which funding is given to be registered as a Charity or Company.

Officers have now meet with the Independent Chair, Clare Wilson, who understands the need to conclude the investigation and report back to the Audit and Governance Committee, and then Council, as soon as practical. However, the Independent Chair has indicated that the review needs to be thorough and robust and she has therefore drawn up an initial timetable to report back Audit and Governance Committee in the last week of October and to an Extraordinary Council meeting in early November. The Independent Chair has agreed the following schedule of Working Group meetings, which provides time to collate the information required for the review and also reflects officer availability to present this evidence to the Working Group:

- 3rd September 2019 - Review the arrangements and procedures for paying a Special Responsibility Allowances and an additional Chair's Allowances
- 30th September 2019 - Commence review of all other issues. Additional meeting have also been schedule for 2nd and 3rd October, and if necessary further meeting will then be scheduled.

The Working Group meetings will be open to the public.



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT (2)

3. VETERANS CHAMPION

As part of the refresh of the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the position of Veterans Champion was created to support the Armed Forces Champion. Council on the 23rd May 2019 agreed that consideration of nominations for the position would be referred to Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group. A copy of the job description for the role is attached.

One nomination for the position has been received via the Armed Forces Liaison Group from Mr Michael Male.

Mr Male was a member of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards for 15 years and has undertaken a range of Royal duties as part of his service. He is an active member of the Royal British Legion, Grenadier Guards Association (Yorkshire Branch), Coldstream Guards Association and the Hartlepool Armed Forces Liaison Group.

Mr Male feels that his military experience, ability to address senior representatives from all three Services and knowledge of military protocols for dress and behaviour further support his application.

Council is asked to consider the appointment of Mr Male to the position of Veterans Champion for remainder of the Municipal year 2019/20.

9. NOTICE OF COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL GROUP

I received notification, on 12 September 2019, of the composition of a new Political Group 'The Brexit Party and Conservative Coalition' comprising the following Elected Members:-

Councillors Moore, Cartwright, Cassidy, Brewer, Tennant, Fleming, Ward, Buchan, T Richardson, Young, Loynes, Stokell and Mincher

The new political group replaces the Independent Union and Conservative Group which, therefore, ceases to be constituted.

10. TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY

Further to the appointments made at the Annual Council meeting, I have been notified by the Tees Valley Combined Authority of the following changes arising from a review of Registered Political Parties which has been carried out by the Authority's Monitoring Officer:-

Audit & Governance Committee – Labour Member required – therefore no change - Councillor Harrison

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – the Authority requires 1 Labour member, 1 member from the Brexit Party and 1 Elected Member who is not a member of a political party, summarised by the Authority as follows:-

Overview & Scrutiny Committee			
Current Nominations		New required nominations	
Councillor Amy Prince	Labour	Insert Name	Labour
Councillor Paddy Brown	Labour	Insert Name	Independent/Not member Political Party
Councillor Brenda Loynes	Independent Union & Conservative	Insert Name	Brexit Party

Nominations are sought.

CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

7 JUNE 2019



PRESENT:

CHAIR

Cllr Paul Kirton – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Tim Fleming, Marjorie James, Stephen Thomas

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Teresa Higgins, Naweed Hussain, Jon Rathmell, Ashley Waters

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Billy Ayre, Adam Brook, Norah Cooney, Mary Ovens

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Luke Frost, Jean O'Donnell, Andrew Stephenson, William Woodhead
MBE

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Legal Adviser and
Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Clerk sought nominations for the position of Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20.

Councillors Paul Kirton and Jon Rathmell were subsequently proposed and seconded. A vote was taken and Councillor Kirton received nine votes to Councillor Rathmell's seven.

Councillor Paul Kirton in the Chair

The Chair thanked Members for their support and placed on record thanks to Councillors Jan Brunton-Dobson, Ray Goddard, Rob Cook, Neil Bendelow, Gillian Corr, Mick Stoker, Mike Young and Tom Mawston for their contribution and support during their time on the Authority

RESOLVED – that Councillor Paul Kirton be appointed Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20.

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 2019/20. Councillors Jean O'Donnell and Luke Frost were proposed and seconded with Councillor O'Donnell receiving nine votes to Councillor Frost's seven.

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR Cont.

Councillor James queried whether it was appropriate to have a Chair and Vice Chair from the same authority. The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) confirmed that provided that they had been properly nominated by councillors from the constituent councils this was acceptable.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Jean O'Donnell be appointed as Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 29 March 2019 be confirmed.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on 22 March (Appointments) and 26 April 2019 be confirmed.

6. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

<u>Zoe Billingham</u>	- Fire & Rescue Inspection Update (April)
<u>LGA</u>	- Supporting the Business Case for Investment in FRSS
	- Restricting Exit Payments in the Public Sector
<u>Home Office</u>	- Fire Revenue Firelink Grant

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

7. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Business Report 2019-20

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA Membership 2019/20 • Calendar of Meetings 2019/20 • Terms of Reference • Delegation Scheme • Financial Procedure Rules • Code of Corporate Governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Orders of the Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regulation of Proceedings & Business – Contract Procedure Rules • Members Allowance Scheme • Ethical Governance Framework • Member Development Plan |
|--|---|

The LAMO reported that Councillors Rathmell, Waters, Frost, Brook and Fleming had formed the 'CFA Independent Group'. Voting took place on the nominations received for committees and outside bodies.

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.

7.1 Business Report 2019-20 cont.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LAB	KIRTON	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	O'DONNELL	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	HIGGINS	MIDDLESBROUGH
CFAIG	RATHMELL	MIDDLESBROUGH
CFAIG	FLEMING	HARTLEPOOL
CFAIG	FROST	STOCKTON ON TEES
LIB DEM	OVENS	REDCAR & CLEVELAND

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

SOC LAB	JAMES	HARTLEPOOL
LAB	THOMAS	HARTLEPOOL
CFAIG	WATERS	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	HUSSAIN	MIDDLESBROUGH
CONS	COONEY	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CFAIG	BROOK	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
LAB	AYRE	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CONS	STEPHENSON	STOCKTON ON TEES
INDEP	WOODHEAD	STOCKTON ON TEES

REPRESENTATIVES FOR OUTSIDE BODIES 2019/20

LGA FIRE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE	Cllr KIRTON
Substitute:	Cllr O'DONNELL
REDCAR & CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE	Cllr BROOK
STOCKTON SAFER PARTNERSHIP REPN	Cllr STEPHENSON
CLEVELAND FIRE SUPPORT NETWORK BOARD	Cllr THOMAS
LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD	Cllr HIGGINS

8. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

8.1 Strategic Induction

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) updated Members on the following strategic areas:

- Strategic Direction
- Our Local Risk Profile
- Community Profile 2018-19
- Understanding our Communities
- Community Hazards & Risks
- Managing Risk – Response, Prevention, Protection
- CFA Financial Position including Income Streams, Changes in CFA Funding, Funding Pressures, Forecasted Deficit
- Our Performance including Service Demand, Safer Stronger Communities, Key Performance Outcomes
- Assurance
- HMICFRS Inspection
- Future Challenges

8.1 Strategic Induction cont.

Councillor Frost queried why the Authority paid its staff above the national average wage. The CFO confirmed that the Authority used a standard pay scale which was used across the Fire & Rescue Service.

The CFO reported that the Authority was currently undergoing a HMICFRS Inspection based on the key pillars of Effectiveness, Efficiency and People and outlined the key dates of the inspection programme.

(1440) Councillor Woodhead left the meeting

Councillor James highlighted the progress of the Authority's support for installing sprinkler systems in high rise buildings and houses in multiple occupation (HIMOs) and reported that Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) was the only council in the country to secure government funding to install sprinklers in two new build schools. She expressed disappointment that the other three constituent councils had not also pursued this support for sprinklers via their planning departments.

Councillor James raised an issue with a recent planning application at HBC for a new build which had not included the agreed CFA position statement on installing sprinklers. The CFO agreed to look into this issue and confirmed that the current arrangement was still for the agreed statement to be used.

Councillor Stephenson referred to the pay budgets and asked for details on the CFOs annual remuneration package, including clarification relating to tax implications of using an emergency vehicle. The LAMO confirmed that while information relating to officer remuneration was on the Authority's website and published in the statement of accounts it was not appropriate to discuss personal tax issues.

Councillor Ayre thanked the CFO for the presentation and praised the continued efforts of the Authority to tackle deliberate fires in Eston Hills and other rural areas. He questioned whether the Authority was any closer to tackling this long running problem. The CFO confirmed that staff continued to educate school-aged children and run specific campaigns targeting Easter and Summer holidays. He added that the issue was far wider spread than grass fires and related to the social profile of the area.

The CFO reported that the Authority worked on a multi-agency approach to tackle deliberate fires and pursue prosecutions. He advocated the Hartlepool Community Safety Team model which provided an integrated response from the Council, Police and Fire to tackling community safety issues.

Councillor Waters, who represents North Ormesby ward, reported some issues regarding police attendance and follow up information. The CFO acknowledged that the Brigade's call volume was significantly less than Cleveland Police or North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) but confirmed that 'priority coding' could be utilised when an immediate dispatch was required. The CFO reported that a 'Whatever it Takes' initiative was in place to try and improve the situation.

Councillor James raised the issue of single use barbecues being used in rural areas as well as rubbish and glass being left behind and suggested it would be timely for the Authority to raise awareness of these potential fire dangers. The CFO confirmed that the Brigade does this through social media.

8.1 Strategic Induction cont.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That Members noted the Strategic Induction**
- (ii) That the Treasurer provides Members with details relating to the CFO salary.**

8.2 Information Pack

8.2.1 Campaigns

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted.

- 9. 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 items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as mended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006”, namely information relating to any 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.
- 10. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
RESOLVED – that the confidential minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 29 March 2019 be confirmed.
- 11. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS**
RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 11 May 2018 be confirmed.

COUNCILLOR PAUL KIRTON
CHAIR