

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

## AGENDA



**Friday 21 February 2020**

**at 1.00 pm**

**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 17 January 2019 (*previously circulated and published – attached for information*).
- 3.2 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record of the meetings of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 24 July 2019, 11 September 2019 and 28 November 2019

**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 Council Plan 2020-23 – *Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

**5. KEY DECISIONS**

- 5.1 Hartlepool Tree Strategy Refresh – *Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*



**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

- 6.1      Tees Valley Local Standards For Sustainable Drainage – *Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- 7.1      Clean and Green Strategy – *Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

**FOR INFORMATION**

Date of next meeting – Friday 13 March 2020 at 11.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool



# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

17 January 2020

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: John Tennant (In the Chair)

Councillors: Marjorie James, Sue Little and Amy Prince

**Also Present:**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher and Councillor Tony Richardson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Lee Cartwright

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **42. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Stephen Akers-Belcher and Lee Cartwright.

### **43. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **44. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2019**

Received.

## **45. Opening Times of Water Play** (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

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

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Committee was advised that the paddling pool in the Headland currently opened for six weeks a year to coincide with the summer school holidays. Seaton water play area opened in 2018 and was open from the start of the bathing water season 1 May until 30 September. Following a request from Members that the water play area opening times be extended, the feasibility of this request had been explored. This would require additional works to ensure that the systems were protected from frost, which could mean that the sites would not necessarily be open every day.

It was proposed that an alternative would be opening over Whit from the second May Bank Holiday including school half term, the benefits of which were set out in the report. Seaton play area was already open during this time and would therefore bring the Headland paddling pool in line with this. Members were referred to the risk, financial and staffing considerations of the proposals, as set out in the report.

During the lengthy discussion that followed a Member suggested that opening times for Seaton be extended until 31 October. The Assistant Director advised that the proposals for Seaton water play area remained unchanged and were currently operational from 1 May to 30 September, the reasons for which were outlined. It was also suggested that should the pilot be successful the feasibility of opening the Headland play area every weekend in line with Seaton opening times be explored. Further views were expressed in relation to the benefits of opening Seaton water play area during October and the Committee requested that a consultation exercise be undertaken across all Wards to seek input/views regarding the proposals/suggestions of Members to extend the opening of the Seaton water play area from 30 September to 31 October.

In relation to the recommendation that following completion of the pilot project, Members delegate the decision over its continuation to the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Chair of

Neighbourhood Services Committee, Members were of the view that decisions around the continuation of the scheme should be a Committee decision and requested that the outcome of the pilot project be reported as soon as possible to this Committee and include information around usage figures, the costs associated with extending the opening times of the Headland water play areas from May to end of September in line with Seaton opening hours including the feasibility of extending provision until the end of October.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the proposal to open the paddling pool in the Headland over the Whit period in May 2020, as a pilot project, be approved.
- (ii) That a consultation exercise be undertaken across all Wards to seek input/views regarding the proposals/suggestions of Members to extend the opening of the Seaton water play area from 30 September to 31 October.
- (iii) That the decision around continuation of the scheme be taken by the Neighbourhood Services Committee.
- (iv) That the outcome of the pilot project together with information around usage figures, costs of extending the opening times as well as the outcome of the consultation process be reported to this Committee as soon as possible.

## **46. National Lottery Heritage Fund: Seascape Bid** (Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

### **Type of decision**

For information

### **Purpose of report**

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

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services presented the report which included background information to the work of Durham Heritage Coast Partnership. The project aimed to better protect and celebrate the heritage-rich and distinctive coastline. The Seascapes

Partnership was 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, the benefits of which were included in the report.

The activities for the projects spanned four themes, SeaScape Over Time, Revealing Hidden Heritage, Accessing the Sea and Blue Future, details of which were provided. The project would be delivered by a team of seven officers hosted by five organisations.

In relation to the defence structures and coastal bombardments referred to in the SeaScape Over Time project, as set out in the report, a Member referred to any war related buildings along the coastal stretch and the potential need to undertake a review/audit of any repairs and maintenance to enable safe access for local people and visitors which the Assistant Director agreed to feed into the SeaScape Partnership.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the SeaScape Project application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund be noted.
- (ii) That the comments raised in relation to repairs/maintenance to enable safe access for local people and visitors be conveyed to the SeaScape Partnership.

## **47. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

## **48. Any Other Business – Dog Fouling Patrols**

An update was requested in relation to progress made following a question raised at the October meeting of Council when it was agreed that the costs and delivery of two separate enforcement team's in relation to dog fouling and littering, as part of this year's budget, be explored and be reported to this Committee. The Committee requested that a report be submitted to this Committee prior to the end of the current municipal year.

**Decision**

That a report be provided to this Committee, prior to the end of the current municipal year, in relation to the costs and delivery of two separate enforcement team's in relation to dog fouling and littering.

**49. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair reported that the next meeting would be held on Friday 21 February 2020 at 1.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 24 JANUARY 2020**

# **EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

**24 July 2019**

The meeting commenced at 10.00am at the Emergency Planning Annex,  
Stockton Police Station, Bishop Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1SY

**Present:**

Councillors: Dorothy Davison (Middlesbrough Borough Council)  
Marjorie James (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Officers: Stuart Marshall, Chief Emergency Planning Officer  
Jon Hepworth, Group Accountant (Regeneration and  
Neighbourhoods)  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barry Hunt (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council) and Mike Smith (Stockton Borough Council)

### **2. Inquorate Meeting**

The meeting was abandoned due to being inquorate.

The meeting concluded at 10.20am

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

# **EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The meeting commenced at 10.00am at the Emergency Planning Annex,  
Stockton Police Station, Bishop Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1SY

**Present:**

Councillor: Barry Hunt (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council) (In the Chair)

Councillors: Marjorie James (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Mike Smith (Stockton Borough Council)

Officers: Stuart Marshall, Chief Emergency Planning Officer  
Jon Hepworth, Group Accountant (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Dorothy Davison (Middlesbrough Borough Council)

### **4. Declarations of interest by Members**

None

### **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Minutes received.

### **6. Financial Management Report** (*Chief Finance Officer and Chief Emergency Planning Officer*)

#### **Purpose of report**

To provide details of the financial outturn for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and the latest budget position and forecast outturn as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 for the current financial year.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

A summary of the outturn position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 was provided as set out in the report. A favourable variance of £8,000 on the main Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) budget had been achieved. The budget for the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) had been fully spent. For 2019/20 a favourable variance of £47,000 on the main Emergency Planning (EPU) budget was forecast. An additional £78,000 had also been allocated to the LRF by the Government to assist in Brexit preparations. This was in addition to the £38,000 allocated for this purpose the previous year. A strategy for the use of this additional funding was currently under development. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer assured members that the LRF had been preparing for a range of scenarios following the UK's exit from the EU and had a framework in place to ensure that emerging issues could be identified and fed into the LRF partnership and Government as required. Officers had no specific concerns from a budget standpoint the unit was in a strong position.

**Decision**

That the 2018/19 outturn and latest forecast for 2019/20 be noted.

**7. CEPU Proposed Action Plan 2019-2020** (*Chief Emergency Planning Officer*)**Purpose of report**

To provide the action plan of the Emergency Planning Unit to assist in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Unit and its value to the four authorities.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The proposed plan was comprised of 385 actions and objectives and their associated indicators, compiled using statutory requirements, national guidance and good practice. The actions had been compiled under 16 headings including Local Authority Preparedness, CEPU Internal Functions, and Training and Exercising. The proposed action plan was appended to the report along with details of the LRF priorities and actions. Quarterly updates on both would be provided to members. The Chair of the LRF had will attend a future meeting of the Committee to update members on the work of the partnership.

**Decision**

That the proposed action plan be approved and quarterly updates and additional information as requested by members be provided by the Chief Emergency Planning Officer.

**8. Activity Report (2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019)**  
(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)

**Purpose of report**

To assist Members in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Unit, to inform of the activities undertaken during the period in question and to provide oversight of the actions undertaken by the Cleveland LRF.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were given of the progress made during the period against the CEPU Action Plan and key LRF activities undertaken. 9 training events and 5 training exercises had taken place. Members' attention was drawn to the delivery of training to schools and councils and work undertaken in anticipation of the update to the Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations 2019. A member referred to future training of officers and suggested that part of the reserves be set aside specifically to fund training courses. They also referred to people and institutions who might be able to work with the CEPU to develop training courses. The CEPO advised that he would be keen to discuss potential opportunities further with the relevant points of contact.

**Decision**

That the areas of work undertaken be noted

**9. Activity Report (1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019)** (Chief Emergency Planning Officer)

**Purpose of report**

To assist Members in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Unit, to inform of the activities undertaken during the period in question and to provide oversight of the actions undertaken by the Cleveland LRF.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were given of the progress made during the period against the CEPU Action Plan and key LRF activities undertaken. 20 training events and 8 training exercises had taken place. Members' attention was drawn to the winter preparedness annual review and the additional Resilience Direct training provided to partner organisations by CEPU officers to enable file sharing in planning and emergency response situations.

**Decision**

That the areas of work undertaken be noted

**10. Activity Report (1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019)**  
(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)

**Purpose of report**

To assist Members in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Unit, to inform of the activities undertaken during the period in question and to provide oversight of the actions undertaken by the Cleveland LRF.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were given of the progress made during the period against the CEPU Action Plan and key LRF activities undertaken. 2 training events and 1 training exercise had taken place. Members' attention was drawn to the development of the North East Yorkshire and Humber cyber plan and the response to the Marton Country Club Fire and subsequent debrief. In light of the events at the Marton Country Club members queried what action could be taken to ensure publically and privately-owned derelict buildings were properly secured. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer acknowledged their concerns and advised that following the debrief, discussions were ongoing reference the multi-agency work that may reduce the likelihood and aid the response to incidents at derelict buildings.

**Decision**

That the areas of work undertaken be noted

**11. Incident Report (2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019)**  
(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)

**Purpose of report**

To assist Members in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Unit, to inform of the incidents reported and warning communications received and dealt with by the Unit during the period in question.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were given of the communications received and incidents of note during the period. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer paid particular tribute to the work of Middlesbrough Council and the British Red Cross in providing support to residents during and following the Marton Country Club fire.

**Decision**

That the areas of work undertaken be noted

**12. Incident Report (1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019)**  
(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)

**Purpose of report**

To assist Members in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Unit, to inform of the incidents reported and warning communications received and dealt with by the Unit during the period in question.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were given of the communications received and incidents of note during the period.

**Decision**

That the areas of work undertaken be noted

The meeting concluded at 11:10am.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

# **EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The meeting commenced at 10.00am at the Emergency Planning Annex,  
Stockton Police Station, Bishop Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1SY

### **Present:**

Councillors: Marjorie James (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Mike Smith (Stockton Borough Council)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Antony High  
(Middlesbrough Borough Council) was in attendance as substitute for  
Councillor Dorothy Davison.

Officers: Stuart Marshall, Chief Emergency Planning Officer  
Jon Hepworth, Group Accountant (Regeneration and  
Neighbourhoods)  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

### **13. Appointment of Chair**

In the absence of Councillor Barry Hunt (Redcar and Cleveland Borough  
Council) Councillor Mike Smith was appointed Chair for this meeting.

### **14. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Dorothy Davison (Middlesbrough  
Borough Council)

### **15. Declarations of interest by Members**

None

### **16. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The minutes were received.

**17. Financial Management Update Report** (*Director of Finance and Policy & Chief Emergency Planning Officer*)

**Purpose of report**

To provide details of the forecast outturn as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 for the current financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

A summary of the outturn position at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 was provided as set out in the report. A favourable variance of £43,000 on the main Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) budget was forecast. This was due to a vacant post (which was due to be filled in January) and increased fee income from additional duties required under REPPIR legislation.

An additional £78,000 for 2019/20 (plus £38,000 in 2018/19) had also been allocated to the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) by the Government to assist in Brexit preparations. This grant was currently being maintained as a contingency with minor recharges for partner time spent supporting LRF arrangements. Should this not be required additional recharges would be made for CEPU staff time spent on Brexit preparations with any remaining grant expected to be distributed to LRF partners or used to support specific work-streams.

A member raised concerns that despite a number of requests and attempts the Chair of the LRF had so far been unable to meet with the Committee to discuss budget suggestions. They reiterated that any decisions regards allocations of funding should be made in conjunction with elected members as they would be held responsible and could not be expected to rubber stamp budget decisions without having all the facts and being able to give their input. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer confirmed that he would endeavour to ensure that the Chair of the LRF could attend the next meeting. Members advised that they would be prepared to change the date and venue of the next meeting to accommodate her attendance.

**Decision**

That the latest financial forecast for 2019/20 be noted

## **18. CEPU Staffing Update** (*Chief Emergency Planning Officer*)

### **Purpose of report**

To review the staffing establishment of the EPU in accordance with the budget provision approved by the 4 constituent authorities as per requirements outlined in the constitution.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The Chief Emergency Planning Officer gave a brief update on current staffing within the CEPU. There were currently 9 members of staff including 1 Principal and 4 Senior Emergency Planning Officers, each local authority area has a designated emergency planning officer. A Business Support Officer was currently being recruited on a 12 month fixed term due to increases in workload. All officers had lead areas and the overall range of work was becoming more specialised, encompassing new areas such as cyber-resilience. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer outlined the benefit of development schemes and identified that for staff to progress through the development schemes and associated pay bands could only be done through the demonstration of competency in a range of areas.

A member queried whether there was capacity to take on an apprentice. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer advised that he would look into this however concerns had previously been raised that apprenticeships did not always lead to permanent jobs. Members identified the developmental benefits of an apprenticeship and recognised that any role would have to provide a meaningful contribution to the work of the Unit. Members felt that given the links the EPU had in terms of Local Authorities and private industry apprentices were in a unique position in terms of future employment even should such employment be unavailable within the Unit itself. They asked that an apprenticeship be sought within the next financial year provided there was a capacity for it.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted and efforts made to recruit an apprentice for 2020/21.

## **19. Exercising and Training 2020-21** (*Chief Emergency Planning Officer*)

### **Purpose of report**

To provide members with an overview of the proposed training and exercising calendar for 2020-21.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The Chief Emergency Planning Officer gave a brief update on future training and exercise plans for the Unit and its partners. Every year LRF partners were asked to contribute to a training and exercising calendar via a “bidding” process. A draft calendar was then submitted to the LRF Tactical and Strategic Board for approval. This was based on the “bids” by the LRF partners along with the existing risk register, previous exercises, identified training needs and statutory duties specifically required by legislation. So far 58 training exercises had been requested for delivery including COMAH and REPPIR exercises. Efforts were made to minimise clashes in dates and ensure training was scheduled regionally rather than locally.

A member queried whether training on animals and farms incidents had taken place recently, particularly in terms of major incidents involving livestock either on farms or being moved to and from them. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer indicated that while training had been undertaken in terms of animal disease there had been no recent training on how non-disease related animal incidents would be managed. He would discuss potential future training needs and requirements with the LRF membership.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

## **20. Activity Report (28<sup>th</sup> August – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019)** (Chief Emergency Planning Officer)

### **Purpose of report**

To inform members of the activities undertaken by the CEPU and LRF between 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were given of the progress made during the period against the CEPU Action Plan and key LRF activities undertaken. 2 training events and 5 training exercises had taken place. Work was also being undertaken to make contact with local community groups. Following discussion on a recent workshop on derelict buildings a member commented that there should be rules in place to compel the owners of derelict sites to provide detailed information to the authorities to be used in the event of an incident.

**Decision**

That the report be noted.

**21. Incident Report (28<sup>th</sup> August – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**  
(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)

**Purpose of report**

To inform members of the incidents reported and warning communications received and dealt with by the CEPU between 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

Details were given of the communications received and incidents of note during the period. A member queried whether there was a mechanism to inform partners of planned flaring, training and similar exercises on industrial sites. The Chief Emergency Planning Officer confirmed that such a system exists and is regularly utilised, the system is based on both email and voice calls and comprises of two levels (blue for information and red where action by the public is required). Red alerts are cascaded to the public via the local media (broadcast and social).

**Decision**

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11:05am.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 5 DECEMBER 2019**

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

21<sup>st</sup> February 2020



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**Report of:** Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

**Subject:** COUNCIL PLAN 2020-23

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Budget and Policy Framework

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide the Committee the opportunity to consider the proposals that fall under the remit of the Committee for inclusion in the Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 which is currently out to consultation.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The current Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20 is coming to an end this year. It was developed following the extensive Your Say, Our Future consultation with residents, staff and partners which took place in the summer of 2016 and identified a series of key priorities for Hartlepool.
- 3.2 Finance and Policy Committee agreed at their meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 to begin preparing a new Council Plan to cover the period 2020/21 – 2022/23 with the aim of having it agreed before the end of the current municipal year.
- 3.3 Consultation on the Council Plan priorities for 2020/21 – 2022/23 launched on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and ran for 4 weeks. There were 4 key questions that were asked throughout the consultation:

- What do you think is going well in Hartlepool?

- What do you love about Hartlepool?
- What do you think needs to improve in Hartlepool?
- How do you think that the Council, our residents and our partners can work together to make a difference?

In addition residents were asked whether the priorities identified in the 2016 consultation were still important.

3.4 In order to raise public awareness of the consultation a wraparound was published in the Hartlepool Life and the Hartlepool Mail highlighting the achievements from the current Council Plan and promoting the ways in which people could get involved in shaping the new Council Plan. The opportunities that were made available for people to get involved included:

- Survey – online and paper copies made available in Community Hubs and other Council venues (251 responses);
- 3 public drop in events held at the Community Hubs;
- A roundtable discussion with partners (12 partner organisations took part);
- Roundtable discussions with our employees at the Autumn Corporate Management Team (CMT) Roadshows (191 employees took part);
- A roundtable discussion with the Youth Council;
- A roundtable discussion with the Senior Leadership Team;
- A Members Seminar (5 Members took part).

#### **4. DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2020/21 – 2022/23**

4.1 The Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 has been developed to build on what has already been achieved over the last 3 years and to respond to what residents, employees and partners told us through the recent consultation exercise.

4.2 The consultation draft of the Council Plan was agreed by Finance and Policy Committee at their meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Consultation on the draft Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 will be open for 5 weeks and will include:

- A short online survey with written comments/responses also accepted;
- A Members Seminar – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020;
- Reports to Policy Committees – Children’s Services (28<sup>th</sup> January 2020), Adult and Community Based Services (30<sup>th</sup> January 2020),

Regeneration Services (5<sup>th</sup> February 2020) and Neighbourhood Services (21<sup>st</sup> February 2020).

- Sharing the draft with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Hartlepool Partnership and the Economic Regeneration and Tourism Forum for their comments;
- A partners roundtable discussion.

4.3 The consultation draft of the Council Plan is included as **Appendix 3** and this includes:

- An summary of the progress made through the last Council Plan, an outline of the current position in Hartlepool in relation to some of our key indicators and the key themes that emerged from the recent consultation exercise;
- The strategic priorities that it is proposed the Council focus on over the next 3 years. For each strategic priority details are provided about what success will look like and the action that is proposed to be taken to deliver it.

4.4 As a whole, the priorities identified in the Council Plan will improve opportunities across in the town. However, the actions set out under the strategic priorities 'Creating a clean, green, and safe Hartlepool by protecting our environment and improving our neighbourhoods', 'Creating an attractive and connected Hartlepool by attracting investment to improve key buildings, derelict land and our transport network' and 'Shaping a well-led, safe, high performing and efficient council that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' will be of particular interest to the Committee. The Committee is requested to consider the consultation draft and provide feedback which will inform the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## 5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Following the end of the consultation period the final Council Plan will be prepared and taken to Finance and Policy Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 for agreement and referral to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

5.2 Comments and observations from Policy Committees will be added to those received through the rest of the consultation and included in the overall presentation of the final draft of the Council Plan to Finance and Policy Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020, before being taken for formal agreement by Council at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council needs appropriate planning and performance management arrangements in place in order to manage its key strategic risks. The Council's Strategic Risk Register captures the strategic risks facing the Council in the delivery of the Council Plan and its key responsibilities and forms the third strand of the Council's performance management framework. The Register will be reviewed and updated to reflect the priorities identified in the new Council Plan.

## **7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The new Council Plan will be prepared alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the 5 year Capital Plan as three parts of a single plan to ensure the links between the three are strengthened.

## **8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 Whilst the Council Plan is not included in the list of plans and strategies required to be approved or adopted by the Local Authority under Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012, it is recommended good practice to do so and therefore is included as part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 The planned consultation arrangements are set out in section 4.2 of the report and this will include consultation with Elected Members through a second Members Seminar on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and through reports to individual Policy Committees in January and February 2020.

## **10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY**

- 10.1 The new Council Plan will continue to work to reduce child and family poverty within Hartlepool and a Child and Family Poverty Impact

Assessment has been developed for the draft Plan and is included as **Appendix 1**. This will be reviewed and updated as necessary in the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## 11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The new Council Plan will aim to have a positive impact on the whole population of Hartlepool and will include the Council's Equality Objectives as required through the Public Sector Equality Duty. An Equality Impact Assessment has been developed for the draft Plan and is included as **Appendix 2**. This will be reviewed and updated as necessary in the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## 12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 No implications.

## 13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 No implications.

## 14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 Neighbourhood Services Committee is recommended to consider the consultation draft of the Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 included as **Appendix 3** and provide feedback to inform the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## 15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.2 Neighbourhood Services Committee are the responsible Committee for a number of areas within the Council Plan.

## 16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Developing a new Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 report to Finance and Policy Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.
- 16.2 Council Plan 2020-23 report to Finance and Policy Committee 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

## 17. CONTACT OFFICER

Tony Hanson  
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Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒  
Chief Solicitor ☒

**APPENDIX 1 - CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY ASSESSMENT FORM****1. Is this decision a Budget & Policy Framework or Key Decision? YES**

If YES please answer question 2 below

**2. Will there be an impact of the decision requested in respect of Child and Family Poverty? YES**

If YES please complete the matrix below

| GROUP   | POSITIVE<br>IMPACT | NEGATIVE<br>IMPACT | NO<br>IMPACT | REASON & EVIDENCE  |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Young working people<br/>aged 18 - 21</b>                                  | X                  |                    |              | The Council Plan will focus on increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include young people aged 18-21.   |
| <b>Those who are<br/>disabled or suffer from<br/>illness / mental illness</b> | X                  |                    |              | The Council Plan will focus on improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers – many of which will have a disability.  |
| <b>Those with low<br/>educational<br/>attainment</b>                          | X                  |                    |              | The Council Plan will focus on building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people and increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include those with low educational attainment.                           |
| <b>Those who are<br/>unemployed</b>   | X                  |                    |              | The Council Plan will focus on increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include those who are unemployed.  |
| <b>Those who are<br/>underemployed</b>  | X                  |                    |              | The Council Plan will focus on increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include those who are underemployed.   |
| <b>Children born into<br/>families in poverty</b>                             | X                  |                    |              | The Council Plan will focus on building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people and increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations both of which should have a positive impact on children born into families in poverty. |

**APPENDIX 1 - CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY ASSESSMENT FORM**

|   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Those who find difficulty in managing their finances</b> |  |  | X | There will be no direct impact on this group. |
| <b>Lone parents</b>   |  |  | X | There will be no direct impact on this group. |
| <b>Those from minority ethnic backgrounds</b>               |  |  | X | There will be no direct impact on this group. |
|   |  |  |   |   |

**APPENDIX 1 - CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY ASSESSMENT FORM**

| <b>Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?</b> |                        |   |                  |   |
|--|------------------------|---|------------------|---|
| <b>Poverty Measure<br/>(examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)</b>  | <b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b> | <b>NEGATIVE IMPACT</b>                  | <b>NO IMPACT</b> | <b>REASON &amp; EVIDENCE</b>  |
| Children in Low Income Families (%)  | X                      |   |                  | <p>The strategic priorities in the Council Plan aim to have a positive impact on all of the listed measures of poverty through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people;</li> <li>• increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations;</li> <li>• developing a healthy Hartlepool;</li> <li>• improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers; and</li> <li>• building and improving homes that people want to live in.</li> </ul> |
| Children in Working Households (%)   | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Overall employment rate (%)  | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Proportion of young people who are NEET  | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Adults with Learning difficulties in employment  | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)   | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM   | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)  | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Number of affordable homes built   | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Prevalence of obese children in reception year   | X                      |   |                  |   |
| Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6   | X                      |   |                  |   |
| <b>Overall impact of Policy / Decision</b>   |                        |   |                  |   |
| <b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b>   | X                      | <b>ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE</b> |                  |   |
| <b>NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE</b>   |                        | <b>STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE</b>   |                  |   |
| <b>ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE</b>   |                        |   |                  |   |

**APPENDIX 2 - EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

| Department  | Division   | Section            | Owner/Officer                       |
|---|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All – CED Lead  | CS   | CS&P Team          | Claire McLaren / Catherine Grimwood |
| <b>Service, policy, practice being reviewed/changed or planned</b>  | <b>Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23</b>  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Why are you making the change?</b>   | A new 3-year Council Plan being prepared as the previous plan is coming to an end. |                    |                                     |
| <b>How might this impact (positively/negatively) on people who share protected characteristics?</b>   |  |                    |                                     |
|   |  | <i>Please tick</i> |                                     |
|   |  | <b>POSITIVELY</b>  | <b>NEGATIVELY</b>                   |
| <b>Age</b>  |  | <b>X</b>           |                                     |
| The Council Plan will focus on improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers – many of which are over 60 years old.  |  |                    |                                     |
| The Plan will also focus on building better beginning and better futures for children and young people under 19 years old.                              |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Disability</b>   |  | <b>X</b>           |                                     |
| The Council Plan will focus on improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers – many of which will have a disability. |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Gender Re-assignment</b>   |  |                    |                                     |
| No differential impact.   |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Race</b>   |  |                    |                                     |
| No differential impact.   |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Religion</b>   |  |                    |                                     |
| No differential impact.   |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Gender</b>   |  |                    |                                     |
| No differential impact.   |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Sexual Orientation</b>   |  |                    |                                     |
| No differential impact.   |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>   |  |                    |                                     |
| No differential impact.   |  |                    |                                     |
| <b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>  |  |                    |                                     |
| No differential impact.   |  |                    |                                     |

**APPENDIX 2 - EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

|  |          |  |          |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| <b>Has there been consultation /is consultation planned with people who will be affected by this policy? How has this affected your decision making?</b> |          | Initial consultation on the priorities for the Council Plan took place between 13 <sup>th</sup> September and 11 <sup>th</sup> October (4 weeks). The findings from that exercise have informed the draft Council Plan. Consultation on the draft Council Plan will take place for 5 weeks in January / February 2020 and the feedback from that will be used to inform the final Council Plan which will be presented to Finance and Policy Committee and Council in March 2020 for approval. |          |
| <b>As a result of your decision how can you mitigate negative/maximise positive outcomes and foster good relationships?</b>                              |          | It is not anticipated that the proposals included in the Council Plan will have any negative outcomes. By providing a range of opportunities to feed into the development of the Council Plan it is anticipated that it will maximise positive outcomes and foster good relations.   |          |
| <b>Describe how you will address and monitor the impact</b>  |          | <b>1. No Impact - No Major Change</b><br>The draft Plan will be subject to further consultation but it is not anticipated that any negative impact will be identified.   |          |
| Initial Assessment   | 13/12/19 | Reviewed   | 00/00/00 |
| Completed  | 00/00/00 | Published  | 00/00/00 |

# **Consultation Draft**

## **Council Plan**

### **2020/21 – 2022/23**



**SHAPING OUR FUTURE**  
**THE NEXT THREE YEARS**



## Shaping our Council Plan

In 2016 we held a town-wide conversation called “Your Say, Our Future” and what we were told then informed our Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20. Three years on we have reflected on what we have achieved and asked our residents, employees and partners to help shape our Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23.

In autumn 2019 our residents, employees and partners told us what they thought was going well in Hartlepool and what they loved about the town. They also identified what they felt needed to improve and how the Council, our residents and partners could work together to make a difference.

We have also reviewed a range of key statistics for the town to understand where Hartlepool is in relation to the national and regional picture and this has helped us to identify our strategic needs.

Building on what we have already achieved, what the statistics are telling us and by listening to what our residents, employees and partners have told us we have developed our strategic priorities for the next three years.

We recognise that it is important that we are clear about what we intend to do and by when and that is the purpose of this Council Plan. The following pages set out the clear plans and commitments we have made under each strategic priority.

## Our Vision

The Council vision launched in 2016 set us on a journey to make Hartlepool a vibrant, welcoming and inspiring place to live, visit, work, invest and grow up in.

Since embarking on this journey we have achieved well against the significant ambitions we set for ourselves. However, there is still much more to do and taking account of where we are, we have refreshed our approach and propose eight strategic priorities for the next three years.

## **Our Strategic Priorities**

- 1 Growing a diverse economy by supporting businesses, increasing jobs, attracting inward investment and improving skills and aspirations.
- 2 Creating a clean, green, and safe Hartlepool by protecting our environment and improving our neighbourhoods.
- 3 Create an attractive and connected Hartlepool by attracting investment to improve key buildings, derelict land and our transport network.
- 4 Developing a healthy Hartlepool by working with our communities to improve the health and wellbeing of our people.
- 5 Building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people.
- 6 Improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers.
- 7 Building and improving homes that people want to live in.
- 8 Shaping a well-led, safe, high performing and efficient council that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Growing a diverse economy by supporting businesses, increasing jobs, attracting inward investment and improving skills and aspirations.</b> |
|----------|--|

Growing our economy remains a priority for the town and as a Council we have a key role to play in supporting this to happen. Over the last three years we have worked hard to provide the space and opportunity for businesses to flourish in the town through our development of the Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ) in and around Church Street, encouragement of new business start-ups and building on the success of the Queens Meadow Enterprise Zone. We secured £3m of external funding to transform the former General Post Office building in Whitby Street into the Bis a new centre for business start-ups in the creative industry sector.

Our new business registration rate, which followed the national trend by reducing in 2018/19, is in line with our near neighbours but remains well below the national average at 43 per 10,000 population aged 16 and over. Supporting new businesses in the town to develop and grow will be key priority for the Council. A key priority in the previous Council Plan was to increase business and jobs and encourage our young people to come back when they've been away to university and following our recent consultation we understand that this remains important to the people of the town.

Creating high value jobs remains a strategic priority for Hartlepool. Our overall employment rate is well below the national average at 64.1% compared to 75.6% nationally (Quarter 2, 2019/20) and our youth unemployment rate is 11.2% (Quarter 1, 2019/20). We will continue to support our residents and young people to ensure that they have the skills and qualifications that they need to move into sustained employment.

We have focussed on improving the town's offer as a tourism destination through our partnership with the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the development of an annual events programme including the Waterfront Festival and developing facilities in Seaton Carew including the splash pad and crazy golf. The total number of visitors to the town increased by 6.4% to 3.66 million in 2017/18 and visitor numbers at the National Museum of the Royal Navy alone were up almost 40% in August 2019 compared to the same time the previous year. Holding events and promoting Hartlepool as a place to come and visit remains important to people in the town and many identified that the increasing range of activities, events and things to do were things that were going well and that they loved about Hartlepool.

We recognise that the nature of people's shopping habits are changing and that as a result we need to look at how we can secure the future of our town centre. We also

understand that people are concerned about empty shops and a poor retail offer in the town centre. We will work with local businesses and residents to develop a town centre investment plan and will take action to rejuvenate it funded in part from central government.

### **What success will look like:**

- Increased jobs and growth in the local economy.
- Increased number of inward investment projects.
- Business growth.
- Strengthened reputation of Hartlepool as a place to invest particularly in the energy, advanced manufacturing and creative and cultural sectors.
- A skilled workforce.
- Reduction in the jobless figures.
- Increased visitor numbers in our tourist industry.
- Increased public sector expenditure in the local economy.

### **What we will do to make this happen:**

- Promote Hartlepool as an excellent location for inward investment particularly in the energy, advanced manufacturing and creative and cultural sectors.
- Deliver a strategy for reshaping and developing our town centre as a safe and exciting place to shop, live, visit and work.
- Provide secure, effective support and investment to enable new and emerging businesses to be sustained and to thrive.
- Establish a fast track system for planning consents and other regulatory permissions.
- Increase the number of businesses who can benefit from high quality business and incubator space.
- Increase the availability of intermediate and higher level skills pathways in key sectors in partnership with local further and higher education providers.
- Deliver a partnership approach to increasing employment and skill development programmes which provide pathways for adults into employment.
- Market the culture and tourism offer within the town regionally and nationally which highlights our unique maritime history and assets.
- Deliver a first class events and festivals programme that attracts visitors from across the region and country.
- Deliver improvements to key cultural venues in the town including the Borough Hall, Town Hall Theatre, Headland Bandstand and Christchurch Art Gallery.
- Work with our partners to increase the level of public sector expenditure in the local economy.

2

## **Creating a clean, green, and safe Hartlepool by protecting our environment and improving our neighbourhoods.**

Our residents have told us that they want Hartlepool to be a place that is clean, green and where they feel safe. Over 95% told us that having a clean and attractive environment remains a priority. Living by the sea and being surrounded by green open spaces are things that people love about Hartlepool and our communities recognise the need to protect our environment for future generations. Over the last three years we have focused on improving our parks and open spaces and supporting residents to reduce litter across the town. Our wildflower schemes are highly regarded and we have expanded this into new areas. We have invested £4m in neighbourhood and highway improvements. Schemes we have delivered include King Owsy shopping parade, improvements to local and strategic cycleways, improved play facilities provided at the Town Moor, Burn Valley Gardens and Ward Jackson Park and a new play facility at Coronation Drive.

The overall crime rate has increased in recent years to 131.7 per 1,000 population in 2018/19, which remains well above the national average and we understand why crime and anti-social behaviour remain concerns for people in the town. Through the last Council Plan we launched a new integrated Hartlepool Community Safety Team bringing together our community safety staff with those from the Police and Fire Brigade to coordinate efforts to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. This new Team has held a series of days of action across the town in response to information received from residents and businesses. These have resulted in the closure of properties used for drug dealing and the seizure of drugs and cash. Several hundred victims of crime and anti-social behaviour have also been supported by the Victim Care and Advice Services Officer in the Team. We understand that more needs to be done and we are committed to reviewing our approach and working in partnership with other agencies and our residents to ensure that our communities feel protected and safe.

We know that our residents continue to identify litter as a problem in the town. Through the Council Plan consultation exercise residents told us that we need to take more enforcement action and improve our recycling education and offer. However, people also told us that the sense of community and people pulling together to make the town better was something that was going well in Hartlepool and examples included beach cleans and the Big Town Tidy Up.

### **What success will look like:**

- People have access to quality public space, green space and playspaces.
- Strong neighbourhood retail offer.

- Reduction in littering, fly tipping and dog fouling.
- Communities are protected and feel safe.
- Reduced landfill and increased levels of recycling.
- Reduced carbon footprint.

**What will we do to make this happen:**

- Strengthen our approach to enforcement action on litter, dog fouling and illegal car parking.
- Deliver a play sites investment programme.
- Invest in our neighbourhoods and strengthen the local retail offer.
- Deliver a joined up and targeted response to tackling anti-social behaviour and improving community safety.
- Take action to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and mitigate the impact of climate change locally.

3

**Create an attractive and connected Hartlepool by attracting investment to improve key buildings, derelict land and our transport network.**

In order to make Hartlepool an attractive place for new businesses to invest, for people to want to come and live here and to support the development of our town as a tourist destination we need to invest in the infrastructure of our town. We have worked hard to deliver regeneration schemes across the town and brought £10.5m of external funding into the town that would have gone elsewhere. The improvements at Seaton Carew and Church Street and our partnership work with the Northern School of Art were all given through recent consultation as examples of what was going well in Hartlepool. We have also secured £42m of external funding that will be delivered over the next 5 years on priorities identified within this Council Plan.

We know that people love the history and heritage of Hartlepool and the facilities that we have to bring people into the town including the National Museum of the Royal Navy and Christchurch Art Gallery. We will develop the key sites around these facilities to ensure that Hartlepool develops its reputation as a tourism destination.

We appreciate that people are concerned about the impact empty buildings have on their local neighbourhoods and we are committed to reducing the number of derelict buildings across the town and make the best use of all of the land we have available, particularly those sites that have been left abandoned for many years.

We understand that we need to improve our transport network to provide better strategic links for businesses and developers and to ensure that our residents are better connected to jobs and local services.

**What success will look like:**

- Reduction in derelict buildings and land.
- Improved connectivity across the town.
- Residents better connected to jobs, local services and neighbourhoods.
- Better strategic links for businesses and developers.

**What we will do to make this happen:**

- Develop the Waterfront and National Museum and Royal Navy site as a visitor attraction of national significance.
- Complete the renovation of Church Street and Church Square including improvements to shop fronts, Shades and the Christchurch Art Gallery.
- Deliver a new TV and film production studio in partnership with the Northern School of Art.

- Invest in our transport and the local road network including the Elwick bypass.
- Renovate Stranton Chapel and deliver improvements to Stranton Cemetery.
- Take effective enforcement action in relation to derelict buildings and land.
- Work with the Combined Authority to improve public sector transport and footpaths and cycleways.

4

## **Developing a healthy Hartlepool by working with our communities to improve the health and wellbeing of our people.**

Improving the health and wellbeing of residents in the town is a key priority for the Council, our partners and indeed residents themselves. In our recent consultation people identified the need to improve the overall health of the population through preventative work and that they were concerned about drug issues across the town.

Over the next three years we will focus on reducing levels of smoking, halting the year on year increase in obesity, reducing the levels of substance misuse, reducing frailty and reducing violence and the impact that this has on our community. National statistics show that 18.6% of people in Hartlepool currently smoke, more than 4% above the national average. We also know that over 10% in Reception year in Hartlepool were recorded as obese in 2018/19 which is just above the national average. However the level of children recorded as obese in Year 6 increased to 26.86% which is significantly higher than the national average and the highest in the North East. Both of these have implications for the future health and wellbeing of our residents.

Through the last Council Plan we launched three Community Hubs which brought together a range of services for local people under one roof. People have told us that Community Hubs are one of the things that they feel are going well in Hartlepool. Over the next three years Community Hubs will have a key role to play in providing people with access to advice about health improvement so that they are able to make better, more informed choices that will help them to live longer, healthier lives.

Our sports and leisure facilities are another way in which we can support people to live healthier lives. We understand that developing recreational and leisure activities and facilities remains a priority for people. However, we recognise that some of our facilities are in need of updating and are committed through this plan to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century sport and leisure facilities that meet the needs of local people.

### **What success will look like:**

- 21<sup>st</sup> century sport and leisure facilities that meet the needs of local people.
- People of Hartlepool are enabled to make better choices that promote their physical and mental health.
- Reduced levels of smoking, particularly in pregnancy.
- The level of increase in obesity will be arrested.
- Reduction in levels of substance misuse and drug and alcohol related hospital admissions and deaths.
- Reduced levels of violence including Domestic Violence.

- Reduced frailty in the population.

### **What we will do to make this happen:**

- Build modern 21<sup>st</sup> century sport and leisure facilities.
- Increase the Community Hub offer to ensure that people can access information, advice and support and be signposted to services that benefit their wellbeing.
- Deliver programmes that support people with long term conditions including Cardio Vascular disease, cancer, muscular skeletal conditions, neurophysiological conditions and diabetes to improve their wellbeing and be more physically active.
- Provide a new clinically integrated drugs and alcohol service with a greater emphasis on prevention and developing strong links with primary and secondary care.
- Deliver a multi-agency programme of targeted initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in our most deprived neighbourhoods and wards with highest levels of need.
- Deliver a multiagency approach to obesity across Hartlepool linking council, health and third sector partners.
- Develop a standardised approach to provide stop smoking services using a community based approach with partners across Hartlepool.
- Work with General Practice to increase the uptake of screening and health checks to reduce late presentation.
- Implement a public health approach to reducing violent crime.

## 5

## **Building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people.**

As a Council we remain committed to ensuring that our children and young people have the best start in life. We understand that the people of the town feel that our education provision is one of the things that is going well in Hartlepool and also that access to the best education and learning opportunities remains a priority for them. Most of our schools are rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted and our primary schools achieved excellent KS2 results which were above the national average. We recognise that there is work to be done to improve outcomes for our children at secondary school and beyond to Higher Education and advanced apprenticeship pathways and this will be a key focus for the next three years.

Over the last few years we have faced increasing demands for services from families that are struggling to provide their children with a healthy and safe childhood. The number of children that are looked after by the Council has increased significantly and this is due, in part, to issues of domestic violence and substance misuse within families. Since 2009 the rate of looked after children in Hartlepool has increased by 103% compared to a national average increase of just 20% and we have the 4<sup>th</sup> highest increase in the North East. Child and family poverty in Hartlepool is high with 34.1% of children living in poverty in 2017/18 and we have also seen the impact of being an early adopter area for Universal Credit on families in the town. We are proud that our children's services have been consistently good and that we have been rated outstanding by Ofsted for our work with children in care and care leavers. We were also named the Local Government Chronicle's Children's Services of the Year in 2019. However, we will work to build resilience and support in families and communities for our vulnerable children and to develop the understanding of all frontline professionals so that they can provide the best response to those who have suffered Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).

The emotional and mental health and wellbeing of Hartlepool children is also a key priority for the town. We will build upon what we have initiated in the last three years and look to work more closely with partners to take this important area of work forward.

### **What success will look like:**

- Fewer children will experience harm through abuse, neglect and adverse childhood experiences.
- All children benefit from good development and learning in their critical first three years.
- Children's attainment at key stages 1 – 5 is at or above national average.

- More Hartlepool young people are entering Higher Education and advanced apprenticeship pathways.
- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families have their needs met in a timely way that improves outcomes.
- All schools and education providers are judged good or outstanding.
- Barriers to learning are removed for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- Children and young people have good mental and emotional health and wellbeing.

### **What we will do to make this happen:**

- Establish a Community Support Team to develop a new model of practice aimed at reducing the need for children to become looked after.
- Provide early support to families and communities to build resilience to support vulnerable children at an early stage.
- Provide workforce development to all front line professionals so that they have a good understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences and can respond appropriately.
- Implement a Borough wide approach to improving early language skills in the first 1001 days.
- Establish an Education Improvement Board to encourage schools to collaborate and improve education outcomes for children and young people in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- Deliver initiatives in partnership with schools to ensure 14 and 19 year olds achieve the best education outcomes possible and can progress to higher skills pathways and Higher Education.
- Provide effective challenge and support to schools to ensure they achieve good inspection outcomes.
- Develop and deliver a new model to support school transitions to improve pupil readiness for learning.
- Deliver an improvement plan for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families to ensure they have their needs met in a timely way that improves outcomes.
- Improve education provision for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Work with partners to develop and implement a strategy and whole system approach to improving the emotional and mental health and well being of Hartlepool children.
- Improve the alternative education and cultural offer at CECA and remove barriers that prevent schools from accessing this resource.

- Work with health visitors and school nurses to support children identified as obese or overweight and to promote breast feeding.
- Deliver 'Fill the Holiday Gap' schemes to promote health eating and cooking skills.

6

## **Improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers.**

Improving health and social care services in the town have been a key focus for the Council in the last 3 years. Working with partners we have developed an award-winning Integrated Hospital Discharge Team which has focussed on ensuring people experience a safe and timely discharge following a hospital stay. The work of this Team has reduced delayed transfers of care from an average of 452 days per month in 2016/17 to 114 days per months over the first 4 months of 2019/20. We have also worked with local care home providers to encourage the development of new care facilities and to improve availability of places which has brought about a 23.5% reduction in the number of older people in care home placements outside of the town since 2016. The quality of the provision in Hartlepool has also improved and the number of adult social care providers rated as good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) reached 87.9% at the end of 2018/19 from just 56.3% at the end of 2016/17.

Over 97% of people in the recent Council Plan consultation identified that having excellent local health and care services and support remains an important priority for them. We recognise that whilst services have improved we have a growing elderly population and that there are concerns from our residents about the health offer in Hartlepool particularly in relation to hospital and mental health services.

### **What success will look like:**

- People are involved in their local community rather than being socially isolated.
- Adults with care needs are supported to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Services are accessible and responsive, and people only have to tell their story once.
- The role and contribution of carers is recognised and valued.
- Services that are commissioned to support adults with care needs are rated good or better by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

### **What we will do to make this happen:**

- Provide advice, guidance and support to people to link them into their communities and reduce social isolation.
- Strengthen support for carers and ensure a range of options are available to help them continue in their caring role, including information, advice and peer support.

- Work with strategic partners, carers and people who receive care and support to reduce the stigma associated with the term 'mental health' and increase understanding of what is good mental health.
- Support adult care providers to continually improve which ensures that vulnerable adults are getting the best possible care.
- Develop services at the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) to incorporate a Community Hub offer, as well as supporting adults with disabilities to live more independent lives.
- Deliver integrated services with health partners that reduce preventable admissions to hospital and care homes and support people to return home and regain independence following a hospital stay.

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>7</b> | <b>Building and improving homes that people want to live in.</b> |
|----------|--|

In 2016 people told us that housing was a key priority for the future of our town. They identified the need to build starter homes and affordable homes. They felt that we needed to work to improve and promote the range of housing to attract people to live here and that we also needed to reduce the number of empty homes. We have worked to deliver on this priority and Hartlepool has had the fastest housing growth in the Tees Valley over the period 2014/15 to 2019/20, up 11.46% compared to an average of 9.62%. This growth is providing additional recurring Council Tax income of £4.24m in 2019/20. We now have 293 Council houses available for social rent and we have delivered new social housing units including over 90 empty homes brought back into use.

We have worked in partnership with Thirteen Group to deliver new social housing in the Raby Estate and with Placefirst to deliver the Carr and Hopps Street regeneration scheme, “The Green”, which won three awards at the Sunday Times British Home Awards for Development of the Year (under £10m), Development Transformation of the Year and the Judges’ Award for Excellence.

Improving housing provision particularly focusing on private landlords, homelessness support and more social / affordable housing were identified as areas that needed to improve in recent consultation. We also recognise that increasing the number of Council houses and the development of student accommodation in the town centre are important priorities for the future.

**What success will look like:**

- More high value homes to support economic growth.
- More Council houses.
- More purpose built homes for vulnerable adults.
- Better accommodation to meet the needs of the growing student population in the town.
- More affordable homes.

**What we will do to make this happen:**

- Working with private sector housebuilders and registered providers to grow the housing stock in Hartlepool.
- Work in partnership with private sector housebuilders and registered providers to increase the number of affordable homes.
- Increase the number of Council houses in Hartlepool by designing, building and acquiring our own houses.

- Adopt a multi-agency approach in the Oxford Road area to tackle issues of crime, anti-social behaviour, street cleansing, building maintenance and vacant properties.
- Take effective action to tackle poor housing standards and anti-social behaviour in private sector housing.

8

## **Shaping a well-led, safe, high performing and efficient council that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

In order to deliver on our ambitious plans for Hartlepool we need to be a well-led, safe, high performing and efficient council that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The funding that we receive from Central Government has reduced year on year since 2010/11 and the burden of paying for local services is being pushed to Council Tax raised locally. In 2019/20 we received approximately £20m less from Central Government than in 2013/14, a reduction of about 45%. We have managed this reduction by making efficiencies whilst trying to limit the impact on our frontline services. Services have been redesigned and we have worked in partnership with other council's and partners from the public and voluntary and community sectors to make our activities more efficient. Over the last 3 years we have focussed on developing online access to our services, a priority from the 2016 Your Say, Our Future consultation. This has made many of our services accessible at times more convenient for our residents.

We recognise that there is more that we can do to protect our services from future reductions. Through this Council Plan we will review our estate and look to reduce the number of Council offices we have across the town and also to ensure that those that we keep allow access to services in an integrated and accessible way whilst being more energy efficient. Being more energy efficient will also lead to a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.

We will look to increase the Council's traded services and increase our income streams. We have delivered award winning schemes for other councils as well as within Hartlepool and we will build upon that success.

Our employees across the Council play a vital role in ensuring that services are delivered. It is the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our employees that has enabled us to continue to deliver excellent services during a period of austerity and uncertainty. Demand for our services is increasing at the same time as our budget is reducing and our employees face challenges every day to make this work so that our residents receive the support that they need. We will work over the next 3 years to ensure that our employees have the skills, resilience and motivation to achieve high standards of public service in a safe working environment.

Through recent consultation people told us that the #LoveHartlepool campaign was something that they felt was going well but that we needed to celebrate what we do more. We recognise that there is still work to be done to promote the positive things that are happening in Hartlepool and to tell our story regionally and nationally. We are committed to providing effective communication to our residents and to work with

partners to promote Hartlepool as a vibrant, welcoming and inspiring place to live, work, invest and grow up in.

### **What success will look like:**

- Reduced number of Council offices.
- Improved energy efficiency in Council office accommodation and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- Expansion of Council traded services and increase income streams.
- Increased voter engagement in the democratic process.
- Better awareness and participation of citizens in community life.
- A healthy and motivated workforce who are given the opportunity to grow the skills they need to achieve their best.
- Improved public satisfaction with the range of Council services that can be managed online.
- Improved positive coverage of the town on a local, national and international basis.

### **What we will do to make this happen:**

- Undertake a strategic review of the Council's property and accommodation to ensure that services can be delivered in an integrated and accessible way.
- Undertake a strategic review of all fees and charges across the Council to ensure that they are fair, affordable and maximise income for the Council.
- Undertake an energy efficiency audit of all Council buildings and introduce improvement measures.
- Deliver development opportunities to ensure that our staff have the skills, resilience and motivation to achieve high standards of public service in a safe working environment.
- Provide effective communication to our residents and work with partners to promote Hartlepool regionally and nationally as a vibrant, welcoming and inspiring place to live, work, invest and grow up in.

## **How will we know if we are succeeding?**

In order to understand whether we are on track to achieve our strategic priorities we have identified what success will look like and what we will do to make it happen (our key deliverables). We will monitor progress on these key deliverables throughout the lifetime of the plan and we will report to elected members through Finance and Policy Committee every six months. We will also produce annual reports for our residents that will set out what we have achieved during each year of the plan.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

21<sup>st</sup> February 2020



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

**Subject:** HARTLEPOOL TREE STRATEGY REFRESH

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision (test (ii)) Forward Plan Reference No. RN20/19

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 - 2016.

2.2 It was previously the intention to bring this report to the January Committee however this report was delayed as officers were still working on the action plan for the strategy.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Hartlepool Tree Strategy 2011 – 2016 was adopted by Members on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Its overall aim was to enhance the role and status of trees in the borough and to ensure the sustainability of its tree population. The tree strategy realised this aim by achieving the following three objectives:

1. Retain and protect the borough's existing trees.
2. Maintain the borough's publicly owned trees using good arboricultural management and ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public through the assessment and management of risk associated with trees.
3. Increase the number of trees in the borough.

A comprehensive action plan was created in response to the overall aim and objectives of the tree strategy.

3.2 The Woodland Trust include the Hartlepool Tree Strategy in a list of exemplar strategies in the document, Policy Paper; Local Authority Tree

Strategies, 2016. In light of this the document and its content was considered to be robust and fit for purpose.

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of the tree strategy are thought to be sound. In light of this the document (see **Appendix 1**) has been revised to reflect current working practices and resources to provide a strategy which can be delivered in the current climate.
- 4.2 Alongside the document a plan indicating areas suitable for tree planting is being developed. This will assist in supporting community groups who may have access to trees, via charitable bodies such as the Woodland Trust, in finding the most appropriate places for them to be planted.

#### **5. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Tree Strategy provides a framework to oversee the management of trees across Hartlepool. It takes into consideration the management of trees and the potential risks associated with this.

#### **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no additional financial constraints as a result of the strategy. The approach proposed takes into consideration existing and potential work streams.

#### **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The updated strategy has been considered by those services who deliver tree maintenance and planting. As a result a plan of proposed planting areas is being developed. Consultation will be carried out on individual planting schemes, as and when appropriate.

#### **8. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are a number of trees located on Council land. The continuation of the strategy will ensure that these are managed and enhanced in a sustainable way, subject to appropriate resources.

**9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Legal   | Ne relevant issues |
| Child/Family Poverty                          | No relevant issues |
| Equality and Diversity                        | No relevant issues |
| Section 17 of The Crime And Disorder Act 1998 | No relevant issues |
| Staff   | No relevant issues |

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 Members are requested to approve the updated Tree Strategy 2020 - 2030.

**11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 To ensure that the tree population in Hartlepool is enhanced and managed in a sustainable way.

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 There are no background papers to this report.

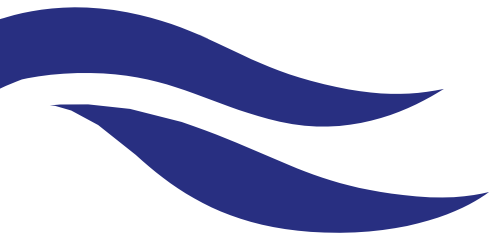
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# Hartlepool Borough Council

# Hartlepool

# Tree Strategy

5.1 Appendix 1



2020 - 2030



## Background and Summary

In November 2005 Hartlepool Borough Council adopted 'A Strategy for Trees in Hartlepool', which provided a position statement and set out a number of aims and objectives with regard to the borough's trees.

The 2011 – 2016 Hartlepool Tree Strategy built on the achievements of the previous strategy and set out Hartlepool Borough Council's guiding principles on tree related issues.

This current strategy refreshes the previous, lapsed strategy.

An action plan, which forms section 4 of this strategy, has been prepared setting out what we hope to achieve between 2020 and 2030.



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# 1. Introduction

Hartlepool Borough Council aims to improve the quality of life for people in the town and wider borough, and trees can make a significant positive contribution to that quality of life. We want our town to have a plentiful, healthy and attractive tree population that is managed and maintained to a high standard for the benefit of all, and a borough that has functioning and connected woodlands.

Through its management of publicly owned trees, and through its control of privately owned trees in conservation areas or with Tree Preservation Orders, the Council has considerable influence over the contribution that trees make to the urban landscape of the borough.

By adopting this updated tree strategy Hartlepool Borough Council further demonstrates its commitment to caring for the woods and trees under its management and increasing the number of trees in public places.

## 1.1

### The Benefits that Trees Provide

Trees and woodlands provide a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits, often referred to as Ecosystem Services. They have a vital role to play in the sustainability of our borough. Some of these benefits are outlined in the following section.

## 1.1.1

### Adapting to Climate Change

Trees have an important role in helping society adapt to climate change, particularly in the urban environment. They provide shelter, cooling, shade and help slow the rate of rainwater runoff.

Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, a greenhouse gas which is impacting on the Earth's climate.



### 1.1.2

#### Improving Air Quality

Trees are known to have a beneficial effect on air quality by absorbing pollutants and trapping airborne particles. This is particularly important with regard to the smaller dust particles which are often a causal factor in respiratory complaints such as asthma.

### 1.1.3

#### Enhancing Wildlife and Biodiversity

After the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago, large areas of England were covered with a mosaic of habitats dominated by connected woodland. Much of our native wildlife is adapted to a habitat with trees in it. For example, trees such as Willow and Oak can have over 400 different species of insect associated with them and many garden birds rely on trees and shrubs - especially native ones.

Trees are nourished with the help of soil fungi that break down chemicals, making them available to the tree. These fungi connect with millions of fine roots, which grow just under the surface. The root plate of a tree is the tree's life line and is at least as large as the spread of its canopy. This is why it is essential not to store heavy materials or salted grit, spill chemicals, or plough under the canopy of a tree, if it is to remain healthy.

Trees generally have three stages in their life and each stage is important for biodiversity. The Oak for example, may grow for 300 years, mature for 300 years and take 300 years to die. Where safe to do so, dying and dead trees will be left for the benefit of their unique biodiversity.

Trees in streets can provide natural links with parks and green spaces, allowing for the movement of wildlife between areas.

### 1.1.4

#### Improving Health and Wellbeing

It is now scientifically accepted that green, leafy surroundings improve health and wellbeing. A well treed urban landscape is also more sheltered, more stimulating, and more likely to encourage local journeys on foot or by bike.



Hospital patients with a view of trees have been shown to recover more effectively and require less pain killing medication than those who only have a treeless view of buildings.

The dappled shade of trees can help to reduce heat-induced stress amongst people and animals, and summer shade is seen as particularly important in car parks, school grounds and around retirement homes.

### 1.1.5

#### Enhancing the Local Economy

An environment that is aesthetically pleasing is increasingly recognised as an important requirement for successful

businesses. A tree-rich urban landscape will be more successful in attracting new business and inward investment.

Residential neighbourhoods that have a green and leafy character will generally exhibit higher house prices. Studies in the UK have shown that average house prices are higher where the property is associated with mature trees.



#### **1.1.6**

#### **A Better Quality Urban Environment**

The presence of high quality, well managed trees and woodlands can dramatically enhance the appearance of an urban environment. This in turn has a significant bearing on peoples perceptions, both of their surroundings and their quality of life.

A good quality public realm can encourage fuller use of an area and positively influence the behaviour of people. Careful attention to the design quality and attractiveness of streets and public areas will increase their safety and use, and will promote greater respect toward the local environment.

It is worth remembering that many of the most significant trees in our town were planted around a century ago, providing a living legacy for everyone to enjoy and benefit from today. The trees that we plant now will greatly improve the local environment for our children, and their children.

### **1.2**

#### **Problems with Trees**

It is true to say that the close proximity of trees, people and built structures will occasionally result in inconvenience. Problems may include the obstruction of light into homes, leaf fall, sap drip, interference with highway sight lines and direct or indirect damage to structures. The majority of tree related problems can, however, be mitigated by appropriate maintenance.

Additionally, many of the future nuisance issues and maintenance costs associated with trees can be minimised by following the principle of planting the right tree in the right place. It is essential that careful consideration is given to the location of new trees and the species selected.

Ensuring public safety and avoiding injury to people or damage to property are paramount and can be achieved through a sensible and pragmatic approach that pays due consideration to both safety and trees.



## 2. Hartlepool Borough's Trees

Tree cover in Hartlepool is sparse (at 4.1% of land area) when compared to other areas of the country (10% in England and 13% in the UK). The percentage for European countries is 38%. This is due partly to historical land clearance for agriculture and the use of wood for charcoal burning, pit props and ship building and partly to the rapid expansion of the town since the early 1800s. The borough's main areas of woodland are along the western boundary from Wynyard to Crookfoot Reservoir and in the northern denes.

Within the town there are examples where the presence of trees have transformed the image of an area, notable in this respect are the tree-lined verges along the main approaches which provide a very attractive introduction to the town by road.

A condition survey of all publicly owned trees was completed in 2007 for the purposes of identifying where trees may pose a risk to the public or property, but also assessed the general health of the trees and made recommendations for their future management. A programme of remedial tree works was subsequently undertaken which addressed the recommendations of the survey.

The survey found that the borough's publicly owned trees were generally in good condition, due largely to a combination of the facts that most of the trees are relatively young and are of hardy species.

The survey also identified certain areas where improvements in tree management could be made.

Trees make a positive contribution to the character of a number of the conservation areas in the town. The majority of these trees are located in private gardens; however, the Council has some influence over these trees through the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

An extensive programme of new tree planting was carried out in the north of the town between 2008 and 2010. This included the planting of around 300 trees of a variety of species in streets and in public open spaces.

Hartlepool's tree population has developed over many years and will continue to change. Some trees will be lost, while more are planted in a continual cycle of regeneration. Given the benefits that trees provide we must ensure that the borough's trees are afforded the status they deserve, and that their future is secured for generations to come.

## 2.1 Publicly Owned Trees

For the purposes of this tree strategy, the publicly owned trees in the borough include all those that are managed by the Council and comprise trees in streets, on highway verges, in public open spaces, parks, community woodlands, cemeteries, schools, and council owned properties.



### 2.1.1 Trees as a Public Asset

The cost of carrying out tree maintenance works and of planting new trees is met on an ad-hoc basis through the budget of the relevant Council service areas and a small tree management budget.

### 2.1.2 Tree Management and Responsibilities

Hartlepool Borough Council, as a land owner, has a duty under various Acts of Parliament to ensure that its trees do not pose an unacceptable risk to people or property and has a responsibility to preserve and enhance an attractive environment for the town's residents and visitors.



The management of Hartlepool's publicly owned trees has typically followed a

reactive system. This approach means that the town's publicly owned trees have not received systematic planned inspections and routine maintenance to ensure they are effectively and sustainably managed.



In addition to this reactive approach, responsibility for the borough's trees is divided between a number of different departments and sections. In combination these factors can, on occasion, lead to inefficient tree management. Ideally, an integrated approach to tree management that embraces all aspects of the Council's tree-related activities in a coherent and coordinated way should be adopted.

Under an Act of Parliament, the Council has a duty to 'have regard for biodiversity' in all of its functions and this includes its approach to trees.

A database of all publicly owned trees is recorded on the council's corporate Geographic Information System (GIS).

The Council will undertake to develop the use of the corporate GIS to monitor and record Council tree management works, including new tree planting and works to existing trees, to ensure that the objectives of the tree strategy are met.

### **2.1.3 Remedial Tree Works**

Trees are living organisms and are constantly, albeit quite slowly, growing and changing. As such, in some circumstances within urban areas, they will require careful management. This may include pruning works, and in some cases removal, with the overall aim of maintaining tree cover in a healthy and safe condition.

Trees of amenity value will not be felled unless there is a very clear justification for the work and each case will be carefully judged on its merits. That said, there will be circumstances where due to their condition it is necessary to remove individual trees. Where practical and appropriate, the Council will undertake to plant a new tree in the same location.

The Council will not prune trees to improve television reception or to remove seasonal nuisances such as fallen leaves.

Where there are implications for biodiversity, trees are assessed by the Council's Ecologist prior to pruning or felling to ensure that there are no breeding birds, roosting bats or other wildlife likely to be harmed.

All maintenance work on publicly owned trees is undertaken by trained and qualified arborists located in the Grounds Maintenance section, and is carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 – Tree work. Recommendations.

#### **2.1.4 Tree Planting on Public Land**

In order to maintain and enhance an abundant and healthy tree population it is necessary to have an ongoing programme of new and replacement planting.

New tree planting is selected for its appropriateness of scale and proportion to the surroundings and for its aesthetic contribution. Factors such as robustness, form, flower, leaf density, rooting habit and propensity to harbour aphids are all considered. In addition to this, a particular consideration when selecting trees for planting in Hartlepool is their ability to tolerate the coastal environment.



The Council will identify further opportunities for tree planting in public open space, parks, cemeteries and on other public land.

Additionally, the Council will endeavour to meet residents' requests for new tree planting where appropriate and where funds permit.

All of the publicly owned woods in the borough are planted to capacity. There are some areas within the borough where trees have been too densely planted, and/or with an inappropriate choice of species. The Council will undertake to implement programmes of thinning and/or replacement. These programmes will be phased over a number of years, and will provide a more suitable variety of tree species, at improved spacing, ensuring that the considerable amenity that these areas afford is enhanced.

Crime and the fear of crime is a key consideration in the design and layout of tree planting in the public realm. When planting trees the Council will ensure that they are appropriately spaced and that crowns are maintained at an appropriate height so as not to hinder natural surveillance and to avoid the creation of dark areas where concealment is possible.

Tree planting is undertaken between November and March and is carried out in accordance with BS 4043:1989 Recommendations for transplanting root-balled trees by trained and qualified Grounds Maintenance staff.

### 2.1.5

#### Public Woodlands

Many people value woodlands for the sense of tranquility and wonder, which they create, for their springtime carpets of bluebells, bird song, colours, sounds and textures. Woods provide inspiration for art, music and literature and provide materials for crafts. They are also a living environmental education resource.

Woods can also be dark, quiet and for some people spooky places.

Some visitors may have fears about personal safety. These fears, however, can often be mitigated by well-designed and managed woodlands, which include open structure, good sightlines and waymarking.

There are a number of public woodlands within the borough, such as Family Wood in the Burn Valley, which have good paths and management plans aimed at enhancing the value of these sites for wildlife, recreation and visual amenity.



## 2.2

### Privately Owned Trees

Much of the town's mature tree cover is located on privately owned land, particularly in gardens. Although trees may be on private property, their size and prominence often means that they contribute significantly to the quality and amenity of the wider environment.

General tree related advice and guidance is available from the Council's Arboricultural Officer for tree owners or those considering planting a tree or trees on private land.

#### 2.2.1

##### Trees in Gardens

The Town and Country Planning Act enables the Council to designate Conservation Areas within which trees are protected, to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), and to control development

activity through the use of planning conditions, section 106 agreements, or both, in accordance with policies contained in the Hartlepool Local Plan. Through these means, the Council has considerable influence over trees in private ownership. There are currently 250 TPOs in force in Hartlepool, and eight Conservation Areas.



The Council will continue to make TPOs to protect privately owned trees of high amenity value from unnecessary felling or disfigurement and will make use of its planning powers to ensure that all works undertaken on protected trees is done in accordance with BS 3998:2010.

The corporate GIS is the established tool for the electronic recording of TPOs and other tree issues. The Council will continue to develop the use of this tool.

### 2.2.2

#### **Privately Owned Woodlands**

There are several privately owned woodlands in the borough, many of which have public rights of way running through them. Some of these woodlands, such as The Howls, Thorpe Bulmer Dene and Close Wood are, or have elements of, ancient semi- natural woodland which means that there has been continuous woodland on that site since at least 1600 AD, making these woods one of the most valuable natural habitat types in the UK. They are classed as 'irreplaceable'.

All areas of woodland are statutorily protected through the requirement to first obtain a felling licence from the Forestry Commission prior to carrying out any tree felling operations.

The council will undertake to use its statutory powers and influence where appropriate to encourage the take up of grants for the planting of new areas of woodland and the management of existing areas, in order to increase and enhance woodland cover within the borough.

### 2.3

#### **Trees and Development**

There is a statutory duty for local planning authorities (in this case Hartlepool Borough Council) to ensure, wherever appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made for the preservation or planting of trees.

Hartlepool Borough Council has produced a Supplementary Planning Document in 2013 entitled

'Trees and Development Guidelines' which forms part of the Hartlepool Local Plan. The purpose of the guide is to provide information to those involved in development on the standards that Hartlepool Borough Council will expect from new development proposals. The guide seeks to ensure that trees are afforded due consideration in the planning process so that they can be successfully integrated into new developments.



The retention of existing trees within new developments provides an immediate sense of maturity, to the benefit of a site and its surroundings, raising the overall quality of schemes and enhancing property values. However, where trees are damaged and subsequently decline and die, or where inappropriate design leads to conflict, trees can become a constant source of complaint and ultimately any positive benefits are lost.

In order to effectively protect existing trees on development sites, the Council will ensure that all development and construction work impacting on trees is carried out in accordance with its 'Trees and Development Guidelines' and with

BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. Where developments affect existing trees, the Council recommend that the developer seek the advice of a suitably qualified arboriculturist.

In addition to the retention of existing trees, new tree planting should be recognised from the outset as an integral part of any development scheme, and should be purposefully designed to complement the proposed features of the development. On sites that have no trees whatsoever, it is particularly important to plan for the planting of trees as part of the development.

## **2.4**

### **Highways and Utilities Maintenance Works that Affect Trees**

Modern society expects many services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage, telecommunication and cable television, each of which requires an extensive distribution network, both above and below ground. The space available for both trees and apparatus is often restricted, and they are frequently forced to share the available space. Where they are in close proximity, there is the potential for either to be subject to damage. In order to minimise this, trees will not generally be planted in highway verges. Trees in highway verges are also vulnerable to accidental damage by mowing and by winter salt spreading.

The Council will ensure all work for utility services affecting trees is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines published by the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Volume 4 'Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees'. When granting consents for new development the Council will use planning conditions to ensure the location of new services to developments do not damage existing trees or preclude the planting of new trees.

## 3. Trees Planting

### 3.1 Tree species and planting good practice

Native species of tree should be selected for planting in natural locations, such as connecting existing wooded greenspaces. On the coast, only suitable salt and wind tolerant species should be chosen. Local provenance trees will be sourced where possible, however, non-native and ornamental species may be suitable in urban areas. Indeed, some non-native species may become better suited to the borough in a warming climate.

Tree nurseries and organisations such as the Woodland Trust grow trees in nurseries to sell or give away. Most trees are planted as 'whips', which are bare rooted trees about 50cm tall. Gel is often added to the roots to prevent them drying out. Trees rarely survive if their roots are allowed to dry. Trees should be planted during their dormant period (approximately November to March) following published guidelines on how to plant. Planted whips require maintaining as they suffer from

weed competition, drought, rabbit grazing, and vandalism. Tree spirals (mostly biodegradable) are often used to protect whips from rabbits. Recently planted trees need plenty of water.

Older and taller trees are more expensive and are referred to as 'standards' or 'semi-standards'. They require careful planting, usually with a stake to prevent wind throw. Standards can be slow to establish and whips will often establish quicker and outgrow them.

### 3.2 Natural Habitats

Trees should not be planted on existing semi-natural habitats such as flower-rich grassland, sand dunes and floodplain grassland, which are important in their own right. Indeed, trees are unwelcome on some habitats such as flower-rich grassland verges and the Council keeps these tree free.

### 3.3 Carbon Capture

In terms of the ability to capture and hold carbon, all habitats are effective at doing this. Therefore, where trees are planted with the main aim of capturing carbon they should be planted on sites that have little existing carbon capture capacity, such as arable farmland. In 2019, tree planting caught the public imagination as a good way to tackle climate change. However, the Council recognises that other natural habitats, such as wetlands, also perform this function.

### 3.4 Re-wilding

The year 2019 was also one in which 're-wilding' was widely discussed. Areas left to nature, re-wild on their own accord, with the most suitable tree species for that location establishing. It is often unnecessary to plant trees, simply allowing nature the time and space to establish scrub and woodland instead. Many saplings, especially ash and sycamore, grow abundantly in gardens, where they may not be appropriate due to their positioning and eventual size. Unfortunately, as saplings put down a deep tap root, it is difficult to successfully dig them up and transplant them.

## 4. Aims and Objectives of the Tree Strategy

**The overall aim of the Hartlepool Tree Strategy is to enhance the role which trees and woods play in providing ecosystem services, to promote the status of trees and woodlands in the borough and to ensure the sustainability of the borough's tree population.**

This aim can be realised by achieving the following objectives:

1. Retain and protect the borough's existing trees and woods.
2. Maintain and monitor the borough's publicly owned trees and woods using good arboricultural management.
3. Increase the number of trees and woods in the borough.

In response to the overall aim and objectives, an action plan has been created and forms section 5 of this strategy.

Alongside this document a plan indicating areas suitable for tree planting is being developed. This will assist in supporting community groups who may have access to trees, via charitable bodies such as the Woodland Trust, in finding the most appropriate places for them to be located. The plan will be updated as new sites become available to ensure that a wide range of planting opportunities can be offered across the town.



## 5. Action Plan 2020 – 2030

**5.1** An action plan has been prepared to support this tree strategy. It sets out what the Council will achieve between 2020 and 2030. It identifies the key actions necessary to meet the objectives of the tree strategy and the service areas with responsibility for implementation of each key action.

A review of progress in implementing the action plan and an assessment of its ongoing relevance will be conducted after five years. If necessary, elements of the tree strategy may be revised to reflect the results of the review.

### Key to Service Area Abbreviations

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>H&amp;C</b>  | Heritage & Countryside                  |
| <b>LD</b>       | Legal Division                          |
| <b>HT&amp;T</b> | Highways, Traffic & Transportation Team |
| <b>PS</b>       | Planning Services                       |
| <b>ES</b>       | Environmental Services                  |
| <b>E&amp;AM</b> | Estates & Asset Management              |

### Action Plan 2020 – 2030

#### Objective 1

**Retain and protect the borough's existing trees and woods**

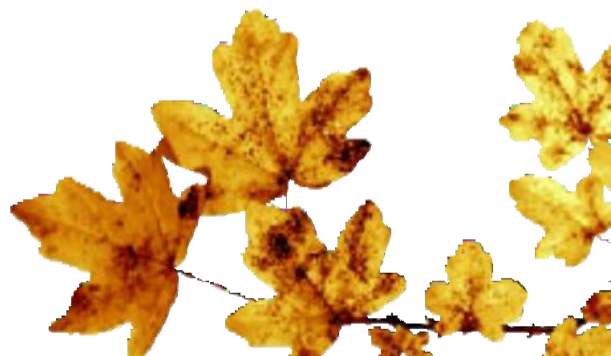
| Action  | Service |
|---|---------|
| 1. Protect privately owned trees of amenity value using Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate  | PS      |
| 2. Keep the borough's Tree Preservation Orders under review and revoke and remake Orders as necessary.  | PS, LD  |
| 3. Make full use of the Council's powers of enforcement with regard to TPO's, trees in conservation areas and planning obligations with regard to trees by responding to complaints and proactively monitoring outcomes.                              | PS, LD  |
| 4. Ensure that, through effective engagement in the planning process, existing trees are retained on development sites where appropriate and that they are adequately protected. Where trees cannot be retained compensatory trees should be planted. | PS, H&C |
| 5. Continue to use the corporate GIS for the monitoring of Tree Preservation Orders and other tree issues   | PS      |
| 6. Through effective engagement in the planning process require in-situ trees to be retained in developments  | PS      |

## Action Plan 2020 – 2030

### Objective 2

Maintain and monitor the borough's publicly owned trees and woods using good arboricultural management

| Action  | Service     |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Use the corporate GIS for the monitoring and management of all publicly owned woods and trees                              | H&C, PS, ES |
| 2. Develop and implement a programme of cyclical inspection and maintenance of all publicly owned trees                       | H&C, PS, ES |
| 3. Ensure that, where appropriate, publicly owned trees that must be felled are replaced with a new tree in the same location | H&C, PS, ES |
| 4. Prepare and deliver management plans for all publicly owned woodlands, including parks and cemeteries                      | H&C, PS, ES |



## Action Plan 2020 – 2030

### Objective 3

Increase the number of trees and woods in the borough

| Action   | Service       |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Acquire land on which to create new woodland  | H&C, E&AM, LD |
| 2. Identify and map suitable Council-owned sites for tree planting initiatives. Target greenspace corridors and boundaries of development, particularly where existing hedgerows and copses can be connected | H&C, E&AM     |
| 3. Prepare and submit tree planting funding bids   | H&C           |
| 4. Liaise with charitable organisations such as the Woodland Trust to ensure free tree offers meet Council requirements  | H&C, PS       |
| 5. Encourage and assist land owners to take up grant aid for tree planting and woodland establishment and management   | H&C           |
| 6. Review and update tree related information on the Council's website   | PS            |
| 7. Through effective engagement in the planning process require tree planting in relation to all new major developments  | PS            |

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

21<sup>st</sup> February 2020



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

**Subject:** TEES VALLEY LOCAL STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non Key

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the adoption of the updated Tees Valley guidance document for the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) across the Borough.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) was introduced to address the concerns and recommendations raised in the Pitt Report following the 2007 national floods.

3.2 In April 2015 the Government amended planning legislation to require the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for all major development unless demonstrated to be unsuitable. The Hartlepool Local Plan also requires the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems for all new developments.

3.3 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 established Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) and each Lead Local Flood Authorities became a statutory consultee to the Planning Authority. The Lead Local Flood Authorities are responsible for approving all surface water drainage systems for new developments in line with both the National Standards, as well as authority specific Local Standards.

- 3.4 Neighbourhood Services Committee approved the use of the Tees Valley Local Standards for Sustainable Drainage in November 2015 in order to provide both developers and regulators with consistent standards across the Tees Valley. The original guidance document has now been updated to provide a clearer and more specific guidance in line with best practice and as a result of lessons learnt since the original document was adopted in 2015.
- 3.5 This Local Standards document forms the minimum standard required by the Tees Valley Authorities and alongside the National Standards strongly promotes the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems which help to reduce surface water runoff and mitigate flood risk.
- 3.6 The proposed Local Standards remain a live document and as such will continue to be updated by officers in line with best practice guidance and legislation changes.
- 3.7 A copy of the revised document can be found in the Members Library.

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The revised Local Standards have been produced by a working group from Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-On-Tees and Darlington Borough Councils.
- 4.2 This document is intended to be used by architects, engineers, planners and developers involved in the preparation of schemes for new development. It is not intended to be a prescriptive document, although it does set certain standards which will normally be required as a condition for any new systems.
- 4.3 The Lead Local Flood Authorities should continue to be involved in any pre-application discussions relating to a development as it is recognised that the best and most viable Sustainable Drainage Systems outcomes are achieved if Sustainable Drainage Systems are considered early on in the formulation of the development design and layout.

#### **5. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a risk that if Local Standards are not updated in line with best practice then developers are working to outdated documentation. This also makes it more difficult for the Council to ensure Sustainable Drainage Systems are implemented to the satisfaction of the Lead Local Flood Authorities.
- 5.2 The revised guidance document ensures consistency between the Tees Valley authorities in relation to Sustainable Drainage Systems delivery. If this

document is not adopted a risk remains that an ad hoc approach to drainage could arise across the Tees Valley.

## **6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council has responsibilities and statutory obligations under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and planning legislation with regard to Sustainable Drainage Systems and reduction in flood risk.

## **7. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 There is currently sufficient resource to assess the compliance of planning applications.

## **8. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 It was previously proposed that Sustainable Drainage Systems assets were managed by the developer through a management company.
- 8.2 Currently the favoured approach to funding future maintenance is via roof tax whereby residents fund Sustainable Drainage Systems maintenance via a management company. There is scope for the Council to have overall control whereby if the management companies fail to deliver the council can enforce duties under the Land Drainage Act 1991.
- 8.3 It has become apparent that the use of management companies and the scope for the Council to have overall control involves significant and unnecessary financial and reputational risk to the Council. As such it is proposed that all Sustainable Drainage Systems assets are adopted by the statutory undertaker Northumbrian Water subject to agreement with the developer.
- 8.4 While previously this adoption option was not often utilised due to the complications regarding what Northumbrian Water could and could not adopt, this process has now been clarified due to the regulatory body OFWAT allowing Northumbrian Water to adopt a greater range of assets. This now includes above ground Sustainable Drainage Systems features such as ponds and basins which was not previously possible. These changes by the regulator are detailed in the Sewers for Adoption Eighth Edition document, which is anticipated to be released for use in April 2020.

## **9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| Finance | No relevant issues |
|---------|--------------------|

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Child & Family Poverty                        | No relevant issues |
| Equality & Diversity                          | No relevant issues |
| Section 17 of The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 | No relevant issues |

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Members approve the adoption of the revised Local Standards document.
- 10.2 Subject to approval by the Neighbourhood Services Committee the document would be referred to Planning Committee as an information paper.

## 11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To prevent an increased risk of flooding from development, to improve and protect water quality and to ensure a satisfactory form of development compliant with the relevant legislation.

## 12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 A copy of the document can be found in the Members Library.

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

**Subject:** 'CLEAN AND GREEN' STRATEGY UPDATE

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Committee of the progress achieved against the actions outlined in the Clean and Green Strategy.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Cleanliness and quality of the environment are recognised as factors which have a direct impact on how residents' feel about their local area. Well maintained streets and pleasant green and open spaces are also attractive to visitors, business investors and potential new residents and therefore make an important contribution to the overall prosperity of the town.

3.2 The Council's 'Your Say, Our Future' consultation undertaken during 2016 reaffirmed the importance of the local environment to residents and highlighted the need for the community and Council to work together to improve the area and also to reduce demand on services.

3.3 As a result, in March 2017, following extensive consultation and Neighbourhood Services Committee approval, the council launched its 3 year Clean and Green Strategy (2017-2020). The overall vision set out in the Clean and Green Strategy is 'To create a cleaner, greener, town with everyone taking part and which everyone can take a pride in'.

3.4 Underpinned by the active participation of partners and the community the objectives are to create:

- A clean town;
- A green town; and

- A well maintained town

3.5 An action plan was formulated to assist in delivering the vision. In January 2018 following an update report to Neighbourhood Services Committee additional actions were added to the plan. an updated version of the plan giving progress against all actions is attached in **Appendix 1** for consideration by the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

#### 4. **PROGRESS UPDATE**

4.1 The Action Plan attached at **Appendix 1** outlines some key achievements linked to each of the strategic objectives since the launch of the strategy in March 2017. In summary these key achievements include:

##### **Creating a Clean Town**

4.2 To date 40 high capacity 'Big Belly' compactor bins have been installed at various key locations across the town to increase capacity and reduce street littering. These bins are fitted with a sensor which alerts the cleansing team when the bin is full.

4.3 In January 2019 approval was received to amend the current Public Space Protection orders to include maximum length of lead, means to pick up and exclusion of dogs from the around the water play area at Seaton Carew. These became effective in May 2019.

##### **Creating Green Town**

4.4 The Perennial wildflower meadow programme continues to enhance green spaces and roadside verges around the borough. This has been extended over the last 3 years covering a total area of 20,000m<sup>2</sup>.

4.5 There has been continued use of social media to relay key clean and green messages to the public about littering and recycling further details are given in 4.8 of the report.

##### **Ensuring a Well Maintained Town**

4.6 The Council has implemented a successful transition to a digital first customer interface for many of its primary public facing services. One example is the use of the Firmstep CRM system to provide an online portal where residents can report street cleaning and grounds maintenance concerns quickly and easily using user friendly drop down pre-select menus and if needed 'type-in' boxes. The system includes the ability to pin point the location of the concern on an online map, and to upload photos. Using this method of contact residents can see straight away if their issue has already been reported, and they can choose to receive feedback in the form of an email once the issue has been investigated or rectified by staff on the ground. Residents can also 'rate' the service and feedback from

users has been overwhelmingly supportive and positive about this method of contact.

Behind the scenes this online portal has greatly assisted in managing immense customer contact workloads that exist in Environmental Services, especially in the context of much reduced staffing resources resulting from years of consistent reductions in service funding. Resident service requests going through the online portal are routed directly there-and-then to the appropriate frontline team, or when needed supervising officer, for resolution. In the case of street cleansing requests this is often direct to in-vehicle devices which staff on the ground have been trained in the use of.

Where an issue is reported, if a photo has been attached they can also see the problem. Issue response times have improved significantly, wasted customer contact has been reduced with the improved accuracy and delivery of initial information, and frontline staff feel more involved and satisfied that the issues residents want tackled are being addressed as they can deploy resources to resolve them quickly. This 'first time right' approach is becoming more and more of a reality with the continuing introduction of time and resource saving technology to frontline staff, customer facing staff in the contact centre and specialist service teams, and ultimately the service manager. The next steps include roll-outs to Environmental Services residential bin collections which services in excess of 43,000 properties each week.

- 4.7 A deep cleanse programme has been introduced in the Autumn and Winter each year targeting different areas of the town. The programme is developed using intelligence gathered during the year from frontline staff, residents and Elected Members.
- 4.8 A practical measure to engage with the community on green issues that was identified in the Strategy was to improve communication through the use of appropriate online means. Social media continues to be used to promote clean and green messages and **Appendix 2 and 3** show the 'reach' of recent social media posts during 2019.

## 5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 In summary excellent progress has been made against the action plan with the majority of actions including those added in year two are complete.
- 5.2 The Clean and Green Strategy ends in March 2020. The objectives of this strategy are now covered in the Love Hartlepool Campaign and any further actions covering these objectives will now be reported under this campaign.

**6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Risk implications                      | No relevant issues |
| Finance                                | No relevant issues |
| Legal                                  | No relevant issues |
| Consultation                           | No relevant issues |
| Child and Family Poverty               | No relevant issues |
| Equality and Diversity                 | No relevant issues |
| Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 | No relevant issues |
| Staff                                  | No relevant issues |
| Asset Management                       | No relevant issues |

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 That the Neighbourhood Services Committee notes the report.

**8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Reporting on the Clean and Green Strategy which ends in March 2020 fall under the remit of the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 Councils Clean and Green Strategy: Neighbourhood Services Committee February 2017.
- 9.2 Clean & Green Strategy Update: Neighbourhood Services Committee January 2018.

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## Clean and Green Strategy Action Plan

## Objective 1: Creating a Clean Town

| Ref | Action   | When          | By Whom                                 | Progress  | RAG Rating |
|-----|--|---------------|---|---|------------|
| 1.1 | Roll out a publicity campaign to address seagull related litter including the installation of signage in prominent sea front locations | June 2017     | Environmental Enforcement Team Leader   | Signage installed on promenades, close to food outlets and seating areas in identified locations  | GREEN      |
| 1.2 | Introduce new litter bins in key strategic locations   | May 2017      | Environmental Services Manager          | In partnership to date 40 high capacity compactor bins have installed at various key locations across the town to increase capacity and lessen street littering.  | GREEN      |
| 1.3 | Introduce a new Public Space Protection Order to address Dog Fouling   | November 2017 | Head of Community Safety and Engagement | Dog control orders updated to Public Space Protection Orders in 2017. January 2019 approval received to amend the current orders to include maximum length of lead, means to pick up and exclusion around water play area at Seaton Carew | GREEN      |

## Objective 2: Creating a Green Town

| Ref | Action   | When         | By Whom                          | Progress  | RAG Rating |
|-----|--|--------------|----------------------------------|---|------------|
| 2.1 | Establish an investment programme for improvements to neighbourhoods, open spaces, parks and play sites            | April 2017   | Heritage and Countryside Manager | A new Neighbourhood Investment Programme has been developed, approved by Committee and significant progress has been made over the last two years. Updates have been provided to Committee in separate reports. | GREEN      |
| 2.2 | Expand the wildflower programme (phase 1)  | May 2017     | Environmental Services Manager   | Expansion programme completed. Number of wildflower areas increased from 37 to 44   | GREEN      |
| 2.3 | Review the ambitions for Hartlepool's parks, recreational spaces and outdoor play and agree an implementation plan | October 2017 | Heritage and Countryside Manager | The new Neighbourhood Investment Programme has delivered significant improvements in partnership with local communities. Updates have been provided to Committee in separate reports.                           | GREEN      |
| 2.4 | Improve communication and engagement with residents on green issues by the use of appropriate online means         | August 2017  | Strategic Policy and             | Ongoing: Seagull campaign, installation of compactor bins, introduction of increased  | GREEN      |

|     |   |          |                                |  |       |
|-----|---|----------|--------------------------------|--|-------|
|     |   |          | Project Management Manager     | fixed penalty charges for fly tipping promoted through social media/ online survey / website.  |       |
| 2.5 | Expand the wildflower programme (phase 2) | May 2019 | Environmental Services Manager | Perennial wildflower meadows have been sown in various areas of the town over the last 3 years covering a total area of 20,000m2. Programme phase completed. | GREEN |

**Objective 3: Ensuring a Well Maintained Town**

| Ref | Action  | When           | By Whom   | Progress   | RAG Rating |
|-----|---|----------------|---|--|------------|
| 3.1 | Introduce an updated officer toolkit for tackling derelict and untidy buildings   | May 2017       | Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration | Toolkit complete which is now used to help identify derelict land / buildings for action. To date 17 long term empty buildings / pieces of land have been brought back into use  | GREEN      |
| 3.2 | Develop an education and awareness programme in relation to inappropriate presentation of waste to increase recycling and reduce contamination levels                       | September 2017 | Environmental Services Manager                      | With resources currently allocated recycling awareness and ways for residents to contribute to improvements have been promoted in Hartbeat, and targeted use of social media platforms throughout the year. Presentations and support given to local community and volunteering groups.  | GREEN      |
| 3.3 | In conjunction with CICT and the Contact Centre, improve customer reporting mechanisms along with systems of capturing and monitoring data associated with service requests | October 2017   | Strategic Policy and Project Management Manager/    | New CRM system delivering much improved customer interface and communication with frontline Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance teams. Helping facilitate more efficient deployment of finite resources, improved customer feedback/ satisfaction with services. Waste Management service operational on new system by April 2020. | GREEN      |
| 3.4 | Develop a residents' charter to promote active citizenship and participation in delivering a cleaner and greener environment  | November 2017  | Community Safety and Engagement Project Officer     | Draft Residents Charter completed October 2017. This will be considered as part of a wider Council Charter.  | AMBER      |
| 3.5 | Support the community/voluntary sector and schools to increase  | November       | Community   | Alongside Countryside Wardens, the   |            |

|      |  |               |   |   |       |
|------|--|---------------|---|---|-------|
|      | participation in clean and green activity including the development of an awards scheme/community champions and other incentives that reward contributions | 2017          | Safety and Engagement Project Officer                     | voluntary sector and schools were supported by the Council to participate in the national 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. Research has been carried out into current volunteer opportunities and other organisations awards. A reduction in staffing resources and the existence of a number of National schemes has resulted in a local scheme not being implemented.  | AMBER |
| 3.6  | Develop and implement a prioritised "deep cleanse" programme to replace Neighbourhood Action Days  | November 2017 | Assistant Director Environment and Neighbourhood Services | A deep cleanse programme takes place in the Autumn and Winter each year targeting different areas of the town. The programme is developed using intelligence gathered during the year from frontline staff, residents and resident representatives.   | GREEN |
| 3.7  | Prepare and obtain the approval of the committee for 2 <sup>nd</sup> year action plan  | March 2018    | Assistant Director Environment and Neighbourhood Services | Report taken to Neighbourhood Services Committee January 2018 actions agreed and added to the action plan   | GREEN |
| 3.8  | Work with Crucial Crew to design a programme of activity to engage young people in the clean and green agenda  | July 2017     |   | Whilst it has not been possible to deliver the full programme due to resources a range of engagement activities have been carried out. External sources of funding continue to be explored in the hope that a recycling and littering education and awareness programme, with the significant local environmental benefits it can support, can be re-initiated and taken to schools, children and young people, and community groups. | AMBER |
| 3.9  | Carry out a major public litter campaign   | 2018          |   | Delivered through the 'Love Hartlepool' campaign to co-inside with national 'Keep Britain Tidy' initiatives.  | GREEN |
| 3.10 | To introduce restorative approaches as an alternative to fixed penalty notices   | 2018          |   | In a small number of cases where it was deemed appropriate restorative justice has  | GREEN |

|  |  |  |  |                                      |  |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
|  |  |  |  | been used as an alternative approach |  |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|

## **Social media promotion of Clean and Green Strategy/issues, January-December 2019**

### **Twitter**

**(The term “impressions” refers to the number of times users see a Tweet on Twitter)**

| <b>DATE</b>   | <b>SUBJECT</b>   | <b>IMPRESSIONS</b> |
|---------------|--|--------------------|
| January 26th  | Promotion of first in a series of guided bike rides to promote cycling   | 1,153              |
| February 12th | Clampdown on dog fouling in Manor House ward   | 1,170              |
| March 19th    | Cleanliness of town boosted by installation of nine hi-tech Big Belly bins   | 951                |
| March 19th    | Re-tweet of Keep Britain Tidy's message about Great British Spring Clean and urging local people to get involved       | N/A                |
| March 21st    | Highlighting arson attacks involving domestic wheelie bins   | 1,281              |
| March 26th    | Promotion of green cycling initiative, Ride to Work Week   | 1,696              |
| March 27th    | Reminder about the reinstatement of brown bin collections after winter break   | 1,492              |
| April 26th    | Youth Justice Service members create collage using waste to highlight devastating impact of plastic on the environment | 1,242              |
| April 29th    | Initial promotion of Tees Valley Commuter Challenge, a green cycling initiative to encourage people to cycle to work   | 1,496              |
| May 12th      | Further promotion of Tees Valley Commuter Challenge  | 1,253              |

|               |  |       |
|---------------|--|-------|
| May 15th      | Seaton Carew receives Seaside Award  | 2,772 |
| June 6th      | Re-tweet of post from Mark Hughes, Head of Hartlepool 6 <sup>th</sup> Form College, praising town's wildflower meadows | N/A   |
| July 19th     | Summerhill and Ward Jackson Park retain their Green Flags  | 1,136 |
| July 23rd     | Highlighting problem of parked cars preventing bin wagons gaining access to Granville Avenue/Weldeck Road              | 1,666 |
| July 26th     | Promotion of green initiative to improve more than 2km of paths on Bishop Cuthbert estate to encourage more cycling    | 1,044 |
| November 30th | Re-tweet of Hartlepool Mail article about how to avoid contaminating your recycling with non-recyclable items          | N/A   |
| December 21st | Big Belly bin installed in Davison Drive   | 1,377 |
| December 24th | Reminder about how to check Christmas bin collection dates online  | 1,463 |
| December 27th | Reminder about recycling options at Burn Road Household Waste Recycling Centre   | 1,716 |
| December 28th | Reminder of post-Christmas collection service for real Christmas trees   | 2,530 |

**Facebook**

**(The term “reach” on Facebook refers to the number of unique people who have viewed your content)**

| <b>POST</b>   | <b>SUBJECT</b>  | <b>REACH</b> |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| February 12th | Launch of new community campaign in Manor House ward to tackle dog fouling                                  | 5,446        |
| March 19th    | On-going drive to keep Hartlepool clean and tidy boosted by installation of nine new Big Belly bins         | 9,322        |
| March 20th    | Hartlepool residents urged to support Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean                        | 2,178        |
| March 21st    | Residents urged to support clampdown on wheelie bin fires   | 3,168        |
| March 27th    | Informing residents of resumption of brown bin collects from April 2 <sup>nd</sup> after winter break       | 23,146       |
| April 17th    | Easter bin collection advice  | 7,952        |
| April 26th    | Youth Justice Service members highlight impact of plastic on the environment by creating collage from waste | 2,678        |
| May 12th      | Promotion of Tees Valley Commuter Challenge, a green initiative to encourage people to cycle to work        | 1,698        |
| May 15th      | Seaside Award for Seaton Carew  | 8,304        |
| June 7th      | Promotion of Bike Week with video featuring Sustainable Travel Officer Tony Davison                         | 4,291        |
| July 26th     | Improvements to more than 2km of paths at   | 2,871        |

|               |   |        |
|---------------|---|--------|
|               | Bishop Cuthbert to encourage cycling  |        |
| October 27th  | Residents urged to support Day of Action in Oxford Road area, which included a range of environmental improvement actions | 1,815  |
| October 29th  | Day of Action in Oxford Road area - video   | 2,959  |
| December 21st | Installation of Big Belly bin at Davison Drive shops  | 3,834  |
| December 24th | Promotion of how to check your Christmas/New Year bin collection dates online   | 7,279  |
| December 27th | Festive promotion of recycling options at Household Waste Recycling Centre  | 9,855  |
| December 28th | Reminder about free collection service for real Christmas trees   | 21,304 |