

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Friday 17 January 2020

at 11.00 am

in Committee Room B,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors S Akers-Belcher, Cartwright, Hunter, James, Little, Prince and Tennant.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

3. **MINUTES**

- 3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record of the meeting held on 15 November 2019 (*previously circulated and published – attached for information*).

4. **BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

No items.

5. **KEY DECISIONS**

No items.

6. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 6.1 Opening Times of Water Play – *Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*



7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 National Lottery Heritage Fund: Seascape Bid – *Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Friday 21 February 2020 at 1.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

15 November 2019

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: John Tennant (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Akers-Belcher, Dave Hunter, Marjorie James, Sue Little and Amy Prince

Also Present:

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Tony Richardson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Lee Cartwright

Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher and Brenda Loynes

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Tony Hanson, Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)
Kieran Bostock, Transport and Infrastructure Manager
Steve Hilton, Senior Public Relations Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

33. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Lee Cartwright.

34. Declarations of Interest

None.

35. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2019

Received.

36. Contaminated Land Updated Strategy (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Key decision – test (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference No RN11/19

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the adoption of the updated Hartlepool Borough Council Land Inspection Strategy.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Committee was advised of the background to the requirement of the Council to produce a strategy in relation to identifying and addressing contaminated land within the borough. The Strategy would be used in conjunction with the wider objectives of the Council, details of which were set out in the report. The aims of the strategy were to ensure contaminated land was identified, to assess the impact of high risk areas and ensure processes were in place for inspecting contaminated land.

The proposed strategy was not intended to identify how sites would be remediated but set out the framework and processes that the authority would follow in order to meet its statutory duties.

A query was raised as to whether there were any sites which may potentially cause contamination problems from industry related activities that the Council may not be aware of, examples of which were provided. Assurances were provided that based on historical information and the risk based approach of this strategy such issues should be identified.

The Director was pleased to report that Kieran Bostock, the Transport and Infrastructure Manager, and his team had been recognised nationally and regionally for their work on coastal protection and had received four awards in recognition of this work. Tributes and thanks to the team were made by Members for their hard work in achieving such recognition.

Decision

That the updated Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy be approved.

37. Refurbishment of Stranton Crematorium Chapel (Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

Key decision – test (i) applies. Forward Plan Reference No RN16/19

The report had been intended for submission to the Committee in October, however, due to a seminar arranged for October to inform Members of the options available for the site this date could not be achieved. This is, therefore a departure from the Forward Plan.

Purpose of report

To approve the proposed refurbishment of Stranton Crematorium Chapel and seek approval to meet the budget shortfall as part of the 2020/21 MTFS proposals to be referred to Council.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services presented the report which included background information to the requirement to undertake refurbishment works at Stranton Crematorium Chapel. The final details of the scheme were still being developed, however, they were likely to include work to the chapel roofs, re-pointing, work to parapets and coping stones, treatment to eradicate salt deposits on chapel walls, new lime plaster and an electrical upgrade.

A number of options had been considered including doing nothing, closing the building for three to four months whilst work was carried out or using an alternative structure for services such as a temporary building or converting the redundant nursery shop. The preferred option would be to carry out work in one space while the other was in operation, details of which were provided. The consultation showed strong support for the refurbishment of the chapel whilst still in operation and it was therefore considered the most effective way to deliver this would be to work Friday to Monday. Members were referred to the financial considerations as outlined in a confidential appendix attached to the report. **This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

During the lengthy discussion that followed a number of issues were raised which included concerns that a Members' Seminar and a joint meeting had not been held to seek Members' input on this issue. The Director advised

that a Members' Seminar had taken place on 9 October which was arranged by Democratic Services. Concerns were also raised regarding the state of disrepair of the chapel and the timescales for implementation of the proposed works. In relation to the proposal to commence works in the spring of 2020, views were expressed that refurbishment works should commence as a matter of urgency. In response to further concerns raised regarding the need for a long term as opposed to a short term solution, whilst the Director acknowledged Members' frustrations, the importance of refurbishment works in the short term until such time as alternative land could be identified was highlighted. It was noted that a report would be submitted to Committee in the next 12 months outlining future options.

A Member made reference to a recent conversation with the Chief Solicitor which clarified that joint meetings were no longer permitted, details of which were provided. However, there would still be an opportunity for other interested Members to attend the meeting and participate. Clarification was sought as to whether an alternative means of funding was available to avoid the need for prudential borrowing and whether this could be explored as part of the budget process. Whilst officers agreed to explore this issue, the Committee was advised that no guarantees could be given.

A Ward Member raised concerns regarding continuing complaints received in his ward in relation to ongoing flooding in the cemetery and referred to the emotional impact on individuals as a result. It was suggested that reassurances be provided to the public, via a press release, of the work that was being done in this regard.

Decision

- (i) The Committee agreed to carry out the proposed works to the chapel.
- (ii) That the proposal be referred to the Finance and Policy Committee in order to be included within the 2020/21 MTFS proposals to be referred to Council as outlined in a Confidential Appendix 1. **This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**
- (iii) That an update report be presented to a future meeting of this Committee in relation to future options for Stranton Crematorium Chapel.
- (iv) That alternative funding opportunities be explored to avoid the need for prudential borrowing.

- (v) That the public be provided with reassurances of the ongoing work and proposals for Stranton Cemetery.

38. Vehicle and Equipment Approvals 2019-2021 (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

- (i) To provide an update on vehicle purchases made in 2018/19.
- (ii) To provide an update of the vehicle replacement budget for the current financial year, including vehicle purchases rephrased from prior years.
- (iii) Propose the vehicle and associated equipment replacement programme for the 3 year period covering 2020/21 to 2022/23;
- (iv) To request that Finance and Policy Committee recommend that the approval for borrowing to fund the related capital expenditure is included in the 2020/21 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved by Council.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services, presented the report which outlined the background to the combined vehicle asset appraisal and service review that had been undertaken with Service Managers and Team Leaders. An options appraisal of vehicle financing had previously demonstrated that borrowing was the most cost effective way of funding vehicle purchases, particularly as vehicles were now kept for their maximum usable economic life. The advantages of borrowing compared to leasing were provided, as set out in the report.

Reviews of service needs had resulted in a revised replacement programme for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 and a preliminary one for 2022/23, the financial considerations of which were provided as set out in the report. Members were referred to the revised replacement programme for the three year period covering 2020/21 to 2022/23, attached at Appendix C, and the future borrowing approvals to be recommended for inclusion within the 2020/21 MTFS, a summary of which was included in the report.

The benefits of including additional information in the report in relation to the age of vehicles was discussed as well as the advantages of including further information of this type such as repair costs was suggested. Members noted that existing vehicles had been extended to the viable limit taking into account the higher cost of maintaining an ageing fleet. The need to publicise the reasons for renewing vehicles was suggested.

Decision

- (i) That the updated position for vehicle purchases in 2018/19 years, as set out in Appendix A, and the updated list for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix B, be noted.
- (ii) The Committee approved that proposed replacement programme of vehicles, heavy plant and associated equipment, as set out in Appendix C, and related borrowing approvals set out in paragraph 5.8, to be referred to Finance and Policy Committee to recommend to Council as part of the 2020/21 MTFS.
- (iii) That future reports include more detailed information around repair bills and the reasons for renewing vehicles be publicised.

39. Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 30 September 2019 *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Director of Finance and Policy)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the 2019/20 forecast General Fund Outturn, the 2019/20 Capital Programme Monitoring and provide details for the specific budget areas for which the Committee was responsible.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report which provided the background and financial reporting arrangements for 2019/20 as well as a summary of the overall Council financial position and General Fund outturn information in relation to the Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services Department.

Details of the overall budget position for the Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services Department was summarised in a table included in the report together with the reasons for the forecast outturn. Further details of specific budget areas this Committee was responsible for were outlined at Appendix A and the report also included a breakdown of capital expenditure.

Decision

The report was noted.

40. Savings Programme 2020/21 *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To provide Members with additional information to consider proposals to achieve savings in 2020/21 presented at the October meeting of this Committee and to provide feedback on these proposals to the Finance and Policy Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported on the background to the Committee's consideration of the savings report at the last meeting and Members' request that a further report be provided to this Committee with additional information in relation to the savings proposals which included the detail of budget lines reflected in the Council's budget book.

The Committee was provided with additional information which included the following, details of which were set out in the report:-

- Risks associated with introducing a charge for garden waste collections
- Costs of opening the Household Waste Recycling Centre on bank holidays and 7 days a week
- Household Waste Recycling Centre Permit Scheme digital technology proposals
- Mattresses - impact of introducing mattress collection charges
- Environmental Services mechanical sweeper arrangements
- Grass cutting/litter picking A689

- Other budget information
- Vacancies
- Environmental Enforcement Review

Members considered in detail the additional information provided and expressed a number of views/queries/comments which included the following:-

- (i) A query was raised regarding the benefits of introducing a Household Recycling Permit Scheme and whether usage by unlicensed commercial operators, landlords and people from outside the borough was at such a level to warrant such monitoring. The Director explained the rationale and background in relation to the proposals indicating that other authorities had seen a reduction in tonnages since introducing the scheme. Whilst there was no information available to quantify the level of usage, the workforce had indicated there was evidence of abuse. Arrangements would be made to monitor the situation whereupon this would be reviewed and reported back to Members.
- (ii) A lengthy debate ensued in relation to the waste management arrangements to which the Director provided clarification in response to queries/suggestions made. Further concerns were raised that Members were being asked to make a decision on a permit scheme without robust facts and figures or case studies in support of the proposals and further information in this regard was requested. It was later confirmed that this information had been provided at the previous meeting of this Committee.
- (iii) Reference was made to the recent budget settlement and a query was raised as to whether the financial position across Neighbourhood Service areas had improved as a result of this year's grant settlement. The Director advised that this query would be referred to the Director of Finance and Policy, however, as far as she was concerned there had not.
- (iv) With regard to the proposed reduction in mechanical sweepers from two to one, concerns were raised regarding the adverse impact in terms of street cleanliness issues and potential flooding/gulley blockages.
- (v) In relation to a query raised regarding the timescales for providing feedback to Members in relation to the outcome of meetings with neighbouring local authorities to ascertain how they undertake their grounds maintenance and litter operations adjacent to their highways work, including information around robot grass cutters, the Committee was advised that a report would be provided once the potential risks associated with these issues had been examined in full and upon receipt of information from neighbouring authorities.

- (vii) The Director provided clarification in response to further queries raised in relation to aspects of the report.
- (viii) A Member reiterated comments expressed at the previous budget meeting that he would not support charges for the collection of garden waste or mattresses and would not support proposals in relation to the household recycling permit scheme until such time as there was sufficient supporting information to enable Members to make an informed decision, the potential implications of which were outlined.
- (ix) A Member referred to recent road closures in the town as a result of maintenance works and requested that advance notice be provided to the public in relation to any planned closures.
- (x) Prior to concluding the debate, further discussion ensued in relation to the decision making process and the potential implications of individuals not supporting the budget. Members were advised that the differing views of Members in relation to the proposed garden waste collection charges had been reflected in the minutes of the last meeting which would be included in the response to Finance and Policy Committee.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report and comments of Members, as outlined above, be noted and be utilised to formulate a response to be presented to Finance and Policy Committee.
- (ii) That further information be provided in relation to the Household Waste Recycling Permit Scheme, the potential for introducing a robotic service for grounds maintenance and litter clearance on the A689.
- (iii) That clarification be provided following the meeting as to whether the financial position had improved across Neighbourhood Service areas as a result of the grant settlement.

41. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair reported that the next meeting scheduled for Friday 13 December would be rescheduled. A provisional date had been suggested of Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 10.00 am, confirmation of which would be circulated in due course.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 22 NOVEMBER 2019

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

17th January 2020



Report of: Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: **OPENING TIMES OF WATER PLAY**

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non - Key Decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To outline a proposal to extend the opening times of the water play areas on the Headland.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 There are two water play areas in the Borough.

3.2 The paddling pool in the Headland is located on the lower promenade and consists of a small pool with stepping stones. It currently opens for six weeks a year, to coincide with the summer school holidays

3.3 Seaton water play area opened in 2018. It is a defined area which has pressure pads spraying jets of water into the air for children to play in. This is opened from the start of the bathing water season 1st May until 30th September.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 Members have asked for the opening of the water play areas to commence prior to the Easter school holidays extending the opening times, which could mean opening the sites during March or April. The sites are closed in the winter as the systems used can be damaged by frost. Furthermore, opening at this time of the year, when the weather can be unpredictable, would require additional works to ensure that the systems are protected

from the frost, which could mean that the sites would not necessarily be open every day.

- 4.2 An alternative would be opening over Whit from the second May Bank Holiday including school Half Term. During this time it is considered that the weather would potentially be milder, without the risk of a frost and therefore less risk of damage to the system and potentially more attractive for users. Seaton Water Play is already open during this time therefore this would bring the Headland paddling pool in line with this.
- 4.3 Given the regeneration work already undertaken in these locations, along with future plans, it is considered that opening the Headland Paddling Pool as a pilot during the half term school holidays in the Whit week of May 2020 is proposed.
- 4.4 The paddling pool has lifeguard cover while open which runs from 9:45 to 18:15. Accommodation is provided on site for staff bringing additional associated costs. Maintenance of the pool itself comprises daily cleaning, dosing and water testing duties, including a weekly empty, pressure clean and refill. It takes approximately 45 minutes to do the daily tasks, with the lifeguards carrying out further removal of debris during the day. The weekly clean takes 3-4 hours to complete.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The main issue with opening the Seaton water play early is the possibility of a late frost. The system requires winterisation in late September, if there were freezing conditions, it could potentially damage the system if it was operational.
- 5.2 With regard to the paddling pool, the recruitment of Life Guards takes place at the beginning of the year, very often operatives are not in place in March / April in order to monitor the Headland paddling pool. Without the availability of officers to offer first aid on this site it would be difficult to open the facility during Easter. Depending on the availability of staff there could be issues finding sufficient cover for the Whit period.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the £4,000 additional cost of extending the opening times on a trial basis can be met from existing budgets.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 No relevant issues.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Those services who would be impacted by the additional work required to open the sites have been consulted in order to gauge the implications of the potential works.

9. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 Water play sites are an important element of the play provision across Hartlepool, however they do draw on increasing resources in order to maintain them to an appropriate standard.

10. CHILD/FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 It is recognised that the provision of free, accessible play sites is important for the development of children as they can provide both physical and social benefits.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The need to provide a variety of play facilities across the town, which includes water play, is acknowledged however it is considered that these opportunities need to be balanced against the resources available to support and maintain sites.

12. SECTION 17 OR THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

- 12.1 Whilst play sites across Hartlepool have been the subject of vandalism depriving children the opportunity to play on equipment in a safe environment the water play sites have not been as susceptible to issues as those in parks and open spaces.

13. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 There is a single operative who inspects and maintains all play sites. Whilst there is no additional cost for the time that would need to be spent at these two sites, it would reduce the time that can spend maintaining other play sites across the Borough.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 Members are requested to consider the proposal to open the Paddling Pool in the Headland over the Whit period in May 2020 as a pilot project.
- 14.2 Following the completion of the pilot project, Members are asked to delegate the decision over its continuation to the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 This will allow officers to assess the proposals to open Headland Paddling Pool in May 2020 and to consider the benefits against the costs detailed in the report, and to determine whether this is a feasible option for future years, and if so, whether an earlier opening could be undertaken.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 There are no background papers to this report.

17. CONTACT OFFICER

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

17th January 2020



Report of: Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: National Lottery Heritage Fund; Seascape Bid

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Committee of a proposed National Lottery Heritage Fund Bid which will include the coastline of Hartlepool within the project boundary.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Durham Heritage Coast formed a partnership in 2017 comprising a group of local, regional and national partners to submit a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid to establish a model for the management of the coast and inshore water between the Tyne and Tees rivers. In November 2017 the Lottery awarded a first round pass and £200,000 to develop the final submission which was made in November 2019.

3.2 SeaScapes covers the Magnesian Limestone Coast from South of the River Tyne to the River Tees. The boundary runs from the England Coast Path out to 6 nautical miles and is united by unique geology, the natural environment and a shared cultural heritage. The project aims to better protect and celebrate this heritage-rich and distinctive coastline.

3.3 The Seascapes Partnership is seeking to secure £5m of funding to enable this area's distinctive combination of natural, industrial and cultural heritage to be conserved, enhanced and celebrated. Local people, communities and visitors to the area will benefit from

- improved access to the coast/sea,
- greater interpretation,
- volunteering and training opportunities,

- events and activities to deepen understanding of the natural environment,
- opportunities to take part in physical activities on the water or beneath the waves, and
- a community grants scheme to help invigorate local regeneration whilst supporting the vision of Seascapes.

- 3.4 Delivering over twenty interconnected projects, across a four year programme (2020-2024), SeaScapes aims to leave a lasting legacy of,
- restored heritage,
 - improved access and information,
 - improved management of the natural environment, and
 - an enhanced understanding of this heritage-rich seascape.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Activities for the project span four themes, many of which will take place in Hartlepool.

4.2 SeaScape Over Time

- a) Hartlepool Lights; the project will repair and restore the High Light, located on the Waterfront and Beacon Tower on North Pier; both grade II listed.
- b) Coast at War; this project will provide an opportunity for local people and visitors to develop skills and an appreciation for the history of the coast focusing on defense structures and coastal bombardments.
- c) Sea to Shore: Community Voices; this will identify key locations throughout the area to recruit and develop community volunteers (Integrational Ambassadors) and engage primary schools, using a range of methods to create cross community development.
- d) Sea to Shore: Discover, record and share; soundscape recordings will celebrate the noises of the coast, past and present with hubs providing an opportunity for people to listen.
- e) Changing Coastline; this project proposes exploring the story of the coast from prehistory to present day, discovering its role in transport, industry, wars, tourism and the movement of people, ideas and religion. In Hartlepool this will potentially include looking at the medieval salt mounds and protected wreck in Seaton Carew and the site of the former listening post in Clavering.
- f) Reading the Rocks; an interpretation of geological sites through a range of media and engagement with schools and the wider public this will cover five sites in the project area, one of which will be the Headland.

4.3 Revealing Hidden Heritage

- a) Our Coast, Our Wildlife & Coastal Wildlife Communities; this is an overarching project which aims to provide opportunities for local people to engage with marine and coastal wildlife through events, activities, wildlife recording groups and citizen science projects, offering the chance to explore the natural heritage along the length of the project area.
- b) Beneath the Waves; this project will allow local communities and visitors to interact and experience the marine environment, to increase appreciation, enjoyment and promote an understanding of the seascape.
- c) Foodscapes; this will connect local communities with their sea food traditions and folklore by making links between the seascape they see and the food they eat. This will span across the project area linking to seafood landing sites such as Hartlepool Fish Quay.

4.4 Accessing the Sea

- a) Access to Beach; this will improve a number of routes to the beach from the England Coast Path including surfaces and signposting to formalise safe access and egress to the shore at strategic heritage sites, for example in Hartlepool this will include improved linkages and signage around the Heugh Battery.
- b) Secret Naming Place; Using creative writing and photography, the project will invite participants around the Seascape stations to explore their coastal landscapes, revealing stories behind the existing place names and giving names to places where stories exist to be told.
- c) Brus to Headland Cycle Route; this will provide a circular cycle route that connects the coastal communities to the coast at the Headland.
- d) Coast to Clavering Circular Walk; this will provide a new guided circular walk linking Clavering, Hart and Marine Point to the coast.
- e) SeaScape Stations; these ten points will provide a coordinated approach to interpreting the project across the area using a variety of media to engage local people and visitors in understanding and appreciating what makes the area special. In Hartlepool they could be at North Gare, Marine Point and on the boundary at Crimdon.
- f) Bluescapes; this element of the project will be along the whole of the coast aiming to promote a greater understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the coast. It will provide opportunities for local people and visitors to explore, discover and record the natural heritage of the coast through activities and offer training to enhance understanding, and improve conservation, for marine and coastal wildlife.
- g) England Coast Path Identify; this will provide common signage across the project area detailing destination and distance.

4.5 Blue Future

- a) Beach Care and Aware; this will empower local people to take action to keep beaches and bathing waters as clean as possible throughout the project area.
- b) Events Engage Activity; this will engage people through a variety of art forms and events to record and celebrate local heritage, stories and traditions to build a sense of place and local pride.
- c) Community Grants; a small grants scheme will be available to voluntary and community groups, landowners, farmers, schools and local councils to reveal, conserve, enhance, celebrate and raise awareness of the unique seascape.

4.6 The project will be delivered by a team of seven officers hosted by five organisations. This will include a Delivery Manager overseeing the project based at Durham County Council, the lead partner. A Partnership Board with representatives from all Partners will meet on a quarterly basis to oversee delivery. Alongside this 'Task and Finish' groups will be developed, as necessary, to feed into individual projects.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The second round funding for the project is not secured and the scheme will be submitted to the lottery as part of a competitive grant process. The feedback to date has been positive and there are no other similar schemes elsewhere in the country.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Should the project be successful the main cost to Hartlepool will be staff time offering support and delivering some of the projects in the borough. However if any funding contributions are required for particular projects, then a further report will be brought back to Committee to seek approval to take those forward.

6.2 In the mid programme assessment the Lottery Fund indicated that they would want to see some cash contributions from those partners who are receiving capital funding. It is considered that given the wider range of projects which will provide positive benefits to Hartlepool, a small cash contribution to ensure that these are secured would be reasonable. The Neighbourhood Investment Programme Budget has some capacity and could be used for this.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 A Development Phase Partnership Agreement was signed by all parties involved in the project, prior to work beginning to develop the bid. It is anticipated that should the bid be successful a similar agreement would need to be signed in order to continue to participate in the scheme.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Seascope project group have carried out wide ranging consultation with communities and organisations throughout the project area.

9. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The scheme will provide funding to restore the Highlight which is a grade II listed building located on the Waterfront, a key regeneration area.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 Staff have worked with the project team to deliver the grant application and it is anticipated that this will continue through to the delivery phase should the application be successful.

11. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Child/Family Poverty Considerations	No relevant issues
Equality and Diversity Considerations	No relevant issues
Section 17 of The Crime And Disorder Act 1998 Considerations	No relevant issues

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Members are requested to note the SeaScape Project application made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 This proposes a number of schemes and projects that will benefit our coast and community.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 There are no background papers to this report.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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