

REPLACEMENT AGENDA

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Thursday 23 July 2020

at 2.00 pm

in the Council Chamber,
at the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

PLEASE NOTE: this will be a 'remote meeting', a web-link to the public stream will be available on the Hartlepool Borough Council website at least 24 hours before the meeting.

MEMBERS: REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Brown, Cassidy, Lindridge, Loynes, Marshall and Smith.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

3. **MINUTES**

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2020 (*previously circulated and published*).

4. **BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document – *Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*
- 4.2 Public Rights of Way and Other Access Supplementary Planning Document – *Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*

5. **KEY DECISIONS**

No items.

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

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

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

No items.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Strategic Outcomes Pathways for Culture – *Director of Adult and Community Based Services*

7.2 Private Rented Sector Condition Stock Survey linked to Student Accommodation – *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT



REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

23rd July 2020



Report of: Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Regeneration Services Committee of the results from the targeted consultation on the Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that was consulted on between Friday 7th February 2020 and Friday 17th April 2020 and to seek approval for the amended SPD (**Appendix 3**) to be reported to full Council for adoption.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The previous SPD was produced in 2014, and is currently in place. The SPD is split into two documents, the main document and action plan. Between the two documents, they highlight areas of green infrastructure within the borough, acknowledge the role it plays and highlights key projects that require potential funding from developer contributions. The updated document has been produced to reflect updates in local and national policy and provide an up to date picture of green infrastructure projects in the borough and has been amended to reflect comments made by consultees.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 No options submitted for consideration other than the recommendation.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 The SPD has been composed in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) (as amended).

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The SPD was consulted upon from Friday 7th February until Friday 17rd April 2020. This 10 week period goes above the 6 week statutory consultation period for SPDs, and an additional 2 weeks was allowed for in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. Correspondence was sent to the statutory consultees, and other organisations and interested parties whose details are stored on our consultation database. Representations, an officer response and the resultant amendment to the SPD is included within the Consultation Statement (**Appendix 4**).
- 6.2 The document was available on the Council's website, and a paper copy was made accessible at the Civic Centre.
- 6.3 All comments received were considered, fed into the SPD where appropriate, and the attached document is the final iteration.

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Risk Implications	No relevant issues
Financial Considerations	No relevant issues
Consultation	No relevant issues
Child/Family Poverty Considerations	See Appendix 1
Equality and Diversity Considerations	See Appendix 2
Section 17 of The Crime And Disorder Act 1998 Considerations	No relevant issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant issues
Asset Management Considerations	No relevant issues

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Note and agree the content of the revised Green Infrastructure SPD following the public consultation and submit the revised SPD to full Council for adoption.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Once adopted, this updated SPD will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework. The updates to the SPD ensure it reflects the most up to date local and national policies.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 There are no background papers in relation to this report.

11. CONTACT OFFICER

Tony Hanson
Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)
Civic Centre
Hartlepool Borough Council
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400
E-mail: tony.hanson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Rebecca Cockburn
Planning Policy Officer
Civic Centre
Hartlepool Borough Council
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 284179
Email: rebecca.cockburn@hartlepool.gov.uk

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

1. Is this decision a Budget & Policy Framework or Key Decision? <u>YES</u> / NO 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 / <u>NO</u> If YES please complete the matrix below				
GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Young working people aged 18 - 21				
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness				
Those with low educational attainment				
Those who are unemployed				
Those who are underemployed				
Children born into families in poverty				
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances				
Lone parents				
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds				
Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Overall impact of Policy / Decision			
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE		ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE	
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE	
Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.			
Economic			
Children in Low Income Families (%)			
Children in Working Households (%)			
Overall employment rate (%)			
Proportion of young people who are NEET			
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment			
Education			
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)			
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM			
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)			
Housing			
Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims			
Number of affordable homes built			
Health			
Prevalence of underweight children in reception year			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year			
Prevalence of underweight children in year 6			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6			
Life expectancy			

Department	Division	Section	Owner/Officer	
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Economic Growth & Regeneration	Planning & Development	Rebecca Cockburn	
Service, policy, practice being reviewed/changed or planned	Green Infrastructure SPD			
Why are you making the change?	To update the SPD to reflect local/national policy and to include up to date projects.			
How might this impact (positively/negatively) on people who share protected characteristics?				
		Please tick	POSITIVELY	NEGATIVELY
Age				
N/A				
Disability				
N/A				
Gender Re-assignment				
N/A				
Race				
N/A				
Religion				
N/A				
Gender				
N/A				
Sexual Orientation				
N/A				
Marriage & Civil Partnership				
N/A				
Pregnancy & Maternity				
N/A				
Has there been consultation /is consultation planned with people who will be affected by this policy? How has this affected your decision making?		A 10 week consultation period was undertaken, which is in accordance with the Council's adopted SCI, and meets the statutory 6 week requirement.		
As a result of your decision how can you mitigate negative/maximise positive outcomes and foster good relationships?		The SPD encourages the creation, protection and enhancement of green infrastructure elements within the borough which will have positive outcomes relating to design quality, ecology and health.		
Describe how you will address and monitor the impact		1. No Impact - No Major Change There is not considered to be an impact.		
		2. Adjust/Change Policy N/A		
		3. Adverse Impact but Continue as is N/A		
		4. Stop/Remove Policy/Proposal N/A		
Initial Assessment	00/00/00	Reviewed	00/00/00	
Completed	00/00/00	Published	00/00/00	

Hartlepool Borough Council

Green Infrastructure

Supplementary Planning Document

Final Version



May 2020



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Image 1: Seaton Park

1 Introduction

What is the purpose of this SPD?

- 1.1 The council's Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is split into two documents; the SPD itself and the accompanying Action Plan. This document provides information regarding the importance of Green Infrastructure (GI) within the borough and details the council's GI vision and what GI can be found within the borough, highlighting where there are any gaps which need to be addressed. The Action Plan builds upon this, setting out specifically where improvements are needed to enhance the GI network within the borough.
- 1.2 Once adopted, this SPD will form part of the Local Development Framework, to be used alongside the Local Plan to drive forward the development of GI in the borough. It will enable the council to seek funding to help achieve the enhancement and improvement of GI and inform the public of the GI strategy.

Structure of this SPD

- 1.3 This SPD sets a number of objectives and an overall vision for the delivery of GI in Hartlepool. It sets out the strengths, weaknesses and functionality of GI within distinct areas of the borough. This will aid in highlighting areas of deficiency and where connections and improvements can be made in the future to further enhance the overall network of GI. This document considers relevant national, regional and local policies and guidance which will impact on the delivery of GI.

What is Green Infrastructure?

- 1.4 The 2018 Hartlepool Local Plan defines GI as a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and environmental features including parks, open spaces, watercourses, trees and woodland and allotments.

2 The Importance of Green Infrastructure

Why is GI so important?

- 2.1 With an increasing population and densification of the town, the urban environment is growing and planned GI needs to be developed alongside this. A dense built environment is considered to have a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of the population, due to increased pollution and reduced opportunities to undertake physical activity, alongside detrimental environmental impacts, such as heat island effects and increased surface water runoff leading to potential flooding. Sport England's Active Design guidance highlights the lifestyle benefits which can be found from GI which encourages a healthier and active lifestyle.
- 2.2 Urban green space in particular provides accessible health benefits, therefore it is of key importance that within the borough all residents have access to green space close to where they live and work, as well as being able to reap the benefits of the wider network of GI within the borough.
- 2.3 GI is important for the people who live, work in and visit the borough, and is also critical for a multitude of species which are present and are at risk of displacement due to development.
- 2.4 An improved rights of way network will make it possible to move safely, easily and comfortably through the borough on foot or by bike. This will allow visitors and residents alike to explore the urban neighbourhoods, historical parks and village greens.
- 2.5 The rural character of the countryside will be protected and the open landscape aspect of the rural west will be maintained as far as possible.
- 2.6 The capacity of GI to accommodate protected and priority habitats and species will, where appropriate and possible, be enhanced in order to encourage valuable, healthy ecosystems to flourish, so that wildlife and plants can become more resilient to climate change.
- 2.7 Making the best use of existing and new greenspaces will provide greater opportunities for play, sport, recreation, relaxation and local food production, which in turn will promote active healthy lifestyles close to home. The hope is that the growing appreciation for the natural environment will be actively captured so people of all ages can value, manage and care for it.
- 2.8 A quality, distinctive and well connected GI network will help attract new investment, encouraging people to live and work in the borough because of its exceptional ability to delivery healthy, safe and sustainable lifestyles. New green neighbourhoods will improve the quantity and quality of greenspace, habitats and trees for people and wildlife while integrating sustainable drainage

and flood storage will help the borough mitigate the effects of, and help the natural environment adapt to, climate change.

2.9 To summarise, well planned and managed GI has the potential to deliver a wide range of benefits such as:

2.10

- Improved image; helping to attract businesses and inward investment
- Greater sense of place and pride in the local area
- Mitigation of the effects of climate change e.g. flood alleviation, carbon storage
- Improvements to air quality
- Health and wellbeing benefits through places for outdoor relaxation, play, recreation and exercise
- Encourages active and sustainable travel by providing cycle and walking routes
- Increased local food and renewable energy production
- Reduced crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduction of the heat island effect.
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitats.
- SANGs have the benefit of taking pressures off sensitive protected areas.

What does the council do?

2.11 Through the maintenance, enhancement and extension of these networks, multi-functional benefits can be realised for local communities, businesses, visitors and the environment. Appropriate strategies, plans and programmes led by the council and involving local partnerships and individual organisations can help to maintain existing GI, and promote solutions to remedy deficiencies and create new opportunities.

2.12 The council seeks to protect and enhance the GI network through its planning policies and by seeking developer contributions to fund projects and mitigate impacts of development, alongside actively improving the existing GI network through seeking external funding and grants to support projects.

What should developers do?

2.13 There are many benefits that come with development, including an expectation that it will contribute towards ensuring the borough is a healthy, attractive place to live, with abundant green space which brings with it social, environmental and economic benefits. This is to help mitigate the drawbacks from increased development which include increased pressure on GI resources such as footpaths and parks due to increased usage, environmental impacts and a sense of overcrowding and overdevelopment due to a lack of provision of open space.

2.14 In order to ensure the sustainability of developments within the borough, it is required that on-site GI elements are factored into schemes. Where this is not

possible or on-site provisions are not considered sufficient, financial contributions towards GI provision within the borough will be sought. This will ensure that development will mitigate any negative environmental impacts, and provide visual and amenity improvements to the site.



Image 2: Rossmere Park

3 National, Regional and Local Policy and Guidance

- 3.1 This document has been prepared within the context of up to date legislation and reflects the key themes of policy guidance.
- 3.2 The importance of GI is recognised in a number of documents which help to highlight the benefit of the protection and enhancement of GI within towns and cities.

Natural Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature) (2011)

- 3.3 This paper refers to the role of urban GI as completing “the links in our national ecological network” and “one of the most effective tools available to us in managing environmental risks such as flooding and waves”.

Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England’s Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (2011)

- 3.4 This builds on the White Paper and sets out how international and European commitments are to be implemented and achieved. Action 3.4 sets out how the approach of the planning system will guide development to the best locations, encourage greener design and enhance natural networks.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019)

- 3.5 Paragraph 20 of the NPPF requires strategic policies to set out the quality of development and make sufficient provision for landscapes and GI. In Hartlepool, this has been achieved through the adoption of the 2018 Local Plan.
- 3.6 The benefits of access to high quality open spaces are highlighted in paragraph 95, which states that this can have a great impact on the health and well-being of communities. Local authorities have the duty to identify the specific needs of the area and what improvements are necessary.
- 3.7 Paragraph 150 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should plan for development in a way that avoids increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change, including through the planning of GI.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (2014)

- 3.8 The PPG recognises the importance of open space in contributing to GI and providing health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby. It is key to the achievement of sustainable development.

Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance (2009)

- 3.9 This publication considers the planning and delivery of GI, recognising it as part of sustainable spatial planning. It highlights the role of GI as a life support system, with the ability to deliver multiple environmental functions, and to play a key part in adapting to and mitigating climate change.
- 3.10 GI is recognised as an important tool in making the north east an attractive place to live, work and play, whilst also providing the benefits highlighted in national guidance.

Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy (2008)

- 3.11 This sets out the strategic vision for the development of GI within the Tees Valley and identifies key strategic corridors including the coast from Crimdon Dene in the north to Cowbar in the south, and within Hartlepool borough, the town centre to Summerhill Country Park.

Hartlepool Local Plan (2018)

- 3.12 Chapter 16 within the Local Plan focuses on the Natural Environment and Green Networks and includes information not only on GI, but on the natural environment in general, something which forms a critical element of GI within the borough. The policies within this chapter will ensure the protection of designated nature conservation sites, woodland and other priority habitats.
- 3.13 Policy NE2 is dedicated to the safeguarding of GI and sets out the council's aim to support the development of existing GI links within the borough and the restriction of development on GI components that would lead to their loss. This policy sets out which areas fall under the GI allocation and the restricted circumstances in which the council may consider damaging or developing on elements of GI.
- 3.14 Policy QP1 (Planning Obligations) sets out that the council will seek contributions from development towards a number of elements of GI, to ensure their delivery over the plan period.

Local Infrastructure Plan (2016)

- 3.15 Chapter 7 within this plan covers some of the key projects that the council is seeking to further develop and enhance. Many of the areas covered are the large strategic GI corridors however there are some others which form smaller, more discrete elements of the borough's GI which provide important open space in densely populated areas.

Residential Design SPD (2019)

- 3.16 This SPD will play a critical role in the development of GI in the borough. It is important to consider the links between the built environment and the more natural greener spaces, and these areas need good design principles which can be applied through the planning and development process. Working with developers to secure well designed new developments which protect key green areas, provides new GI which complements existing provision and ensure mitigation where GI is lost as a result of the development will be crucial.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit and Assessment (2015)

- 3.17 This document sets the standards for the various types of open space which it assesses. Moving towards the aspirational standards within this assessment will have a significant positive impact on the GI within the borough. The schemes highlighted in the associated Action Plan will aid in moving towards the open space standards in terms of both new provision and quality improvements in existing open space typologies, illustrating clearly the thread between the two documents.

Allotment Strategy and Action Plan (2018)

- 3.18 This document set out to review the current allotment provision within the borough. As a result of this review, it was found that there should be a more balanced distribution of allotment land across the town, which are geographically accessible to all communities and which include a range of plot sizes.

4 Vision and Objectives

Vision of SPD: *By 2029 Hartlepool will have a high quality, multifunctional, accessible green infrastructure network which enhances the community's quality of life and sustains wildlife.*

- 4.1 The following objectives link the vision to the rest of this Strategy. The projects identified in the accompanying Action Plan should achieve one or more of these objectives, to help deliver the vision.

Objective	Objective Description
1	Protect a high quality visual landscape and townscape, and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of the borough's GI network to contribute positively to its distinctiveness.
2	Provide a network of interconnected GI and spaces rich in habitat and home to a diverse range of wildlife which also play a critical role in improving the health of residents through providing attractive opportunities for recreation and sustainable travel.
3	Minimise the impact of, and adapt to, the effects of climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of resources, the risk of flooding and pollution and provide for species adaptation by maximising the protection and creation of GI.
4	Promote the preservation, restoration, management and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and expanding and linking habitats together, including working across council boundaries where appropriate, to assist in restoring biodiversity and allowing species to respond to climate change.
5	Ensure trees and hedges are protected where appropriate throughout the borough and integrate planting schemes within all new developments and, on larger housing schemes, deliver new areas of woodland. The preservation of ancient woodland and veteran trees which are irreplaceable is imperative.
6	Protect and enhance a wide range of high quality opportunities for safe and accessible formal and informal sport, recreation and leisure facilities to encourage the community and visitors to undertake a variety of healthy exercise within attractive settings.
7	Involve users, including "friends of" groups, and neighbours in the design of GI where appropriate, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of ownership and pride.
8	Support economic growth, attract inward investment and support redevelopment of brownfield land by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive GI.

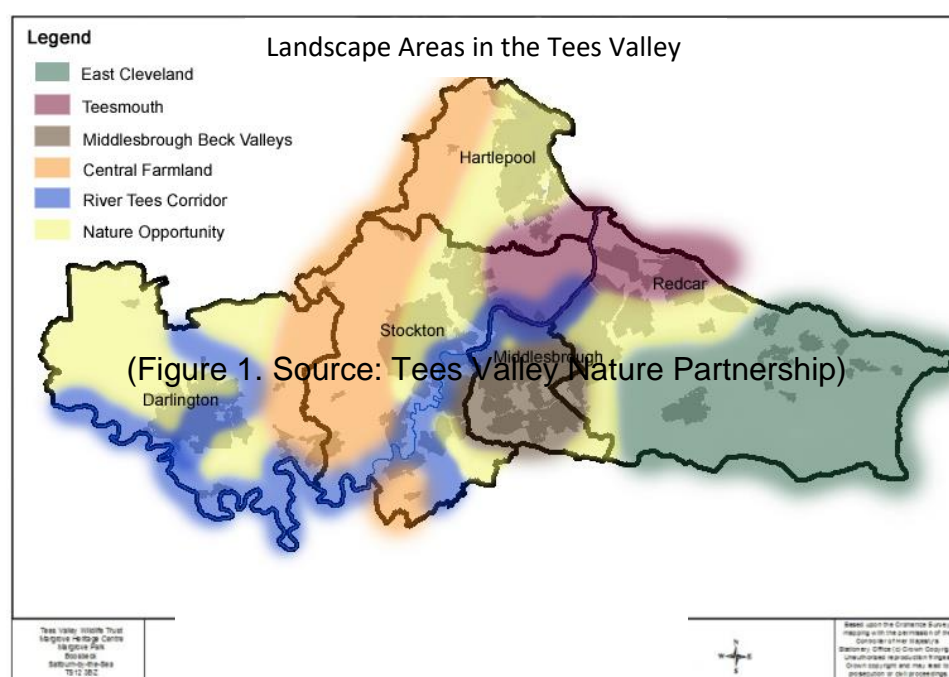
9	Create a quality, distinctive and productive GI network to support local food production, rural diversification and tourism to meet the needs of local businesses, landowners and to provide a diverse employment base.
10	Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, play spaces and woodlands, are, where possible, linked by means of safe and easily accessible green networks and rights of way that together form a high quality GI grid across the whole of the borough.



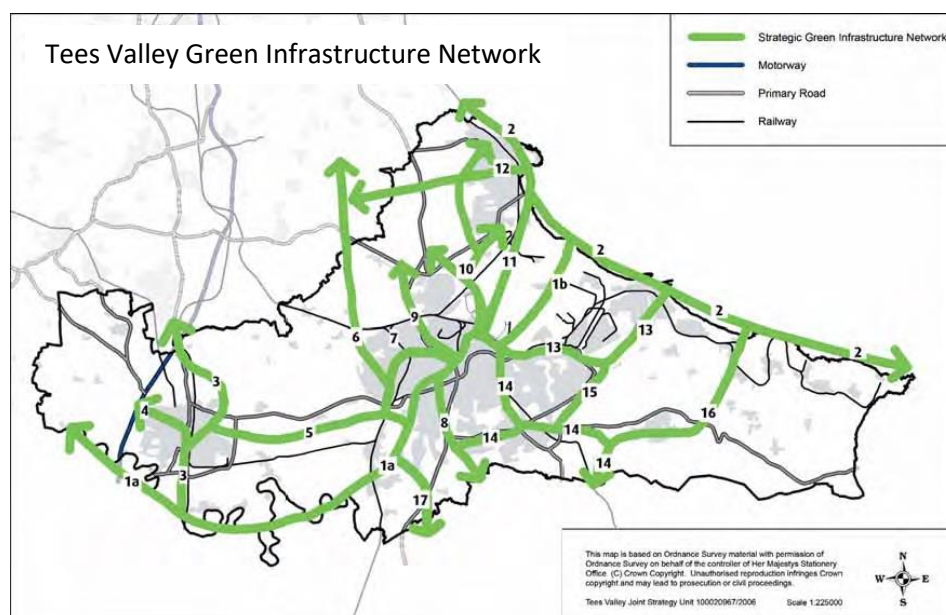
Image 3: Rossmere Park

5 Strategic Green Infrastructure – Ensuring Sufficient Links within Teesside

- 5.1 Quality of place, quality of life and the well-being of communities is considered central to regional and sub-regional competitiveness, alongside relocation and investment decisions. It is recognised that the region's green spaces are a vital asset, particularly in the context of increasing development pressures, and that GI is increasingly acknowledged as being a key component of sustainable communities.
- 5.2 The Tees Valley Nature Partnership produced a diagrammatic map illustrating the six distinct landscape areas in the Tees Valley.

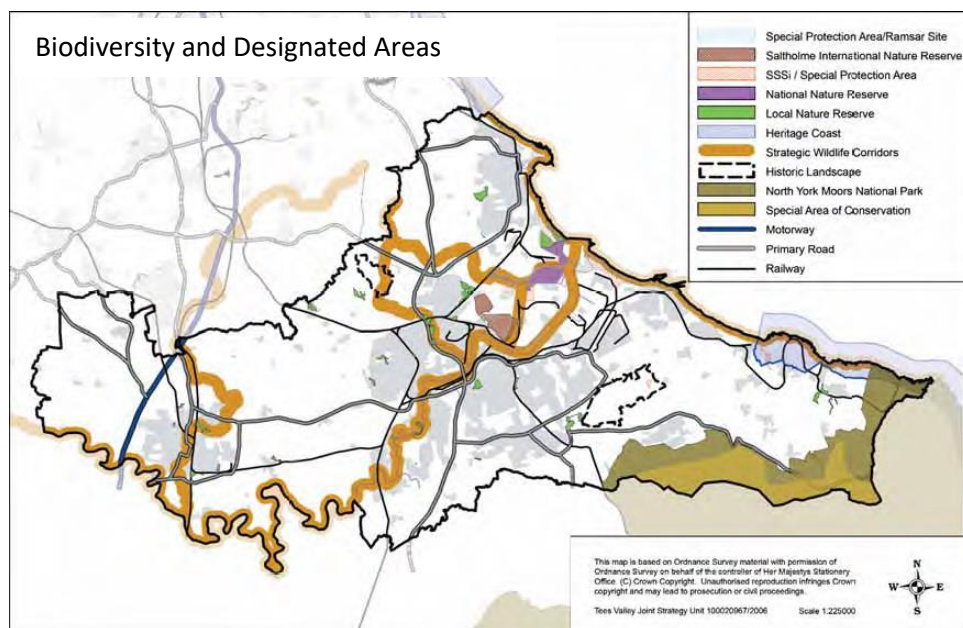


- 5.3 The Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy (2008) helps to drive forward the development of a strategic network of GI across the Tees Valley and reflects links into neighbouring areas. It is important that, in developing a GI strategy, the wider aspirations of the Tees Valley and other neighbouring authorities are taken into account and reflected within Hartlepool. Figure 2, below, illustrates the key green networks in the Tees Valley.

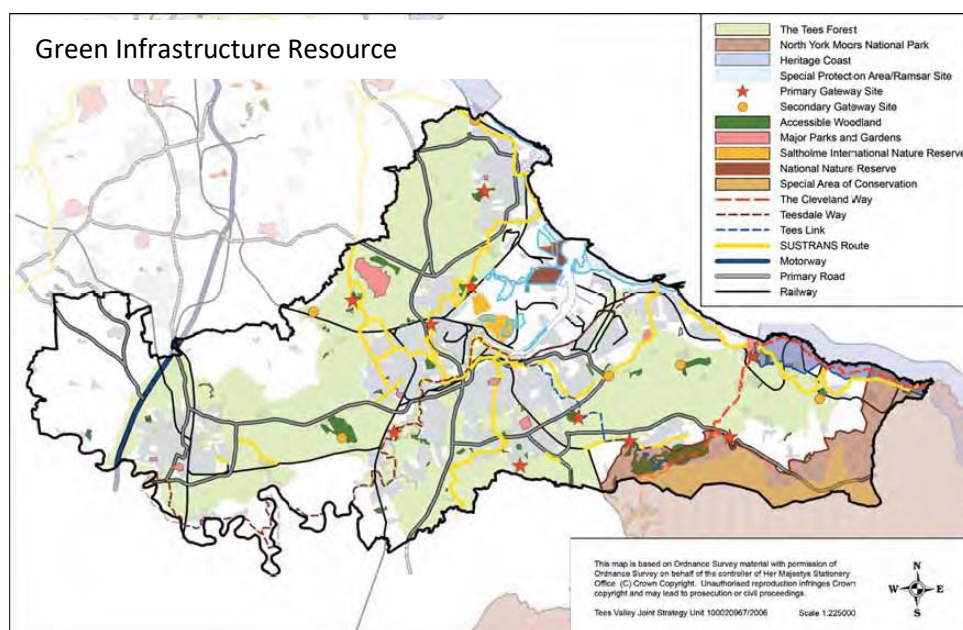


(Figure 2. Source Tees Valley GI Strategy 2008)

- 5.4 The key networks as illustrated above also fit together with many other elements of GI which help to create a Tees Valley which is rich in terms of all aspects of GI including biodiversity, landscape, habitat, green corridors, wetlands and more.
- 5.5 Figures 3 and 4 below help to illustrate the variety of GI which the Tees Valley benefits from. The continual protection and enhancement of GI must respect and complement the GI in the wider region. This strategic understanding of GI in the wider region enables recognition of any weaknesses in the network which could be improved in the future, and helps identify any opportunities to build new GI.



(Figure 3. Source Tees Valley GI Strategy 2008)

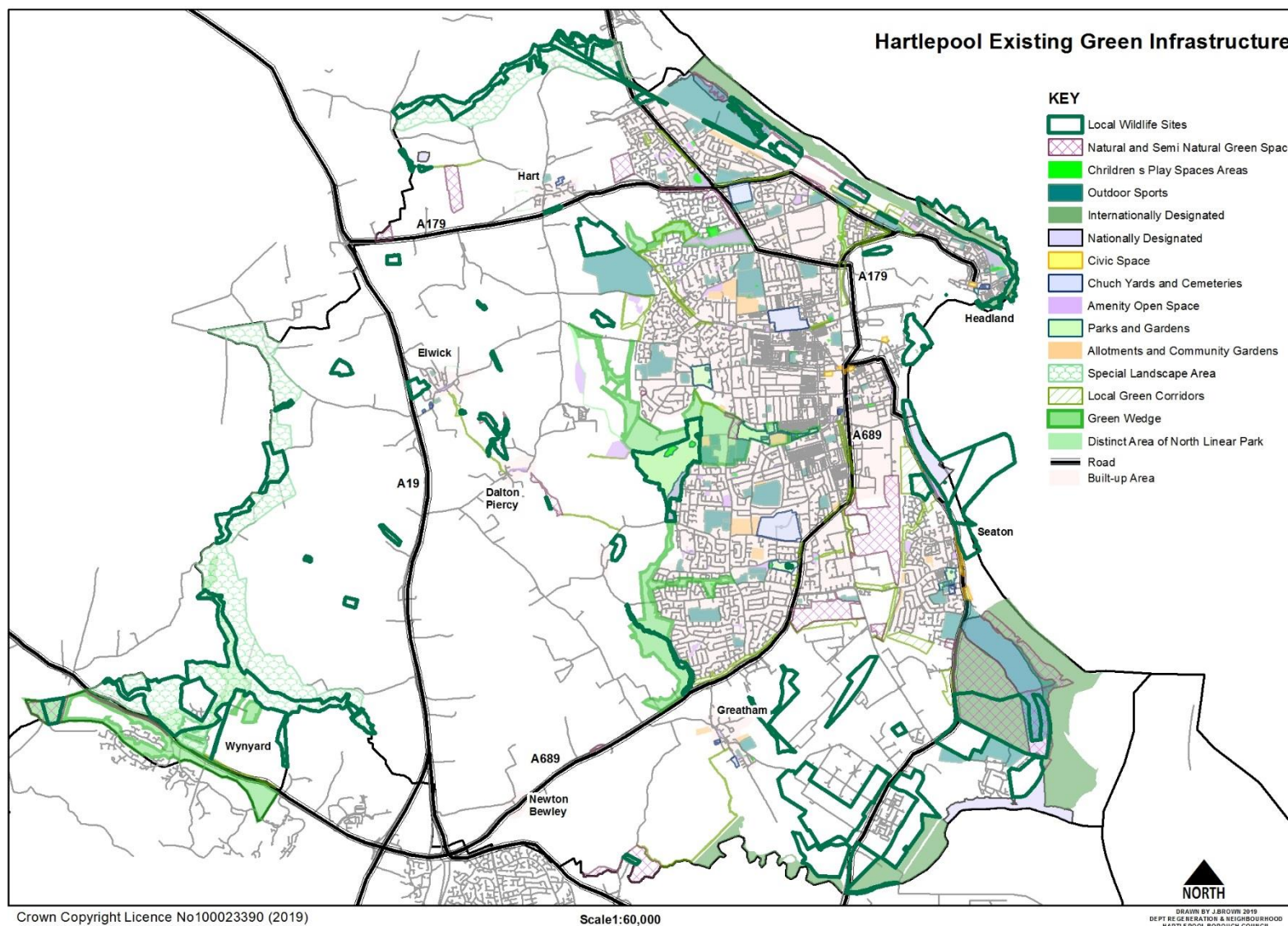


(Figure 4. Source Tees Valley GI Strategy 2008)

6 Existing Green Infrastructure in Hartlepool

- 6.1 This section provides a brief introduction to existing GI within Hartlepool. More information on areas that are in need of investment can be found within the accompanying Action Plan.
- 6.2 Hartlepool currently benefits from a wide range of GI spread across the borough. This ranges from traditional parks such as Ward Jackson and Rossmere, to significant green wedges running from the countryside into the town, to individual gardens.
- 6.3 Individual elements of GI are protected under policy NE2 of the Local Plan, and the accompanying policies map identifies GI components as being; green wedges, parks and gardens, children's playing space/areas, outdoor sport including playing fields, local green corridors, civic spaces, churchyards and cemeteries, allotments and community gardens, amenity open space and natural and semi-natural green space.
- 6.4 Map 1 presents the borough-wide GI network and the larger individual elements which it comprises of.

Map 1 (borough wide GI network)



The Coast

- 6.5 Hartlepool has around 15km of coastline that faces the North Sea, with another 2km along its southern border at Seaton Channel. Access to the coastal areas is a priority as they are used by large numbers of people for various recreational purposes throughout the year. The section of the England Coast Path (designated as a National Trail) through the entire borough has been completed and was officially opened in September 2019.
- 6.6 Much of the coastline can be accessed along beaches or through the dunes, although dunes are dynamic systems which can easily be damaged. Currently there is limited access around Victoria Harbour and Seaton Channel due to industrial and commercial uses.

Ward Jackson Park

- 6.7 The park was provided by public money in 1883 to commemorate one of Hartlepool's greatest entrepreneurs, Ralph Ward Jackson. It is an important example of a Victorian public park and strongly linked to the buildings surrounding it, which sets the tone and reinforces the Arcadian principles of the area. Ward Jackson Park continues to play a crucial role in the provision of attractive green space in the west of the town, acting as a focal point for residents and visitors to enjoy. This is a Registered Park and Garden which, as a designated heritage asset, gives it extra protection.

Rossmere Park

- 6.8 This park forms an important element of the Owton Manor Green Wedge. Set in an urban residential area, the park incorporates open-grassed areas, trees, a lake, an all-weather pitch and fixed equipment playground (for toddlers and teenagers). The park is used for both formal and informal sport and recreation. This park is locally listed and therefore identified as a heritage asset, which highlights the significant positive impact that this park has on the surrounding area.

Seaton Carew

- 6.9 Seaton Park is 16 acres in size and provides a range of facilities for users including a play area, tennis courts, a bowling green, flower gardens and open grassed areas. The large areas of informal open space provide the setting of the Seaton Carew Conservation Area forming a green swathe separating the buildings from the coast.
- 6.10 There are other less formal areas of public open space in Seaton Carew that play an important part in offering different types of green space in the area. For example areas such as the Green, which is a formal green space within a residential area and provides an amenity space for those in surrounding houses and also contributes to the setting of a number of heritage assets in the area.

Owton Manor Green Wedge

- 6.11 This green wedge runs from the rural fringe at Owton Manor through to Rossmere Park in the east. The eastern edge of the wedge, including the Park and the recreation ground on Rossmere Way are major assets to this area of the town and provide space for recreational and sporting activities.
- 6.12 The western end of this green wedge is predominately green open space with some recently planted woodland. This area suffers from anti-social behaviour, including use by motorbikes and quad bikes, which causes significant damage to amenity grassed area. However, due to the general lack of GI in the south of the town, it is of great value to the residents.

Burn Valley Green Wedge Inc. Summerhill Country Park

- 6.13 The Burn Valley Green Wedge runs from the centre of town out to the countryside. This 19 acre park includes three bowling greens, a bowling pavilion, Ornamental gardens, and playground. It provides a walk from the town centre to Family Wood and on to open countryside. Summerhill Country Park is recognised as an area of local importance and provides a valuable space for residents and visitors. Burn Valley Gardens is recognised as having great importance in the borough and thus has been locally listed.
- 6.14 Previous work on the site saw the improvement in the environmental quality and landscape of the upper stretch of the Burn Valley Green Wedge through habitat creation and restoration thereby creating more “wild places and natural spaces” within easy reach of the urban population.

Middle Warren Green Wedge

- 6.15 This green wedge is an integral element of the Middle Warren housing development that has built out over the past 20 years. This forms a green corridor running through to Easington Road. The east of the green wedge is more natural with mature trees, which leads into the section that has been formed as part of the development. A stream forms an attractive feature, and its course has been diversified in order to help form wetland areas and to slow water flow in times of high rainfall.
- 6.16 Extensive tree planting has taken place over the years and a network of footpaths allows users to enjoy a variety of routes through the green wedge, and partake in walking, cycling and running. A children’s play area to the south of Merlin Way has provided further recreational provision within the area.

Wynyard Woods Green Wedge

- 6.17 The green wedge at Wynyard Woods helps to provide an attractive setting for the executive housing at Wynyard. It provides green space with some tree planting, which provides recreational space including for dog walking. In line with future development in the area there is an aspiration to extend the green wedge through to link with the Castle Eden Walkway.

Golden Flatts Green Wedge

- 6.18 Currently this area is a semi-natural area of land which acts as a buffer between housing on Seaton Lane and the steel pipe mill. This area incorporates sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) ponds associated with housing development on Seaton Lane. This area is seen as one of great opportunity and there are aspirations for a development which would incorporate new woodland, new ponds, walking routes, play space and pitch provision.

North Linear Park

- 6.19 Within the northern area of the borough there are a number of elements of individual green space, such as the Town Moor on the Headland, Central Park, a green corridor on Central Estate and Clavering play area, alongside areas of accessible coastline and countryside. These all contribute towards the overall GI within the northern area of the town and are collectively known as North Linear Park. There needs to be better connectivity to ensure the individual elements of the North Linear Park can be used in conjunction.

Rural Hartlepool

- 6.20 The rural area covers more than half of the borough's total area, with the majority of the public and permissive rights of way path network located there. These paths are relied upon for leisure as well as access to and from work and local amenities. A major issue with the rights of way network in the rural area is the A19 dual carriageway, which severs many routes and adds a degree of danger to those walking routes where they need to cross this road.
- 6.21 The majority of these pathways link into a wide range of the borough's green spaces infrastructure and these vital links provide access to and from the open spaces and form part of a wider network.

Allotments

- 6.22 There are a number of allotments spread throughout the town which provide a valuable amenity for local residents, allowing for the production of fresh fruit and vegetables. This is not only beneficial in health terms but also helps economically. The allotments across the town vary in quality and maintenance, however on the whole the spaces are well cared for by tenants and considered to be an asset to those who use them.

Cemeteries

- 6.23 The principle role of cemeteries is clear and must be respected and pre-eminent in their use, however it is also acknowledged that they provide extensive areas of attractive green space which can have important secondary benefits. It is noted that there are active cemeteries, which include Stranton and West View, and those which are predominantly full such as North Cemetery. Spion Kop cemetery is of sub-regional importance for the coastal grassland that is found there and this has been recognised in its designation as a Local Nature Reserve

APPENDIX 3

in 2004. North Cemetery is a 12.6 hectare area of wooded greenspace in an area that is surrounded by dense housing and is very well used by local residents for walking. Seaton Cemetery is a popular birdwatching site due to mature trees creating a migrant staging post on the coast.

7 Natural Environment

- 7.1 This chapter of the SPD details the natural environment features that are present within the borough. Some elements of the natural environment form informal, crucial parts of the GI network and their conservation is essential.

Biodiversity

- 7.2 The borough contains several priority habitats and species as defined by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 41 list of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England, and the Tees Valley Nature Partnership priority habitats and species. The potential for development to impact on these species is a material planning consideration and should where appropriate be considered during pre-planning investigations and planning application validation.
- 7.3 Many non-designated areas of green space have wildlife value, but these are generally small, isolated and widely dispersed. Expanding and linking these areas is a key objective in restoring biodiversity and allowing species to respond to climate change. The potential for development to impact on these areas is a material planning consideration.

Nature conservation site designation

- 7.4 The most valuable wildlife sites are protected by legal and planning designations, from European Special Protection Areas to Local Wildlife Sites, as detailed in Local Plan policy NE1. Many species of plant and animal have legal protection in their own right. Important geological sites are also protected. Sites are in both public and private ownership. Information on designated sites can be found in Appendix 3 and on the Natural England and council websites. The potential for development to impact on these areas is a material planning consideration.

Priority Habitats

- 7.5 There is a concentration of priority habitats within the Tees estuary (Teesmouth) all along the coastline and in the extensive dene complex in the north of the borough. There are fewer (generally smaller) sites scattered across open farmland. A number of sites are within the town and urban fringe. The potential for development to impact on these areas is a material planning consideration.
- 7.6 Teesmouth contains areas of estuary-related habitats such as mudflats, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and sand dunes. It includes sites of international importance for over-wintering and breeding wildfowl and wetland birds. There are several areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, the largest being at Greenabella Marsh and Seaton Common. The Hart Warren and Seaton Dunes areas have extensive sand dunes. Mudflats are found

along the north banks of Greatham Creek and Seaton Channel and in West Harbour. Remnants of saltmarsh occur along the north bank of Greatham Creek.

- 7.7 'Previously used' brownfield (or open mosaic) habitat is centred upon areas which were formerly subject to industrial use around the town and these support plant, butterfly and amphibian species.
- 7.8 There are extensive woodland complexes along the northern and south-western boundaries of the borough. Semi-natural ancient woodland is found in the Nesbitt, Thorpe Bulmer and Crimdon Denes complex on the northern boundary with Durham and at the Howls in Dalton Piercy. The Wynyard Woodland Park Complex in the south west of the borough contains some semi-natural ancient woodland, along with broadleaved mixed woodland and wet woodland.
- 7.9 Habitats found scattered across the open farmland include grasslands, fens, ponds and hedgerows. Some hedgerows are 'species-rich'. Semi-natural grasslands are mostly associated with slopes. Within the farmed hinterland of Hartlepool there are six fens and bogs, the most important being Hart Bog, which has a glacial origin.
- 7.10 Priority habitat ponds are mostly found in the urban and industrial areas of the borough, with a few isolated ponds scattered across farmland. The majority of these ponds meet the priority pond criteria and often support amphibians such as common toad, smooth newt and great crested newt.

Geological features

- 7.11 The coastline has several important geological features: Hartlepool Submerged Forest, Hartlepool Headland and Long Scar and Little Scar. Inland, there are notable geological sites at Dalton Batts and West Crimdon Dene and in four quarries. The potential for development to impact on these areas is a material planning consideration.

Priority species

- 7.12 The northern denes and Crookfoot Reservoir support good numbers of bats and harvest mouse is present near Hart Village and probably elsewhere. There is a population of harbour seal centred upon Seal Sands and they often move along Seaton Channel and haul out along Greatham Creek. Grey seals occur but do not breed. Brown hares occur on both brownfield sites and in farmland, but badgers are scarce. Once widespread, the water vole is now scarce within the borough, however otters have become more common.
- 7.13 Breeding populations of bird species of key importance in the Tees Valley are present within the farmland to the west of Hartlepool. Most of these species are also UK Biodiversity 2020 conservation priority species. Over recent years the Teesmouth population of little egrets has increased substantially,

with birds roosting in Rossmere Park and the species now breeds in the borough. Most of the coastline is important for non-breeding/overwintering bird populations, and there are international and national designations to protect these. A colony of protected little terns annually nest on the beach.

- 7.14 Small populations of great crested newts are scattered across the borough. Common toads and frogs are widespread and smooth newt is abundant in some ponds.
- 7.15 Common Lizard is the only reptile found in the borough, though this species has not been recorded for over ten years.
- 7.16 A number of priority butterflies occur, especially those dependent on grasslands and brownfield sites, such as dingy skipper, small heath and grayling. Several woodlands with elm trees support white-letter hairstreak butterflies and some with oaks support purple hairstreaks. Recent butterfly colonists include brown argus, silver-washed fritillary and dark-green fritillary, demonstrating how insects are responding to climate change.

Environmental education and green tourism

- 7.17 Local Nature Reserves are specifically places that the public can access to appreciate or learn about wildlife, and other publically accessible sites add to people's experience of nature. The coastal network of wildlife and publically accessible sites continues northwards into County Durham and southwards to RSPB Saltholme.

Waterways and Wetlands

- 7.18 Some small watercourses run along the public right of way network or are otherwise accessible. There are also several artificial ponds and wetlands which have been created, adding to the visual appeal and wildlife value of the areas where they are located. These waterbodies are one of the ways in which the GI in the borough links together and they play a vital part in the setting and quality of green spaces, corridors and natural habitats.
- 7.19 Opportunities to improve the quality and accessibility of watercourses will be sought, and the creation and enhancement of features will be promoted for the benefit to wildlife and also to assist with flood alleviation. Opportunities to diversify watercourses, particularly within the urban areas, as part of the redevelopment of sites will be sought where it is considered the benefits of this are justified.

Alleviating Flood Risk

- 7.20 There is the potential for GI to include planned new water management facilities, which can include balancing ponds and water storage areas.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can provide GI elements as well as addressing surface water drainage issues.

8 Historic Environment

- 8.1 The historic environment not only provides a valuable resource, but many tangible and intangible benefits to GI. It can help define a place and connect people to traditions and values. Such concepts can be used to animate areas and help to create or regenerate neighbourhoods and communities. The historic environment can provide “ready-made” GI that underpins other benefits/agendas. For example, the formal space of Ward Jackson Park acts as an essential element of GI to local residents, but also allows for people to experience the historic environment, and is listed as a Registered Park and Garden in recognition of this.
- 8.2 GI can be an important mechanism for protecting heritage assets and their landscape settings and for increasing public access to and appreciation of them. Heritage assets are considered as being irreplaceable resources and GI can be planned appropriately in order to sufficiently safeguard and enhance them. At the same time, the historic environment can add greatly to the richness, scope, diversity and physical extent of GI networks.

9 Regeneration and Green Infrastructure

- 9.1 GI will play a role in the regeneration projects in Hartlepool through improving people's experience of the town centre. This will be through interventions or improvements in small-scale green spaces, urban trees and green public spaces, as well as contributing to 'experience lines' that will reinforce connectivity and movement throughout the town. This is deemed as being valuable in increasing economic activity and investment in the town.
- 9.2 Through these improvements, GI is expected to support the development of people's sense of community through extending dwell times and providing spaces for community congregation for events and activities.
- 9.3 An example of a regeneration project with integrated GI is at the Brenda Road corridor. The utilisation of landmark features, the treatment of external estate boundaries and improved wayfinding into the numerous industrial estates is an opportunity to develop GI in this area. Addressing the quality of this GI would be aimed at retaining and attracting businesses, encouraging private sector investment and improve the sense of place between estates and throughout this area.

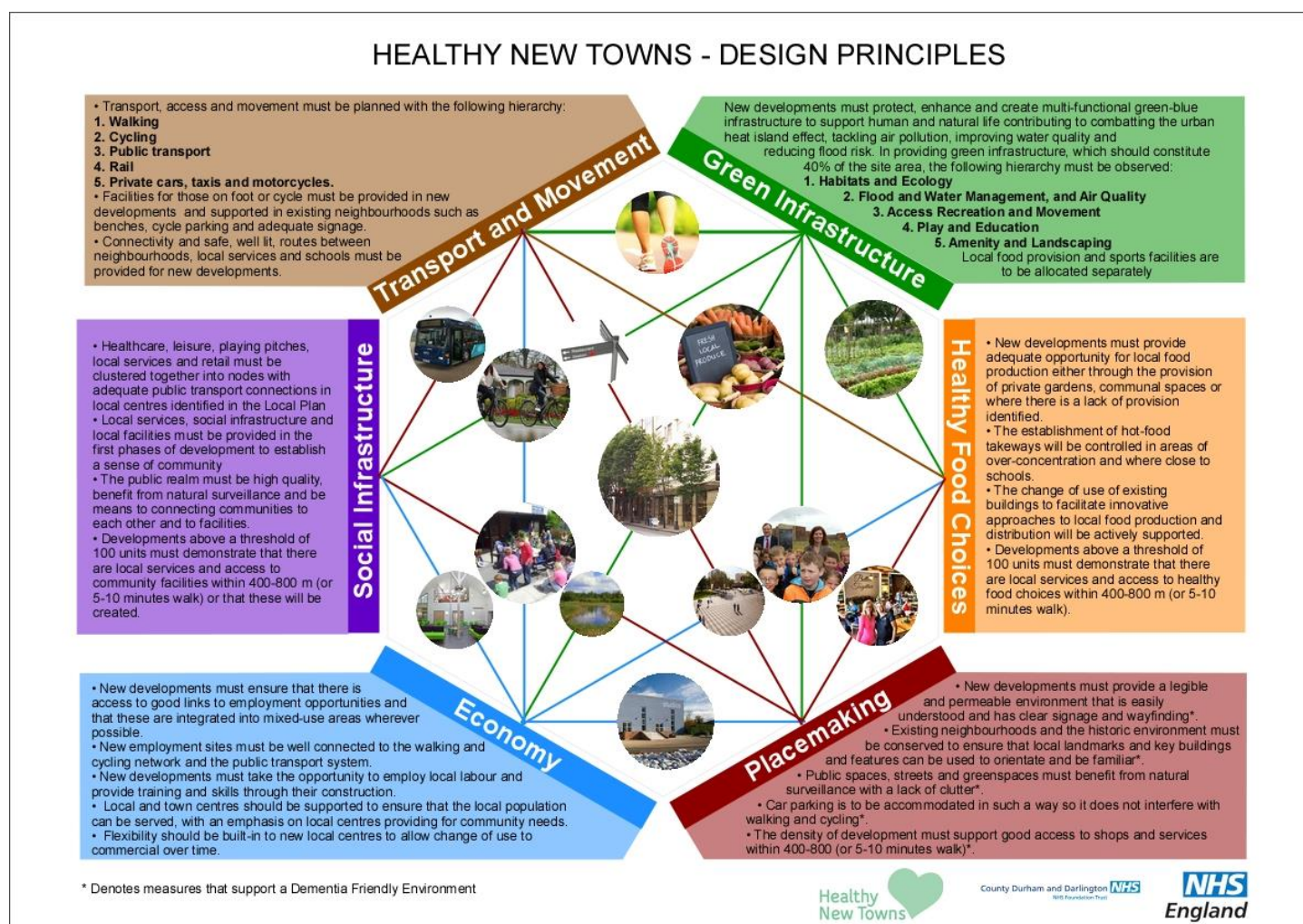
10 Innovative Ideas for Green Infrastructure

- 10.1 GI can be incorporated in a way that is not always seemingly obvious. Although provisions for parks and large green spaces are very important, it is possible to be innovative regarding small pockets of space within the borough.
- 10.2 Successful ideas are ones which make the most of space which may currently be run down, lacking attention or may be unsuitable for alternative uses. There are potential opportunities to develop areas like these to make them an asset to the community, and to improve the overall aesthetic and visual amenity of the area.
- 10.3 Areas with pockets of green are considered as being more desirable, and pockets of green can be developed and enhanced in easy ways such as tree planting, creation of community gardens, multisensory gardens, green roofs, green walls etc. An example of a ‘pocket park’ in the borough is at Thornton Street, where a small area has been transformed through using trees, grass and pathways. This acts as a welcome burst of green within a predominantly residential area.
- 10.4 Some ways in which GI can be incorporated into specific areas include:
- Urban areas: boulevards, green roofs and walls, street trees
 - Community centres/hubs: sustainable buildings with green roofs, rainwater collection, community gardens, green provision for relaxation and socialising
 - Green wedges: trees, green spaces, waterways, pedestrian and cycle routes
 - Small holdings: allotments, shared gardens, learning zones
 - Parks: accessible habitats and green spaces, activity zones, tree, shrub and flower planting
 - Housing developments: spaces for relaxation and healthy living, neighbourhood gardens, on-site fruit/vegetable patches, tree lined streets and garden space
- 10.5 There are many different opportunities for the provision of GI in the borough, and developers are encouraged to use their initiative to enable the creation of places which are healthy, attractive and desirable to users.

11 Green Infrastructure within Future Developments

- 11.1 There are several large and mid-sized up and coming housing developments that are factored into the Local Plan. It is of key importance that these contribute where necessary towards the borough's GI and factor it into their design when necessary.
- Urban Local Plan sites: GI within these sites will aid in reducing the appearance of crowded urban areas through the provision of street trees, hedges etc.
 - South West extension: approx. 48.22 ha of multifunctional GI will be provided within a strategic wedge within the development.
 - High Tunstall: 12.00 of multifunctional GI will be provided within a strategic green wedge within the development.
 - Quarry Farm: 3.00 ha of multifunctional GI will be provided on this site.
 - Wynyard developments: The Wynyard Masterplan sets out a green network within the area which will be delivered by developments as they come forward.
 - Elwick village: 0.40 ha of GI, informal open space and recreational and leisure land is required to be provided.
 - Hart village: the remainder of undeveloped land at both Nine Acres and Glebe Farm developments will be used for GI.
- 11.2 This provision for GI has been factored in to provide visual, social and environmental benefits, ensuring that the communities who live in these new developments can boost their quality of life and benefit from easily accessible greenspace close to their homes. It will also avoid overdevelopment within these areas, eliminating the potential for undesirable and overcrowded estates.
- 11.3 It is of key importance that all these developments deliver these GI requirements. Further information on this can be found in Chapter 10 of the Local Plan, with each housing site having its own relevant policy.
- 11.4 It is expected that GI is factored in at the earliest design stage of all developments, which will encourage it to be incorporated organically into designs.
- 11.5 Developers should be aware of the benefits that come from taking initiative in relation to making provisions for GI on-site. Successful developments are considered as those which are aesthetically pleasing, with plenty of amenity green space built into the development and adequate paths alongside provision of cycle lanes. These small enhancements to a site, if factored in from the earliest stage, will in turn lead to the site becoming a much more

desirable place to live, and will improve the physical and mental health of the residents, as well as contributing to the sustainability of the site.



(Figure 5. Source: NHS England)

11.6 This diagram was produced by the Healthy New Towns pioneering project, which aims to work with the NHS and local authorities to shape the health of communities. It provides a clear vision of how GI links into other factors which contribute towards healthy and thriving places which include healthy food choices, place making, economy, social infrastructure and transport and movement. It is evident that GI plays a crucial role in mitigating environmental impacts but also its provision can lead to many multi-functional benefits such as opportunities for local food production, an increased pride of place, sustainable links to employment and improved health of residents.

11.7 Although these design principles were engineered for the Healthy New Towns project, they provide a good basis for things which developers can factor into schemes in order to make them a better place in general for residents and visitors.

12 Planning Obligations and Green Infrastructure

- 12.1 Related council documents which developers are encouraged to read regarding planning obligations are:
- 2018 Local Plan
 - Emerging Public Rights of Way & other Access SPD
 - Planning Obligations SPD
- 12.2 Paragraph 56 of the NPPF highlights that any obligations sought by the council are required to be:
- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
 - Directly related to the development; and
 - Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development
- 12.3 The council will seek to ensure that any GI contributions that are requested of the developer meet these criteria.
- 12.4 Residential development of 5 units minimum are expected to contribute £250 per dwelling towards the provision of green infrastructure.
- 12.5 Developments falling within an A1 use class in planning terms are expected to contribute £20,000 for the initial 500sqm of A1 retail space, and an increase of £1,000 per additional 100sqm of A1 floor space. This applies for new build and change of use.
- 12.6 Developments falling within a B1 use class in planning terms are expected to contribute £5,000 for the initial 1000sqm of B1 floor space and an increase of £1,000 per additional 100sqm of floor space. This applies for new build and change of use.
- 12.7 Any other developments are assessed on a case by case basis, and an officer will determine whether GI contributions are considered necessary to mitigate the impacts of the development, or to make the development sustainable.
- 12.8 Advice on proposed development can be obtained from the council for a small charge through its One Stop Shop pre-application advice service.

13 Investment in and Management of Green Infrastructure

- 13.1 Ongoing investment is critical to GI to ensure that all forms are provided to the best possible standard. The council continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders in order to access various sources of funding, alongside council funding, in order to aid in the provision, enhancement and maintenance of GI.
- 13.2 The information and records held by the council help to identify areas of greatest need and are used to help inform the Action Plan for investment in GI.
- 13.3 Contributions which can be secured as part of the planning process on applications for development, particularly housing, can be used, within the vicinity of those developments, to seek improvements to GI which are considered necessary as a result of those developments and to ensure their sustainability.
- 13.4 For most forms of publicly accessible GI in the borough, the council is the main organisation with the responsibility for the maintenance and management of these spaces including parks and gardens, play areas, the beaches and coastal margins and the green wedges. The delivery of new GI must be considered against the long term maintenance liabilities it will bring. Less intensive management regimes, such as wildflower meadows or woodland planting can deliver cost savings as well as being of great benefit to biodiversity and should be considered where appropriate. Sometimes in new development the land owner may put in place a management organisation which maintains areas of green infrastructure within developments and residents pay an annual fee towards the running of the management company. The long term management of GI in a development where appropriate will be secured through a relevant planning obligation.

14 Monitoring and Review

14.1 It is important to the success of this Strategy that measures are put in place to:

- Evaluate the impact the Strategy is having;
- Monitor delivery of the Action Plan; and
- Use this information to review both the Strategy and Action Plan in the medium and long term.
-

14.2 This SPD contains a number of priorities and actions which will contribute to the achievement of this SPD's vision and objectives. The success of GI projects will be based on if they can meet any/all of the objectives in the document, and if the benefits of such schemes can be openly recognised.

Appendix 1 Glossary of Key Terms

Accessible greenspace: space for the public to use free of charge and without time restrictions; some spaces may be closed overnight.

Ancient woodland: woodland that has existed continuously since 1600 or before.

Biodiversity: variety of life including different plants, animals and micro-organisms, and the ecosystems which they are part of.

Climate change: effect of global warming on weather conditions and unpredictable variations in temperatures.

Conservation area: area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance

Ecosystem: interactions between living organisms and their physical environment.

Green corridor: linear green space connecting different types of greenspace, can incorporate walking and cycling routes. Most are also wildlife corridors.

Green infrastructure: strategically planned and delivered interconnecting, visually linked network of public and private multifunctional green spaces, landscapes and natural environments in the urban and rural area used for recreation, biodiversity and food production, which supports natural, cultural and ecological processes, with benefits for people, wildlife and place.

Green wedge: open area between neighbourhoods which helps to maintain their separate distinctive qualities.

Heritage asset: a building, monument, site, place or area of landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.

Landscape: consistent, distinct pattern of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and settlements.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR): designated by the council and Natural England for its special local wildlife or geological value and which provide people with opportunities to learn about nature or enjoy it.

Multifunctionality: the ability of a space to perform more than one greenspace function at the same time.

Priority habitats and species: protected by national legislation because of their vulnerable status.

Public Rights of Way: includes public footpaths, bridleways and byways where the public have a right to use them at any time.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens: protected by English Heritage as being of special historic interest.

Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs): this is green space that is of a quality and type suitable to be used as mitigation for development likely to affect special protection areas.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): protected by the Government it is of national importance for wildlife, geology or geomorphology.

Special Protection Area (SPA): internationally designated wildlife site.

Surface water run-off: excess rainwater, or from drains that flow over land.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): reduce and slow the quantity and rate of surface water run-off from new development, dealing with it as close to the source as possible.

Wildlife corridor: linear greenspace that provides links for wildlife dispersal and movement, can have wider amenity benefits.

Wildlife friendly greenspace: space where naturalness dominates.

Appendix 2 Green Infrastructure as a result of Planning Obligations

Below is a list of some GI projects that have been secured or implemented across the borough as a result of money pooled from Section 106 planning obligations, or conditions that have been imposed on developers.

- Surface track, woodlands planting within Golden Flatts Green Wedge
- Contributions toward Ward Jackson Park
- Provision of GI at various small sites in the borough adjacent to development
- Greatham Village allotment improvements
- Two new footpaths near Quarry Farm
- Croft Gardens improvements
- Coastal footpath improvements between Newburn Bridge and Marina
- Chester Road Thornhill Gardens Allotments
- Development of public footpath between South Valley Drive and Summerhill

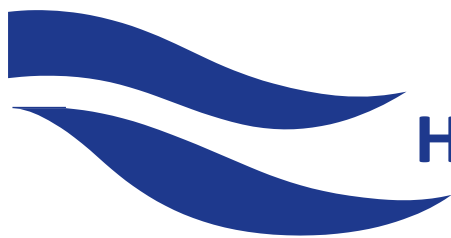
Appendix 3 Designated statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites in Hartlepool

Hartlepool Local Authority: Designated Sites		
Statutory designated sites (National)	Site Name	Reason for Designation
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	Non-breeding populations of knot, redshank and sandwich tern and a breeding population of little tern. Also designated for waterbird assemblage of 20,000 birds.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Teesmouth	Covers two areas: North Gare, an area of dunes and grazing marsh north of the power station and Seal Sands, one of the largest areas of intertidal mudflats on England's north-east coast.
Ramsar site (Wetland of international importance)	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	Populations of redshank and knot occurring at levels of international importance; assemblages of waterfowl of international importance with peak counts in winter.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI	This site was notified in 2019 and amalgamated 7 existing SSSIs in the borough and the wider Tees Valley.
Local non-statutory designated sites	Site Name	Reason for Designation
Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Hartlepool Power Station Grassland and Wetland	Common Lizard
LWS	Black Wood Marsh	Fens, Flushes
LWS	Hart Warren Railway Embankment Grassland	Neutral Grasslands; Coastal Grasslands
LWS	Hart-Haswell Walkway	Butterflies; Common Lizard; Neutral Grasslands; Calcareous Grasslands
LWS	Crimdon Road Verge	Calcareous Grasslands; Common Lizard
LWS	Pawton Hill Gill Grassland	Neutral Grasslands, Fens, Flushes
LWS	Beacon Hill Flush	Fens, Flushes
LWS	Crookfoot Reservoir	Water Body
LWS	Amerston Gill Woodland	Broad-leaved Woodland and Replanted Ancient Woodland

LWS	Thorpe Bulmer and West Crimdon Denes	Ancient Woodland
LWS	Greenabella Marsh	Water Vole; Common Lizard
LWS	Close Wood Complex	Ancient Woodland; Broad-leaved Woodland and Replanted Ancient Woodland; Breeding/Wintering Birds; Important Butterflies
LWS	North Burn Marsh	Fens, Flushes
LWS	The Howls Woodland	Ancient Woodland
LWS	Carr House Sands and West Harbour	Wintering population of birds
LWS	West Carr Plantation	Wet Woodland
LWS	Greatham Creek North Bank Saltmarsh	Saltmarsh
LWS	Crimdon Road Verge	Neutral Grasslands
LWS	Tilery Gill Grassland	Fens, Flushes; Neutral Grasslands
LWS	Phillips Tank Farm Grassland	Urban Grassland; Great Crested Newt; Important Butterflies; Water Vole
LWS	The Slake Saltmarsh	Saltmarsh
LWS	Bellows Burn Marsh	Fens, Flushes
LWS	Greatham Beck	Water Vole
LWS	Elwick Hall Grassland	Neutral Grasslands
LWS	Hart Quarry	Breeding/Wintering Birds
LWS	Brierton Quarry Grassland	Neutral Grassland
LWS	Saltern Saltmarsh	Saltmarsh
LWS	Gunnersvale Marsh	Fens, Flushes
LWS	Tot Fenny's Meadow	Neutral Grasslands; Fens, Flushes
LWS	Queen's Meadow Wetland	Amphibians
LWS	Rossmere Park Island Heronry	Breeding/Wintering Birds
LWS	Brenda Road Brownfield	Great Crested Newt; Urban Grassland
LWS	Zinc Works Bird Field	Wintering Population of Birds; Breeding/Wintering Birds

LWS	Spion Kop Cemetery Grassland	Coastal Grasslands
LWS	Hart Cutting Grassland	Calcareous Grasslands
LWS	Hartville Meadow	Neutral Grasslands
LWS	Craddon Bank Grassland	Neutral Grasslands; Fens/Flushes
LWS	High Stofold Meadow	Neutral Grasslands
LWS	North Hartlepool Dunes	Coastal Grasslands
LWS	Char Beck Grassland	Neutral Grasslands
LWS	Butts Lane Field Margins	Harvest Mouse
LWS	Summerhill Country Park	Urban mosaic of hay meadows, hedgerows, ponds and planted trees
LWS	Central Park Grassland	Urban Grassland
LWS & Local Geological Site (LGS)	Naisberry Quarry Grassland	Neutral Grassland; disused quarry
LWS & LGS	Whelly Hill Quarry Grassland	Neutral Grassland; disused quarry
LGS	Long Scar & Little Scar	Two exposures of wave-washed scars consisting of Sherwood sandstone, from the Triassic period.
LGS	Hartlepool Headland	A wave washed platform, revealing exposures of Magnesian Limestone in a coastal zone environment.
LGS	Dalton Batts	A large river-cliff that reveals an excellent exposure of glacial sands, gravels and clay from the last glaciation.
LGS	West Crimdon Dene	Exposure of Magnesian Limestone in a river gorge environment.
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Hart to Haswell Walkway	Former railway line with a rich mix of magnesian limestone grassland, ponds, semi-mature and mature woodland.
LNR	Hart Warren	The only magnesium limestone dune system of any significance in the British Isles; supports a rich variety of both flora and fauna.
LNR	Spion Kop Cemetery	A mix of coastal, limestone and industrial heritage habitats that produces rich dune grassland unique in Hartlepool and rare within the Tees Valley.

LNR	Summerhill	This site combines recreation and conservation. The site has hay meadows, hedgerows, ponds and over 65,000 trees.
LNR	Greatham Beck	A small site providing a haven and wildlife corridor for many species including the Water Vole.
LNR	Seaton Dunes and Common	Seaton Common is a wet grassland which attracts large numbers of passage migrants over winter and is a breeding ground for birds in the summer months. Seaton Dunes is the largest sand dune system between Lindisfarne to the north and Humber to the south.
Other non-statutory designated sites	Site Name	Reason for Designation
Country Park	Summerhill Country Park	Managed Country Park and visitor centre (also a LWS)
RSPB Reserve	Saltholme	Managed reserve and visitor centre (in Stockton but links intrinsically with sites within Hartlepool)
Heritage Coast	Durham Heritage Coast	Extends down to the Headland. Landscape, biodiversity, heritage and public enjoyment.



Hartlepool Borough Council

Green Infrastructure Action Plan

Supplementary Planning Document

Final Version



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1 Introduction

What is the purpose of this document?

- 1.1 This document builds upon the information found in the main SPD regarding Green Infrastructure (GI) in the borough, and will set out areas of investment and improvement that are needed in the coming years to develop and grow the GI network in the borough. The improvements and schemes within this document will allow funding to be sought towards their implementation and will also be useful in directing developer contributions, which are acquired through planning applications, to schemes relevant to the application.
- 1.2 It should be noted that the schemes within this document are not the only schemes where contributions may be sought towards their implementation, they are simply the schemes which are most advanced. There are wider, more strategic aspirations which are equally as important in terms of the future delivery of GI in Hartlepool.
- 1.3 Where costs of schemes are available, these have been included.
- 1.4 It will be important that, where necessary, proposals for development or enhancement of GI will be developed in a way which will safeguard, enhance or even re-establish the assets. The involvement of key stakeholders in the development of GI will help to ensure that the proposals in this Action Plan are delivered in a sustainable manner, helping to ensure a better future for Hartlepool and its residents.
- 1.5 This Action Plan forms an integral part of the Green Infrastructure SPD and, once adopted, will form part of the Local Development Framework, linking with the Hartlepool Local Plan to drive forward the development of GI within the borough. It will enable the council to seek funding to help implement distinct elements of the Action Plan.

2 Vision and Objectives

Vision of SPD: *By 2029 Hartlepool will have a high quality, multifunctional, accessible green infrastructure network which enhances the community's quality of life and protects wildlife.*

APPENDIX 3

- 2.1 The following objectives link the vision to the rest of this Strategy. The projects identified in this Action Plan should achieve one or more of these objectives, to help deliver the vision.

Objective	Objective Description
1	Protect a high quality visual landscape and townscape, and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of Hartlepool's GI network to contribute positively to its distinctiveness.
2	Provide a network of interconnected GI and spaces rich in habitat and home to a diverse range of wildlife which also play a critical role in improving the health of residents through providing attractive opportunities for recreation and sustainable travel.
3	Minimise the impact of, and adapt to, the effects of climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of resources, the risk of flooding and pollution and provide for species adaptation by maximising the protection and creation of GI.
4	Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and expanding and linking habitats together, including working across council boundaries where appropriate, to assist in restoring biodiversity and allowing species to respond to climate change. SANGs will be used where necessary to take pressures off sensitive protected areas.
5	Ensure trees and hedges are protected throughout the borough and integrate planting schemes within all new developments and, on larger housing schemes, deliver new areas of woodland. The conservation of ancient woodland and veteran trees which are irreplaceable is imperative.
6	Protect and enhance a wide range of high quality opportunities for safe and accessible formal and informal sport, recreation and leisure facilities to encourage the community and visitors to undertake a variety of healthy exercise within attractive settings.
7	Involve users, including "friends of" groups, and neighbours in the design of GI, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of ownership and pride.
8	Support economic growth, attract inward investment and support redevelopment of brownfield land by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive GI.
9	Create a quality, distinctive and productive GI network to support local food production, rural diversification and tourism to meet the needs of local businesses, landowners and to provide a diverse employment base.
10	Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, place spaces and woodlands, are linked by means of safe and easily accessible green networks and rights of way that together form a high quality GI grid across the whole of the borough.

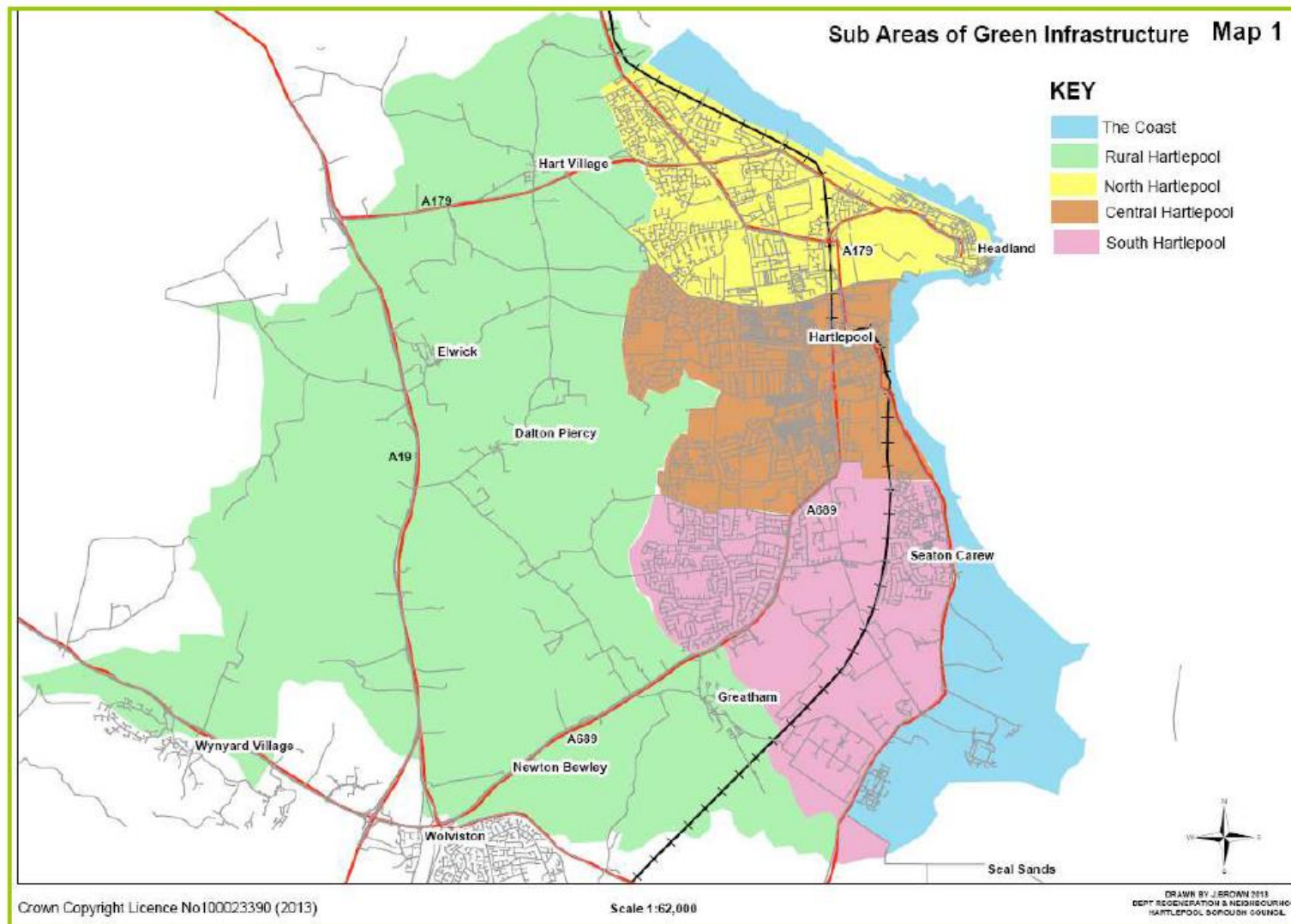


Image 1: Ward Jackson Park

3 Green Infrastructure Project Areas

- 3.1 This section splits the borough into main areas, and looks at project ideas and costs/resources (where available) which are needed over the coming years to develop the GI network within Hartlepool. In some cases, project designs are included to help aid visualisation of the potential improvements. Maps of corridors are also included to show the wider impact for areas of the town that certain projects could have in the future. Importantly, costs of improvements will be included, where known, to help secure funding packages which will be vital to the future development of GI. It must be acknowledged that these costs are estimated and could be subject to change.
- 3.2 Due to the large scale of a lot of the project areas in this document, the majority of works completed may be split down into phases or separate projects to ensure that work can be completed as and when funding is provided, to ensure the continual development of GI in Hartlepool.
- 3.3 The town has been split into sub areas to assess the GI within these areas, but will also consider how the sub areas are linked together by GI. The sub areas are:
1. The Coast and its Margins
 2. Rural Hartlepool
 3. North Hartlepool
 4. Central Hartlepool
 5. South Hartlepool
- 3.4 These areas are shown on Map 1 on the following page and the individual sub areas have their own detailed maps which show more localised GI, and help to inform a view on gaps in the GI provision in certain areas of the borough and demonstrate how movement between these areas is possible.

Map 1: Sub Areas of Green Infrastructure



4 Area 1: The Coast and its Margins

- 4.1 Hartlepool's coastline continues to act as an attraction for both local residents, and visitors to the area, due to the opportunity to explore the pathways and scenery that are characteristic of the borough. There are a number of rights of way that are located on or close to the coastline, ranging from public footpaths to public bridleways. The coastline is an urban environment for the majority of its length, and so the majority of the paths and promenades are formally surfaced and maintained at public expense.
- 4.2 The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 placed a duty for a coastal path to be created along the whole of the English coastline, and the government aims for its completion in 2022. When approved and adopted by the Secretary of State (DEFRA) the route will have legal status and the title of English Coastal Path Trail, being recognised as a national trail.
- 4.3 One of the biggest challenges which the coastal area faces is to ensure that users can continue to enjoy the beauty and variety of these areas whilst at the same time, protecting the natural environment from harm. The Council will continue to work with key organisations to identify funding sources for enhancement schemes along the coast. Potential enhancement schemes along the coast may need to be subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment, and contributions will be sought to ensure that these delicate habitats continue to be protected and enhanced where necessary and possible.

Future Developments within this area

- 4.4 The Council has adopted Local Plan policy LT2 which stipulates that developments at The Marina should incorporate and encourage sustainable transport links through provision and enhancement of pedestrian and cycle routes, public realm and green infrastructure. The implementation of this policy, will ensure that the area is developed in a way which makes it easily accessible by all, and encourages tourism in this area.
- 4.5 The coastal fringe is a priority stretch of the ecological network (policy NE4), this means that thorough consideration will be given to the impact of any developments in this area, to mitigate any negative impacts on the natural environment and priority will be given to this area for enhancing ecological networks at a landscape scale. There is protection in this area due to Local Plan policy NE1, which covers a large stretch of the coastal area, and this ensures the protection of highlighted nature conservation areas. This protection will ensure that the GI within this area is maintained and enhanced and the coast stays attractive and accessible to all.

Map 2: The Coast Green Infrastructure Map

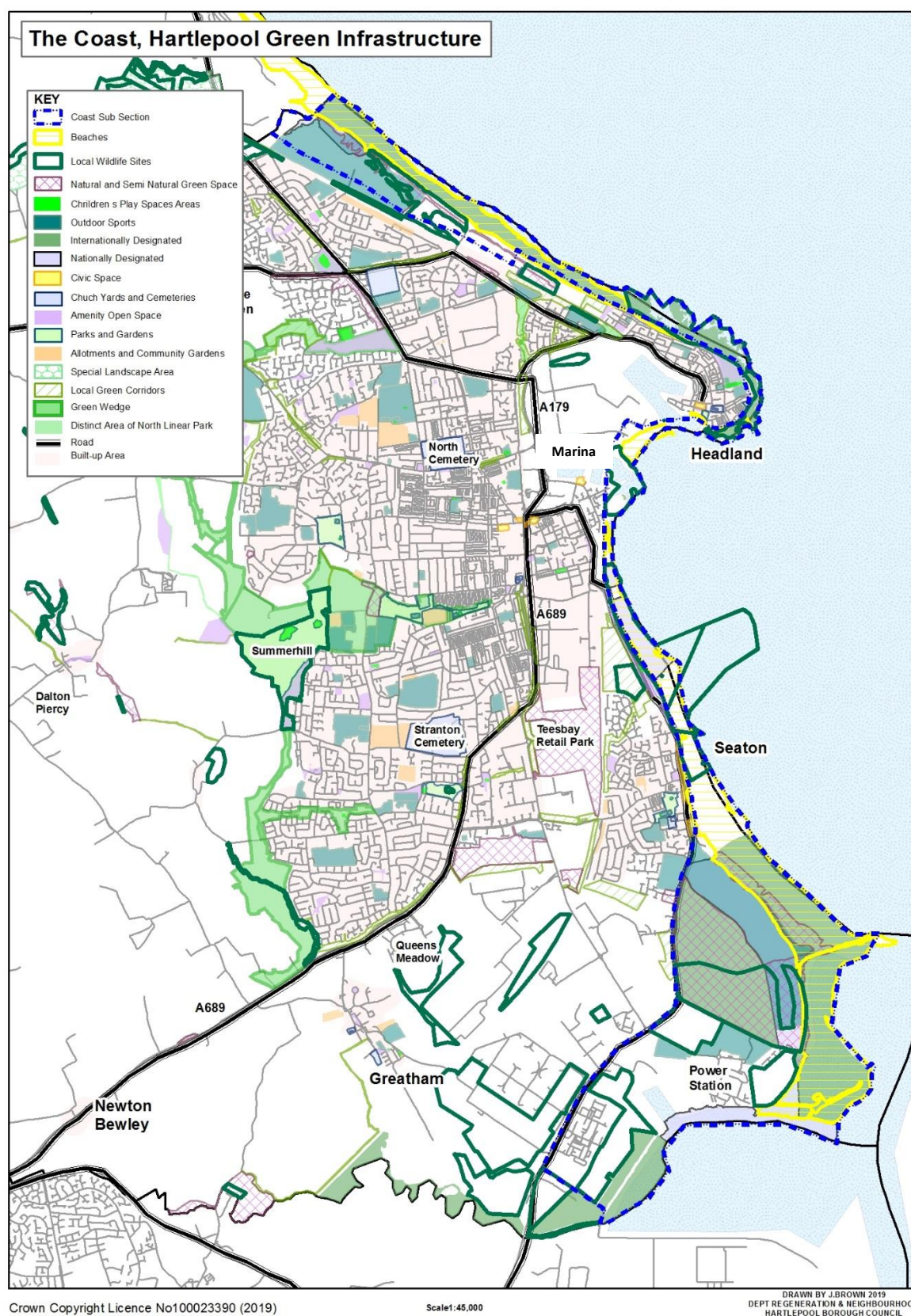


Table 1 – Coastal Area GI Projects

Item	Details	Ward	Funding	2019 Status
Marina pedestrian link	Coastal footpath improvements between Newburn Bridge and the Marina.	Headland & Harbour	Funding still required.	Ongoing
England Coast Path National Trail	Way marking and promotion of trail.	Headland & Harbour/Seaton/De Bruce	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Premier Inn Marina	Footpath improvements adjacent to the site.	Headland & Harbour	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Seaton Dunes	Removal of invasive plants including sea buckthorn and Japanese rose.	Seaton	Funding still required.	Ongoing



Image 2: Recently installed play area and beach huts in Seaton Carew

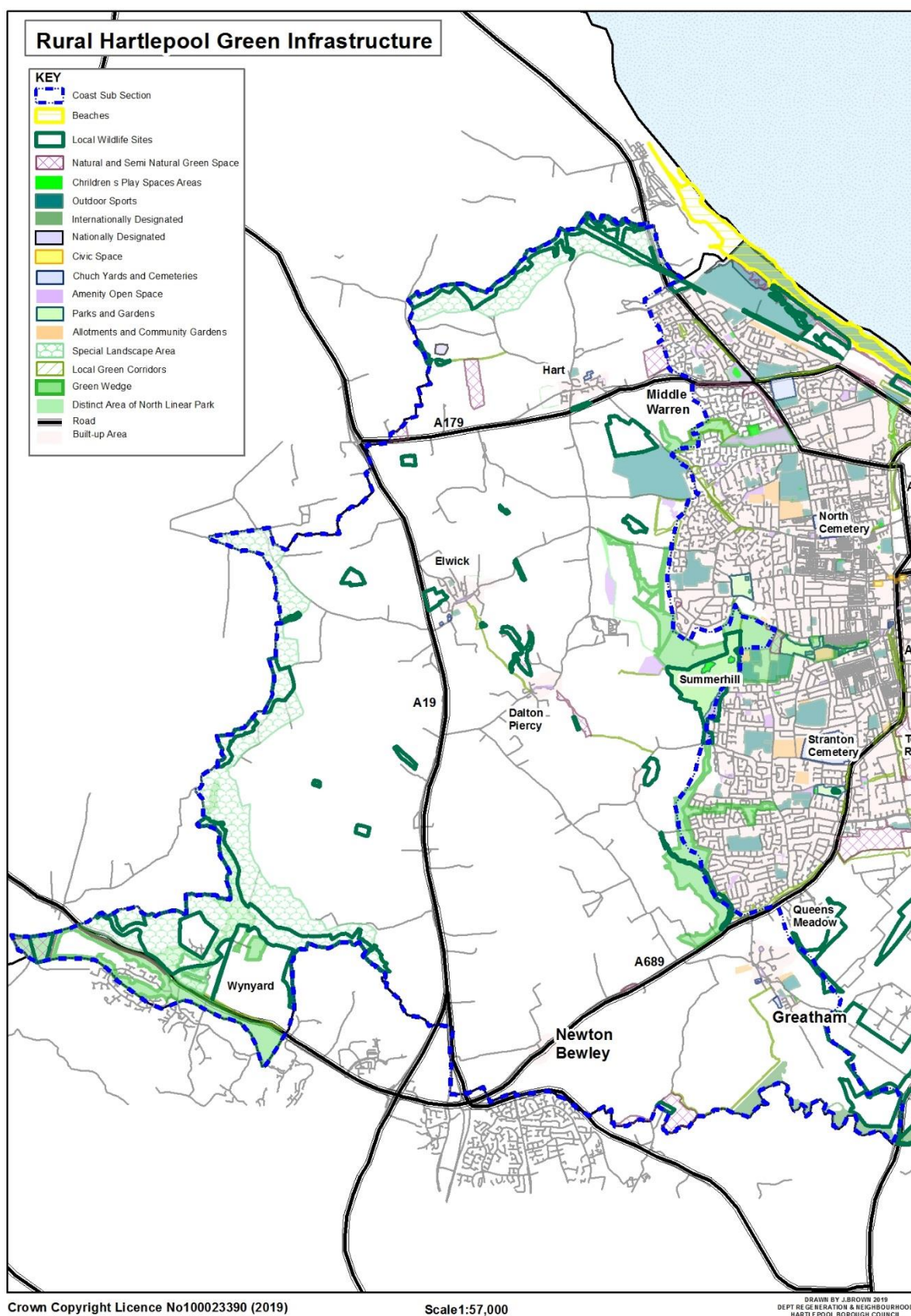
5. Area 2: Rural Hartlepool

- 5.1 Hartlepool benefits from a large rural area, which covers over 50% of the borough. There are six villages within this area, but the majority of land is undulating farm land. The rural area can be accessed via a number of footpaths, bridleways, links and access routes.
- 5.2 The south of the rural area has seen growth and development due to the development at Wynyard Park. In order to ensure the development's sustainability and mitigation of any negative impacts on the rural area, developments at Wynyard have and will be expected to contribute towards the provision of walking and cycle links in the borough, in order to improve connectivity, enabling the local residents to travel around the borough in a sustainable way, reducing the reliance on vehicular travel.
- 5.3 A diverse range of attractive sites and places of importance for wildlife are located within this rural area and improving access to and enjoyment of these areas is a key aspiration of the Council. These improvements need to be developed in a sensitive manner which won't impact on the quality or ecological value of these natural areas. Information and signposting will be an important element of any improvements to ensure that walks provide educational as well as physical benefits. Where appropriate, developer contributions from developments nearby these areas (in particular Local Nature Reserves) will be sought to implement these improvements.
- 5.4 Improvements and new developments within this area will contribute towards the achievement of objectives **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10**.

Future Developments within this area

- 5.5 It is crucial that any developments in the rural area provide the designated areas of green infrastructure to ensure that the residents and visitors can reap the benefits associated with it, and guarantee the sustainability of the developments. More information regarding this can be found in chapter 10 of the Local Plan.
- 5.6 The rural area also contains a priority section of the ecological network; rural west from Wynyard to Thorpe Bulmer and Crimdon Dene (policy NE4), this means that thorough consideration will be given to the impact of any developments in this area, to mitigate any negative impacts on the natural environment, where possible priority will be given to this area for enhancing ecological networks at a landscape scale.

Map 3: Rural Green Infrastructure Map



Summerhill Country Park

- 5.7 Summerhill lies in the rural area, immediately to the west of the Burn Valley Green Wedge, acting as a gateway into the countryside. This park is owned and operated by the Council and provides opportunities for users to partake in a wide variety of activities. Key elements of the management of Summerhill are shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Summerhill GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Existing coppicing of selected areas	5 locations identified within Summerhill, two of which are cut in rotation	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Ongoing
Future coppicing	Further possible locations have been identified	Funding would be required to support implementation	Ongoing
Existing thinning of woodland areas	4 locations have been identified within Summerhill	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Ongoing
Future woodland thinning	Other areas throughout the developing woodland of Summerhill	Funding would be required to support implementation	Ongoing
Gap planting	Small amount of planting to attend to gaps within existing hedgerows. 3 areas identified	Supported under the Woodland Grant scheme 5 year programme	Ongoing
Hedge Laying	Annual programme of hedge laying for hedges around Summerhill including those planted during the sites' early development	Funding required to support implementation	Ongoing
Management of existing wetlands	At present 9 wetland sites have been identified including areas recently excavated	Funding required to support implementation	Ongoing
Watercourse management	Management of 2 streams that run through Summerhill	Funding required to support implementation	Ongoing
Ditching work	Excavation and management of ditches in and around Summerhill. This includes new ditches and re-excavating existing ditches	Funding required for larger excavations involving bringing in heavy plant. Est £2,000-5,000.	Ongoing
Countryside routes vegetation control	Vegetation control of tracks and paths throughout Summerhill. In total there are about 6.8km of tracks and paths	Work part supported under the 5 year Woodland Grant Scheme. Resources will continue to be required to support cut back by utilising works teams of staff/volunteers	Ongoing
Resurfacing of main site route	Shared walkers/cyclists section of the main route that travels around Summerhill. Route is 2km long x 2.5km wide with two sections of non-slip tarmac	The full route requires re-surfacing. Costs depend on specifications and designs and could range from £80,000 to £250,000	So far approximately 800m has been re-laid.

Stile and gate works	Upgrading of stile, gates and access points throughout the site.	Most of the works are being funded under the existing 5 year Woodland Grant Scheme programme. Additional works would need in the region of £2,000.	Ongoing
Bridleway improvements	Improvements to the bridleways at Summerhill.	Funding still required, costs not available.	Ongoing
Surfacing improvements to Brierton Lane.	Surfacing improvements to the permissive path from Brierton Lane to Summerhill.	Funding still required, costs not available.	Ongoing

- 5.8 Summerhill has been identified in the Local Plan as a site which will be developed in order to provide local residents and visitors to the borough with access to the countryside, and act as a green link between the rural and urban areas. Through the works highlighted in the table above, Summerhill's position as a Country park of strategic importance within the borough will be reinforced.

Other Rural Key Projects

- 5.9 Alongside the projects within Summerhill, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the rural area.

Table 3: Other Rural Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Greatham Village Allotments	Recognised as a potential development within the Rural Plan.	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Quarry Farm Footpath	A footpath near Quarry Farm to provide increased pedestrian connectivity.	Potential funding identified in planning applications.	Ongoing
Elwick Footpath 1	Improvements to the footpath e.g. resurfacing	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Hart and Clavering footpath	Improvements to the footpath connecting the areas.	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Footpaths south of the A689	Improvements or additions to the network of footpaths south of the A689	Funding still required.	Ongoing
Sappers Corner to Wolviston Footpath and Cycleway.	This will link to the Wynyard developments to provide sustainable transport links.	Funding identified through applications at Wynyard.	Ongoing.
Hart to Haswell Walkway	Countryside management of the Hart to Haswell Walkway Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site	Funding still required.	Ongoing

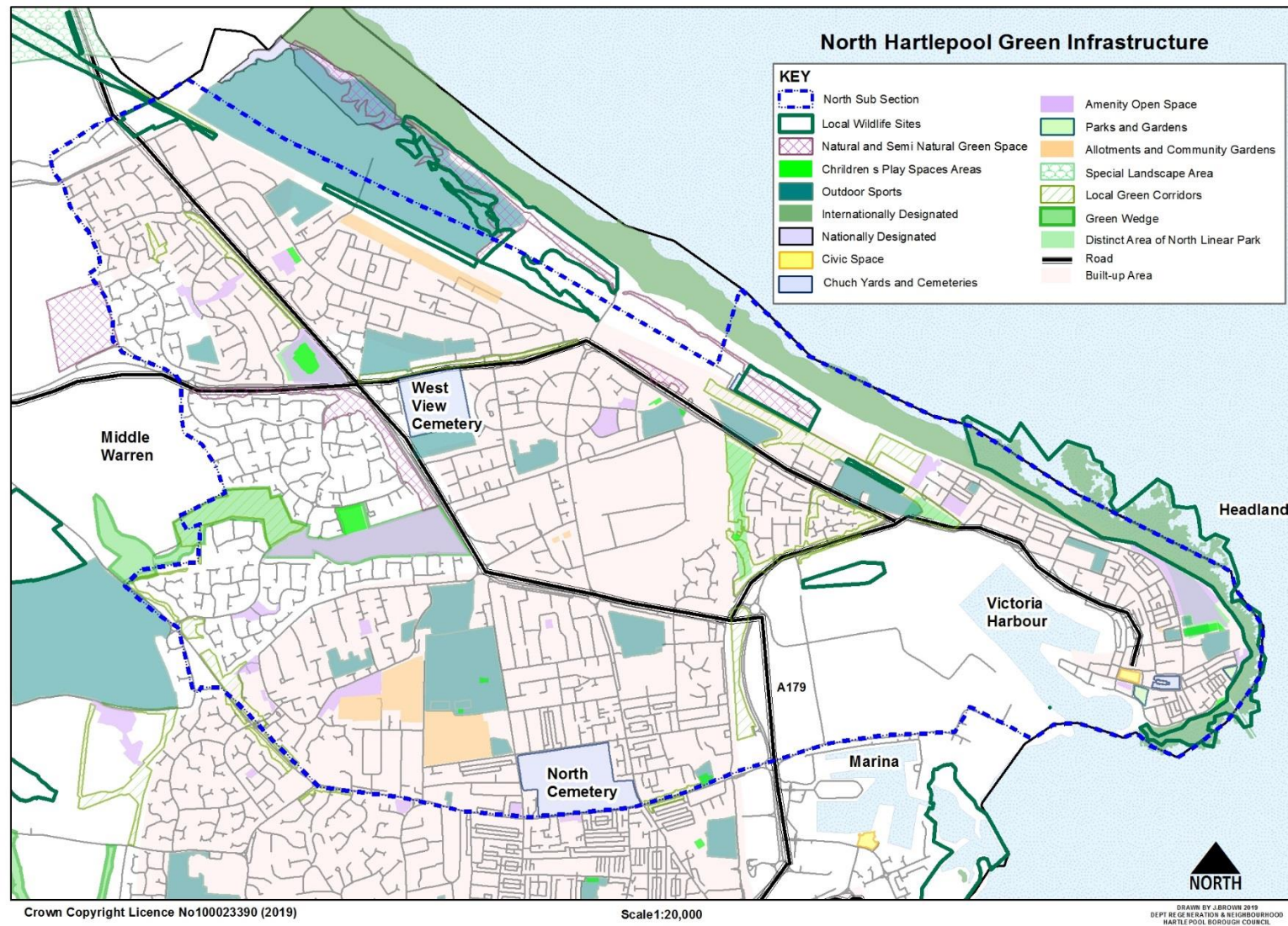
6 Area 3: North Hartlepool

- 6.1 There are a wide variety of elements of GI in this part of Hartlepool. It is crucial to ensure that these are enhanced whilst simultaneously considering the movement to and between these areas.
- 6.2 Middle Warren Green Wedge is considered a key element of the North Linear Park concept. This wedge cuts through the Middle Warren housing development and is a major aesthetic and recreational resource for the area.
- 6.3 Improvements and new developments within this area will contribute towards the achievement of objectives **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.**

Future Developments within this area

- 6.4 It is of key importance that future developments to the north of Hartlepool facilitate access to the small pockets of GI in the area alongside the more substantial green wedge at Middle Warren, which is protected under policy NE3. Developments within this sub-area may be expected to contribute towards enhancing the parks in the area, the cemetery, or other links and green areas within the north of the town. Development of sustainable links such as public rights of way or cycle links will look to be improved where necessary to enable easy movement.

Map 4: Northern Green Infrastructure Map



Clavering Park

- 6.5 Clavering Park is a critical element of the North Linear Park. Works to provide a modern play space in recent years have helped to dramatically improve the quality of this green space and formed the first element of a masterplan for the area. There are still improvements to be made within this area, and the Council will work with partner organisations and developers to secure the funds needed to implement all the works in the area.

Table 4: Clavering Park GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Boundary Fence	Provision of new railings and gates.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £55,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
New Pathways	Includes works such as block paving, drop kerb works etc.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £38,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Planting Works	Hedge planting.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £2,500	Awaiting on funding to be secured.



Image 4: Clavering Park

Central Park

- 6.6 Central Park forms a critical link between the Headland and West Hartlepool. Within the North Linear Park Steering Group, this area was considered as one of the two main priorities for improvement due to its neglect and lack of investment over the years. Previously, funding obtained by the “Big Tree Plant” enabled an early phase of tree planting in the area. This was beneficial to the GI in the area and will provide habitat for a range of species.

Table 5: Central Park (including Local Wildlife Site at Spion Kop) GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Drainage Works	Drainage works to refurbished car park, including excavation, new manhole, drainage runs and connections.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £25,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Car park surfacing.	New bitmac surfacing.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £150,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Footpath Surfacing	New bitmac surfacing.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £15,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Fencing and Railings	Inc. timber fencing, entrance feature, car park barrier etc.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £1,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Provision of Timber Steps	Timber steps with bound gravel treads and landings.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £10,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Tree Planting	Extra heavy standards trees, and transplant tree and shrub planting to embankment.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £5,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Grass Seeding	Reinstatement to grass areas.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £22,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Summer Mowing	Annual summer mow of the Local Wildlife Site in Central Park.	Pedestrian fail mower £8,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.

North Cemetery

- 6.7 North Cemetery is located to the north of the town centre and is a large green space owned by the Council. The cemetery provides a welcome change from the dense terraced housing which surrounds the cemetery, and is of particular value to the local community as an attractive open space. The key improvements needed within the site are the provision of a more accessible, enhanced green space for the existing community, including the residents of the new housing developments. The issues of crime and anti-social behaviour might be mitigated through safe access, boundary treatment and visual surveillance in and out of the site.

Table 6: North Cemetery GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Green Space Enhancement	Mixed spring bulb planting.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £4,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Green Space Enhancement	Woodland areas planted initially with whips rather than standards.	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £3,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Access Improvements	Footpath surfacing improvement works (network totals circa 1,050 linear meters, approximately 2,100m ²)	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £105,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Security Improvements	Automated vehicle gates to prevent motorcycles and cars accessing site but allowing maintenance vehicles daily access.	Funding required – could be a project in three phases (£8,000 each), total estimated cost £24,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.

West View Cemetery

- 6.8 West View Cemetery is a very important green open space providing a vital service to the community and an area for nature within an ever increasing urban area. The cemetery is in need of some road way improvements to offset the growth of large trees, boundary and internal road side planting to enhance biodiversity and increase the variety and quantity of trees and shrubs.

Table 7: West View Cemetery

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
West View Cemetery, West View Road	Internal refurbishment of West View Cemetery welfare facility circa £30,000 including public toilets circa £35,000.	Funding required total estimated cost £65,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Management of large tree roots in relation to road ways.	The large trees that are growing next to path ways in the cemetery are lifting the Macadam road surface, making it hazardous to access the cemetery.	Funding is required for this, approx. £10,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Increase internal road way and boundary tree and shrub planting	It is wished to improve the biodiversity and aesthetics of the cemetery by increasing the planting around the boundaries of the cemetery and along the internal road sides	Funding is required for this, £8,000 to £9,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
New Macadam areas	As the cemetery expands there is need to increase the road ways to allow access.	Funding is required for this, £51,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.

Grayfields Recreation Ground

- 6.9 Grayfields is one of the largest recreation grounds in Hartlepool offering a large area of green space in the Thornhill Gardens, Chester and Jesmond road area of the town, for many this is the nearest green space.

Table 9: Grayfields Recreation Ground

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Boundary enhancement	There is 1400 m of boundary that if planted with trees and shrubs would improve biodiversity and the quality of the grounds.	Funding is required for this, £40,000 to £50,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Lowering of Poplar trees	There is a large stand of Poplar trees within the site that are now very tall and in danger of being blown over in high winds given the shallow root base of this type of tree, to mitigate this and to encourage lower growth on the trees it is proposed to reduce their height by half	Funding is required for this, £2,500 to £3,500	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Access Improvements	Footpath surfacing improvement works (network totals circa 119 linear meters, approximately 742m ²)	Funding required – could be a phased project, total estimated cost £37,100	Awaiting funding to be secured.

Other Northern Hartlepool Key Projects

6.10 Alongside the identified projects, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the Northern area.

Table 10: Other North Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Chester Road Allotments	Maintenance of allotments.	Estimated costs not provided.	Ongoing.
King George 5 th Recreation Ground	Boundary enhancement - there is 262 m of boundary that if planted with trees and shrubs would improve biodiversity and the quality of the grounds.	Funding is required for this, £10,000 to £12,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Linear park area to rear of Phoenix Centre	Care of young trees planted previously by volunteers, children and local community, grassland area and pond. Machinery/tools for HBC volunteers 'tool library' to enable volunteers to undertake works.	Strimmer, brushcutter, pole saws, pruning saws, hand tools for pond maintenance circa £2,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Improve existing informal path – Merlin Way to Hart Lane	Improve surfacing to accommodate pedestrian and cycle users	Funding required – total estimated cost £30,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Improve existing informal path – Bishop Cuthbert	Improve surfacing to accommodate pedestrian and cycle users	Funding required – total estimated cost £7,000	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Create new pathways – Green Wedge west of Merlin Way	Create new paths to link various housing developments	Funding required – total estimated cost £11,500	Awaiting funding to be secured.

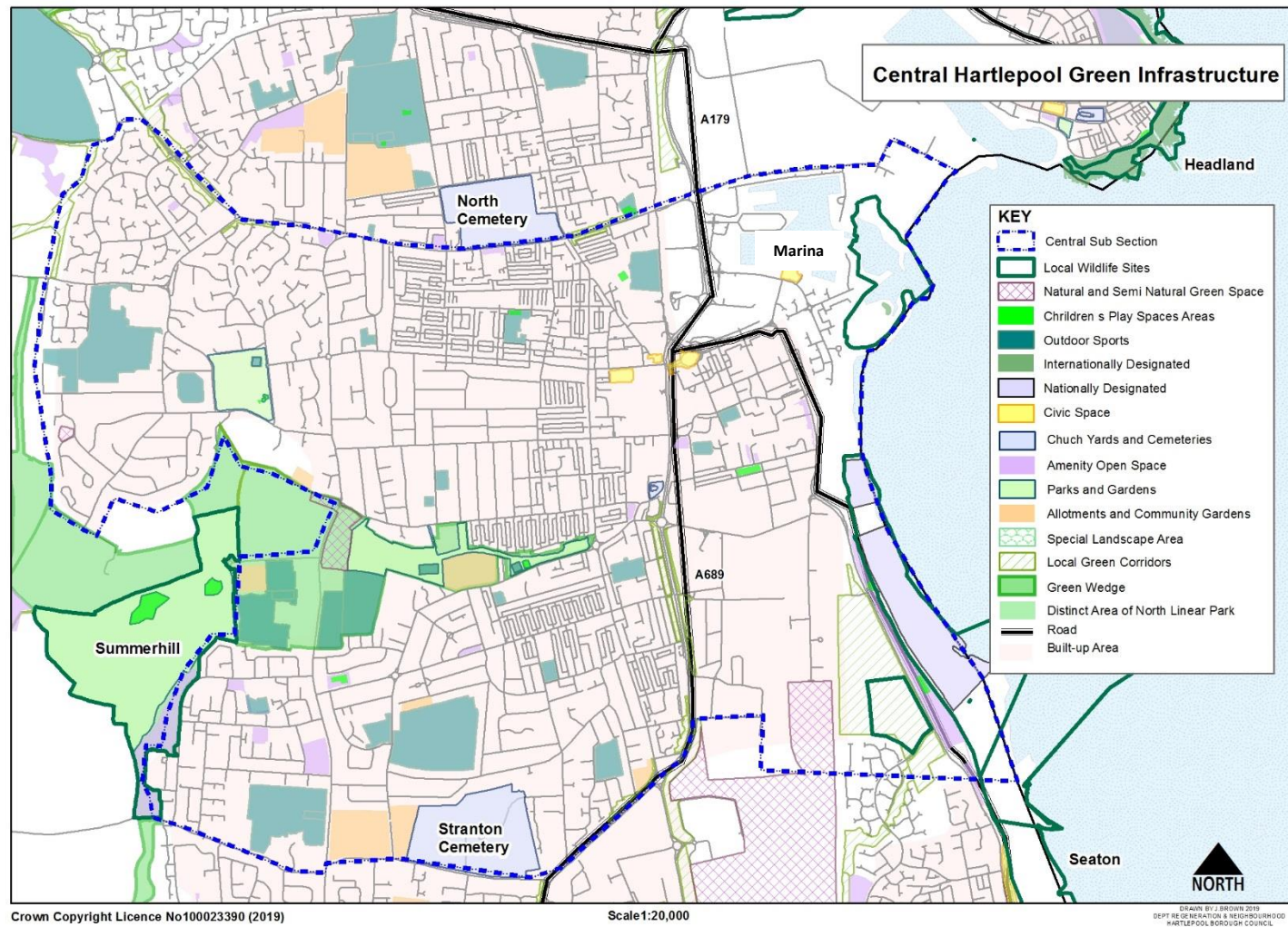
7 Area 4: Central Hartlepool

- 7.1 Hartlepool's central area is considered to be suffering from a deficiency of quality GI – something which is particularly noticeable in the town centre and the northern element of this sub area. However, it is in an ideal location to be well served by the quality GI within the southern and western parts of this sub-area, including Burn Valley Gardens and Ward Jackson Park. The area also houses the two largest sports pitch locations; Brierton School and the Rift House Recreational Ground. As well as this, the allotment sites and major cemetery within this area all help to contribute significantly to the GI not only in this sub-area, but borough wide.
- 7.2 As can be seen in the following map of the central sub-area, it can be noted where the shortfalls of GI can be found specifically. It is of key importance to protect the small pockets of GI as well as exploring ways in which elements of GI can be added in urban areas.
- 7.3 In areas where general green infrastructure is lacking, grass verges and planting can be very beneficial in terms of aesthetics and also providing much needed habitat for wildlife in the area.
- 7.4 Updates and new developments within this area will contribute towards the achievement of objectives **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10**.

Future Developments within this area

- 7.5 Emphasis will be placed on enhancements of existing and development of new GI within this area. Burn Valley Green Wedge is protected under policy NE3 to ensure it is maintained as an open and attractive green space in the centre of the borough. Developments within this area may be expected to contribute not only to the larger, more obvious pockets of green infrastructure, but also to the smaller pockets of GI. This contribution could be, for example, through the introduction of street trees – which will help to improve and enhance the feel of the urban space.

Map 5: Central Green Infrastructure Map



Burn Valley

- 7.6 The Burn Valley Green Wedge is one of the Central sub-area's greatest GI assets. This wedge previously benefitted from extensive investment through Natural England and the Environment Agency in order to improve a number of aspects of the area. This has enabled enhancements to biodiversity alongside providing safe pedestrian and cycle routes.
- 7.7 The Burn Valley is crucial in creating green linkages between a number of areas of the borough, including the town centre and various residential estates in the central part of the borough. The Upper Burn Valley is a heavily tree planted area with a formal surfaced path running through it from Elwick Road to Catcote Road. Other informal and unsurfaced paths run through the community wood and are used exclusively by pedestrians. The Council will continue to ensure that these routes are well maintained and upgraded where necessary to help promote the use of sustainable travel.

Table 8: Burn Valley GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Wildlife improvements	Timber decking for mini-beasts to return to watercourse after seasonal clearance of timber and debris from York Road culvert entrance. Estimate 40m2.	Funding required, total estimated cost £1,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Wildlife improvements	Soft landscaping enhancements to watercourse areas to be undertaken with support from volunteers. Circa 60m2.	Funding required, total estimated cost £1,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Wildlife improvements	Wildlife meadow creation (1000m2) circa £1,250 and bulb planting (100m2) circa £4,000.	Funding required, total estimated cost £5,250.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 1 Colwyn Road bridge footpath access point to play area up to Brinkburn Road surfacing improvement works (circa 130 linear meters, approximately 260m2)	Funding required, total estimated cost £13,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 2 Colwyn Road access point footpath Brinkburn Road towards link footpath to Elwick Road surfacing improvement works (circa 170 linear meters approximately 340m2)	Funding required, total estimated cost £17,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 3 vehicle and pedestrian bridge area up to upper play picnic area and back to south side path	Funding required, total estimated cost £12,000.	Awaiting funding to be secured.

	which joins steps and path to Sixth Form college surfacing improvement works (circa 120 linear meters approximately 240m2)		
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 4 steps and path to Sixth Form College surfacing improvement works (circa 165 linear meters approximately 330m2)	Funding required, total estimated cost £16,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.
Enhancement of public routes	Phase 5 snake path from Elwick Road to the burn. Replacement of revetments with rock armour	Funding required, total estimated cost £10,500.	Awaiting funding to be secured.



Image 6: Burn Valley

Ward Jackson Park

- 7.8 Ward Jackson Park was built in 1883 and boasts a collection of Victorian and Edwardian features and an impressive lake, which have contributed towards its listing in the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The park makes a significant contribution to the currently 'at risk' Park Conservation area and so enhancement and maintenance is essential. The Friends of Ward Jackson Park work in partnership with the Council's Parks and Countryside team in order to keep the park in excellent condition and provide improvements where necessary.
- 7.9 Due to the high level of maintenance which is necessary within the park, contributions from developments within the vicinity that are likely to have an impact on footfall within the park may be required towards particular areas for the financial year.

Table 9: Ward Jackson Park GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Enhancement of public access	Internal refurbishment of historic public toilet facilities estimated budget £35,000	Funding required – total estimated cost £35,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Dahlia Garden	Soft landscaping improvements to rejuvenate circa 200m2 and provision of benches.	Funding required – total estimated cost £8,800	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Island Erosion Repairs	Remedial work on the island in the lake.	Funding required – total estimated cost £6-7,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Fencing & Railings	Provision of additional security fencing circa 180 linear meters £20,700 and new metal railings circa 200 linear meters £23,000	Funding required - total estimated cost £43,700.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Invigoration of park boundary planting	To bring more colour and interest, along the inside boundary of the park to Park Ave. This would involve thinning of existing planting and the introduction of new plants of a colourful shrub that fruit.	Funding still required £10,000 to £12,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Ward Jackson Car park surfacing	Ward Jackson Park car park is designed to protect the tree roots underneath and is made of a loose material that has now moved owing to usage and needs releveling and the addition of some new surfacing.	Funding still required £6,000 to £7,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured

Stranton Cemetery

- 7.10 Stranton Cemetery and Crematorium was opened in 1912 and provided a large green space within an urban setting containing a large number of mature trees and shrubs, with a thriving community of rabbits and squirrels amongst other wildlife.

Table 10: Stranton Cemetery

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Tree planting	Small growing decorative trees planted along road sides to enhance the appearance of the cemetery.	Funding still required £50,000 to £57,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured
Hedge planting	In 2 areas A, Rc 17 & 23 and Con 36 & 34 in area B rear of a car park next to crematorium	Funding still required £3,000 to £4,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured

Other Central Hartlepool Key Projects

7.11 Alongside the identified projects, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the Central area.

Table 11: Other Central Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Thornton Street linear park	Green space enhancement, provision of standard trees with protective cages	Funding required – total estimated cost £1,800	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Burbank Street community garden	Green space enhancement, provision of standard trees with protective cages	Funding required – total estimated cost £1,800	Awaiting on funding to be secured.



Image 8: Ward Jackson Park

8 Area 5: South Hartlepool

- 8.1 This area is served by a variety of major GI elements, some of which benefit from established green corridors which aid in linking to other areas of the borough and into the countryside. Investment is needed over the coming years to develop and rejuvenate areas of GI.
- 8.2 The provision of leisure routes within the southern industrial area is necessary to facilitate sustainable travel to work and to significantly improve the linkages south. It is critical that these routes are planned correctly to offer users the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of attractive GI, whilst avoiding any detrimental impact on the environmental designations in the south of the borough.

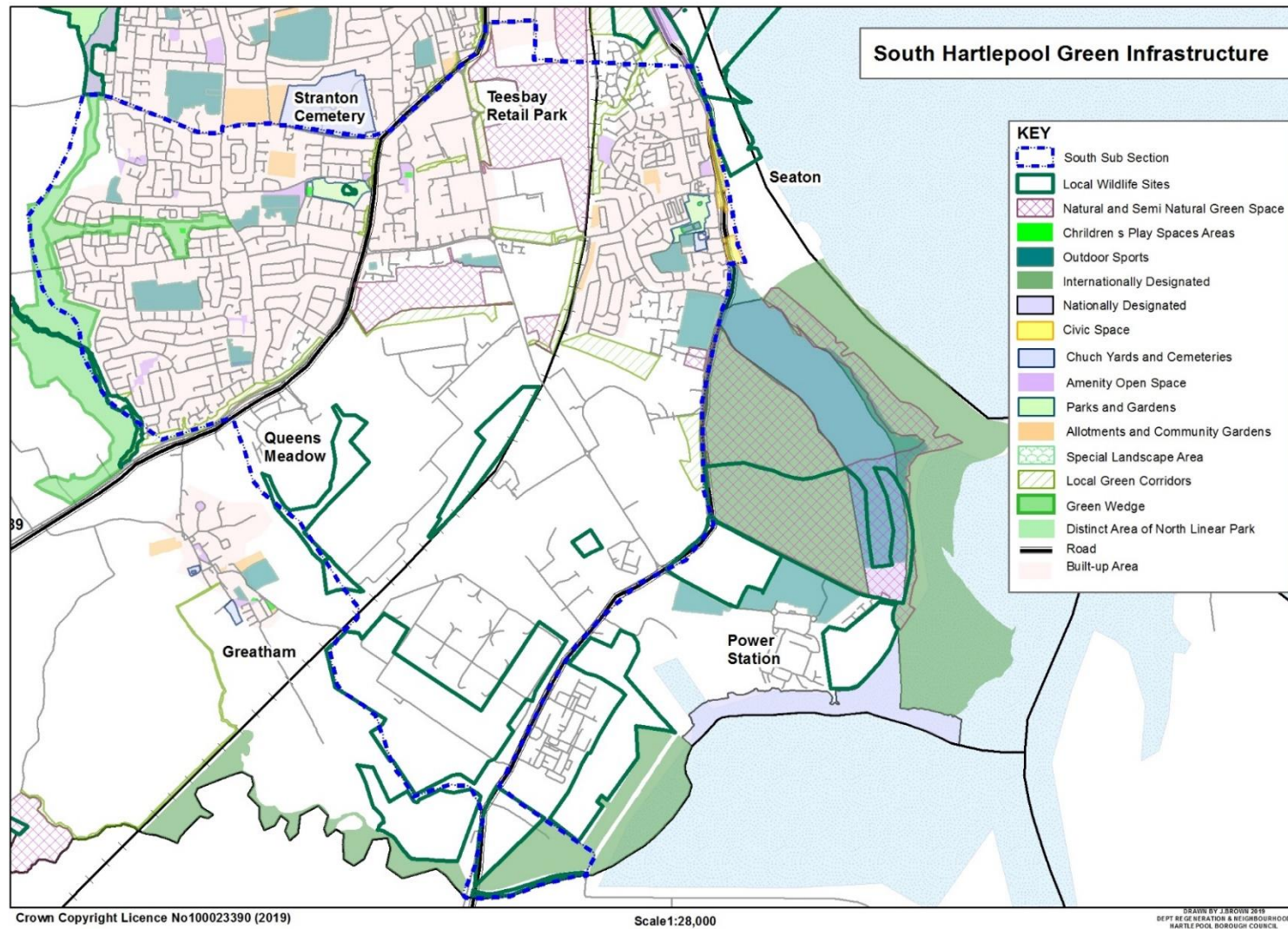
Future Developments within this area

- 8.3 Developments within this area will be expected to contribute towards enhancement of green infrastructure in this area, including the parks, leisure routes and the green wedges. Small scale GI will also be encouraged to improve the links from the south to other parts of the borough. Local Plan policy NE4 protects the ecological network of Dalton Beck/Greatham Beck and prioritises it for enhancement and improvement.



Image 9: Seaton Park

Map 6: Southern Green Infrastructure Map



Seaton Park

- 8.4 Some changes have previously been made to the park in accordance with a Masterplan created in 2011 by The Friends of Seaton Park. The final designs for the Masterplan proposes an ambitious redevelopment of the park which will compliment improvements to the sea front whilst also maintaining the traditional features of a neighbourhood park. There are individual projects which will go together to complete the aspirational vision for the park on completion.

Table 10: Seaton Park GI Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Development of new park pavilion	Pavilion includes changing rooms estimated at £1.5m.	Funding required – total estimated cost £1.5m.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Footpath network	Improvements and extension to footpath network circa 250lm (500m ²)	Funding required, could be phased, project total estimated cost £25,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Creation of fitness trail and wildlife margin	Fitness trail and associated landscape improvements.	Funding required – total estimated cost £30,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Canopy/open pavilion	Introduction of canopy/open pavilion for outdoor activities. Canopy circa £30,000, surfacing circa £20,000, contingency sum and fees circa £10,000	Funding required – total estimated cost £60,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Planting of boundary hedge and tree planting	Provision of boundary hedge 200lm £2,000 including protective 1.2m high post/rail and stock mesh fence £2,400. Tree planting £3,600.	Funding required – total estimated cost £8,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Boundary treatment	Provision of new metal railing fence along Allendale Road boundary circa 200lm.	Funding required – total estimated cost £23,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Enhancements to main park entrance	To include re-surfacing works, 'gateway feature' and associated landscaping.	Funding required – total estimated cost £30,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Creation of events space and overflow parking.	Creation of event space circa £150,000 to include overflow car parking using SUDS type system. Circa £60,000	Funding required – total estimated cost £210,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Wildlife improvements	Wildflower meadow creation (1000m ²) circa £1,250 and bulb planting (240m ²) circa £9,600	Funding required total estimated cost £10,850	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Invigoration of park boundary planting to bring more colour and interest	Along Allendale St, Station Ln and to the rear of the Marine Hotel. This would involve thinning of existing planting and the introduction of new plants of colourful shrubs that fruit.	Funding still required £8,000 to £10,000.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.



Image 10: Seaton Park

Other South Hartlepool Key Projects

- 8.5 Alongside the identified projects, there are several other isolated projects that have been identified for development or improvement within the Southern area.

Table 10: Other South Projects

Item	Details	Funding	2019 Status
Rossmere Park	GI improvements.	Various funding required – no details submitted.	Ongoing.
Golden Flatts Green Wedge	Surfaced tracks, woodlands planting, trim trail, play area and pond creation.	Some s106 already secured however further funding required.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Brierton Lane and Kingsley Avenue	Footpath improvement between the two.	No details submitted.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Brenda Road Brownfield Local Wildlife Site	Countryside management and creation of new ponds.	No details submitted.	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Belle Vue Way and Brenda Road Roundabout	Landscape improvement works	Funding required – total estimated cost £25,000	Awaiting on funding to be secured.
Creation of new public footpath	Create a new footpath between Longhill Industrial Estate and Station Lane, Seaton Carew	Funding required – total estimated cost £46,500	Awaiting on funding to be secured.

9 Linkages and Movement

- 9.1 The creation and enhancement of green, sustainable links and corridors between areas of GI will be a key priority of the Council and will be of vital importance to the implementation of the Action Plan.
- 9.2 Planting trees, plants and shrubbery to create attractive, multi-functional corridors will ensure that residents and visitors will be able to move freely and safely in a sustainable manner along green corridors between residential, employment and more natural areas. The delivery of these will also contribute towards vital habitats and new wildlife corridors.
- 9.3 It is also important to ensure that as part of new developments, thought is given to how open space, tree planting and walkways are integrated into the plans from the outset so they link into the existing GI network.
- 9.4 These improvements will go hand in hand with the improvements highlighted within this document, alongside any further GI development in the borough. Hartlepool's GI network will develop and grow in the future and develop the multi-functional benefits widely associated with successful GI.

10 How Green Infrastructure Objectives are to be met

10.1 In order to ensure that the Council is successfully working towards the 10 objectives that are set out in the main document, and at the beginning of this action plan, this table has been created to inform all users and summarise what actions are taking place and need to take place to achieve these.

Objective	Objective Description	Actions to meet Objective
1	Protect a high quality visual landscape and townscape, and enhance the unique character, heritage, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of Hartlepool's GI network to contribute positively to its distinctiveness.	The Council will continue to work within the sub-areas identified in this document to seek to ensure that the GI components are of a high quality. Developments within the borough will be required to positively reflect the character of the local area.
2	Provide a network of interconnected GI and spaces rich in habitat and home to a diverse range of wildlife which also play a critical role in improving the health of residents through providing attractive opportunities for recreation and sustainable travel.	Policy NE4 specifies that all developments within the borough must take consideration of any ecological importance within the area. Disturbance of ecological networks will be restricted and particular attention will be paid to the priority sections of the network.
3	Minimise the impact of, and adapt to, the effects of climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of resources, the risk of flooding and pollution and provide for species adaptation by maximising the protection and creation of GI.	All new developments are required to be designed in a way which minimise their impact on the environment. Developments will be encouraged to contribute towards the protection and creation of GI in the area, through design, conditions and planning obligations.
4	Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and expanding and linking habitats together, including working across council boundaries where appropriate, to assist in restoring biodiversity and allowing species to respond to climate change.	Policy NE4 recognises priority sections of the ecological network, however the network as a whole is of importance and needs protecting. Developments must consider the natural environment as a whole, and it is encouraged that applicants consult with the Council's ecologist to understand any risks their development pose to ecological networks, the natural environment and any mitigation required to address this.

5	Ensure trees and hedges are protected throughout the borough and integrate planting schemes within all new developments and, on larger housing schemes, deliver new areas of woodland. The conservation of ancient woodland and veteran trees which are irreplaceable is imperative.	Development within the major parks in the borough (Summerhill, Clavering Park etc.) will include new planting schemes, and maintenance of existing trees and hedges. Development which impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees will be restricted.
6	Protect and enhance a wide range of high quality opportunities for safe and accessible formal and informal sport, recreation and leisure facilities to encourage the community and visitors to undertake a variety of healthy exercise within attractive settings.	Policy NE5 ensures that the Council will protect existing playing fields, tennis courts and bowling greens. Developer contributions towards playing pitches and built sports facilities will be required on a range of developments, to enhance existing or develop new facilities.
7	Involve users, including “friends of” groups, and neighbours of GI in its design, ensuring usability and helping to create a sense of ownership and pride.	Those proposing improvements in areas where “friends of” groups are present e.g. Ward Jackson Park, will be encouraged to consult with these groups to ensure that works completed will be beneficial for the local community.
8	Support economic growth, attract inward investment and support redevelopment of brownfield land by improving the setting of industrial and commercial areas through the delivery and enhancement of quality, distinctive and attractive GI.	The 2018 Local Plan dedicates a chapter to strengthening the local economy. This includes requirements for developments at Queen’s Meadow Business Park to provide high quality landscaping, woodland planting, wildlife habitat enhancement etc. The Council will encourage re-development within brownfield sites.
9	Create a quality, distinctive and productive GI network to support local food production, rural diversification and tourism to meet the needs of local businesses, landowners and to provide a diverse employment base.	GI developments and improvements which are highlighted in this document, alongside any future schemes that may materialise, will where appropriate contribute towards achieving an effective GI network which all residents can reap the benefits of.
10	Ensure key green hubs, such as parks, play spaces and woodlands, are linked by means of safe and easily accessible	New developments may be required make GI contributions where appropriate. Where necessary, these may go towards

APPENDIX 3

	green networks and rights of way that together form a high quality GI grid across the whole of the borough.	enhancing GI links within the local area to ensure access to green hubs is made easier.
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- 10.2 As highlighted in this document, the Council has explored how the proposed developments and enhancement of GI in the sub-areas will contribute towards the achievement of the 10 key objectives. Completing the actions needed to meet these 10 objectives will lead to the Council achieving its vision regarding Green Infrastructure.
- 10.3 It is important to consider that this does not represent an exhaustive list of main GI improvements that are needed within the town, and depending on the type of future developments, alongside their location, the Council may identify a requirement for contributions to other elements of GI including towards smaller, less obvious areas of GI and this will be considered on a case by case basis. Developers must consider that the Council consider improvements in GI as necessary to render a development sustainable. Creation of or enhancements to GI will improve the conditions in which people work and live, encourage sustainable transport and improve the appearance of the borough as a whole, leading to increased visitors, more investment in the borough and overall a better quality of life for residents.

Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document
Consultation Statement
May 2020

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared by Hartlepool Borough Council. The Draft SPD was published for public consultation over a ten week period from 7 February 2020 until 17 April 2020. The consultation period was extended to provide further time to comment in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 This Consultation Statement addresses the requirements of Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 that requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare a statement setting out:
- the persons the Local Planning Authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;
 - a summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and
 - how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document.
- 1.3 Section 2 of this Statement outlines the consultation processes and provides details of those people and organisations that were consulted.
- 1.4 Section 3 gives an overview of the representations made within the consultation period. Appendix 1 provides a full schedule of the representations made and the Council's response to each. Where a representation has informed a revision to the SPD, this is set out.
- 1.5 Section 4 gives a brief overview of the next steps in the process of adopting the SPD.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 A public consultation on the Draft SPD was approved at the Regeneration Services Committee meeting of 5 February 2020.
- 2.2 The public consultation began on the 7 February 2020 until 17 April 2020.
- 2.3 External and internal consultees were contacted via email or letter. This included housebuilders, residents' associations, Parish Councils and adjacent Local Authorities. The statutory consultees Sport England, Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England were consulted.
- 2.4 Consultees were informed that a copy of the Draft SPD was available to view at the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, and online on the Council's Planning Policy webpage. Hard copies were available on request.

3. Representations Made and Officer Responses

- 3.1 A total of 6 consultees made representations on the Draft SPD. The consultees that made representations were: HBC Heritage and Countryside, Historic England, Sport England, Wynyard Park, Natural England & HBC Regeneration Team.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 includes a full schedule of representations, along with an officer response and suggested SPD amendments to reflect the representation is provided at Appendix 1.

4. Next Steps – Adoption

- 4.1 The representations received during the consultation period have, where appropriate, been reflected in the finalised version of the SPD prior to being presented to Regeneration Services for final endorsement and then reported to full Council in **X** for adoption.
- 4.2 It will be important following the adoption that the SPD is kept up to date and modified to reflect any changes in government regulations and emerging opportunities across the Borough.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Representations and Officer Responses

Respondent	Consultation Feedback	HBC Response/Proposed Action
Heritage and Countryside (Sarah Scarr)	<p>Just a couple of points/queries that I noted in the GI SPD.</p> <p><u>Seaton Park</u> 'The park is a valuable asset to Seaton Carew, but some restoration is needed.'</p> <p>Is there any information on what restoration is needed?</p> <p><u>Burn Valley Green Wedge Inc. Summerhill Country Park</u> The impression is given that Summerhill is locally listed – it isn't only Burn Valley Gardens is recognised.</p> <p><u>Cemeteries</u> You may wish to make the distinction between the active cemeteries of Stranton and West View and those which are predominantly full, save for the occasional burial, such as North Cemetery; Richard Harlanderson can provide further information on this.</p> <p><u>Historic Environment</u> I'm not entirely sure what you mean by this example,</p> <p>'the formal space of Ward Jackson Park provided an opportunity to improve a park but in doing this much wider benefits were fulfilled in regenerating an area and providing a wider offer for visitors to the park.'</p> <p><u>Innovative Ideas</u> The example of the park on Thornton Street is a good example of trying to enhance a difficult area which you could cite.</p>	<p>Noted, amendment at paragraph 6.9 of the Main Document.</p> <p>Noted, amendment at paragraph 6.13 of the Main Document.</p> <p>Noted, addition at paragraph 6.23 of the Main Document.</p> <p>Noted, amendment at paragraph 8.1 of the Main Document.</p> <p>Noted, please see inclusion at 10.3 of the Main Document.</p>
Historic England	<p>We are encouraged by your inclusion of the historic environment within the SPD, for example at paragraph 8.1 the recognition of the interrelationship between the historic environment and GI.</p> <p>The glossary contains terms relating to the historic environment, we would encourage you to refer to Historic England's Heritage Definitions, and Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework in order to ensure consistency between SPD and these national definitions.</p> <p>For further clarity we recommend that you seek advice from the local authority conservation officer and from the appropriate archaeological staff. They are best placed to provide information on the historic environment, advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, indicate how heritage assets may be affected and identify opportunities for securing wider benefits through the</p>	<p>Noted, it is confirmed that the definitions in the SPD are accurate and in keeping with those of the NPPF and Historic England.</p> <p>The relevant Council officers were consulted on this document and the manager of the section made</p>

	conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.	comments which have been incorporated into the final version, no further action required.
Sport England	<p>There are aspects of both SPDs which have synergy with Sport England's work around Active Design / Active Environments / Active Travel. Modern-day life can make us inactive, and about a third of adults in England don't do the recommended amount of weekly exercise, but the design of where we live and work can play a vital role in keeping us active.</p> <p>We know sport isn't for everyone, but embracing a lifestyle change to be more active can have real benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Improving physical health · Increasing mental wellbeing · Building stronger communities. <p>As part of our drive to create an active environment, Active Design wraps together the planning and considerations that should be made when designing the places and spaces we live in. It's about designing and adapting where we live to encourage activity in our everyday lives, making the active choice the easy choice.</p> <p>Active Design is based around ten principles, and it is considered that the detail of the respective SPDs supports the following principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Activity for all' neighbourhoods - Walkable communities - Connected walking and cycling routes - Network of multifunctional open space - High quality streets and spaces <p>Active Design also recognises that for green infrastructure and the public rights of way network to work well and provide their full worth to the public they need to be supported by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate infrastructure - Management, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation - Activity promotion and local champions. <p>We've developed a range of support guidance to help Local Authorities in this area.</p> <p>The full Active Design guidance can be found at the following location on our website; https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf?uCz_r6UyApzAZlaiEVaNT69DAaOCmklQ</p> <p>Subsidiary guidance on designing for physical activity - outdoor spaces, and designing for physical activity – routes and wayfinding, both of which I think will be of use, can be found at the following location on our website; https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-</p>	<p>Noted. It is noted that within this document, the benefit of GI in that it can allow for the provision of exercise has been acknowledged in the document. This document is more so to influence inclusion in the built environment, as opposed to acting as a public document highlighting the benefits of activity.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.1 of the Main Document has been amended to include reference to the Sport England guidance.</p>

	<p>activity-outdoor-spaces.pdf?oeqbnn6m9d3vmZ7Xh_fldeqWnCpdmFGhttps://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-activity-routes-and-wayfinding.pdf?eX2Y6b3P_xuFh5ESTG0vgHkeNgdcLWz</p> <p>In summary, we wish to express our support for both SPDs. We do however consider that both have a wider public health importance than their focus suggests, and would suggest that perhaps Active Design might provide that bridge to related Local Authority agendas.</p>	
Wynyard Park	<p>Section 2 (Page 6)</p> <p>Paragraph 2.13 sets out the importance of factoring in Green Infrastructure (GI) elements into schemes. Paragraph 2.13 goes on to state that “Where this is not possible or on-site provisions are not considered sufficient, financial contributions towards GI provision within the borough will be sought”. Whilst our client does not oppose this, it is important to ensure that the Council does not seek financial contributions in instances where a development is able to incorporate sufficient provision of GI.</p> <p>As is clear from the adopted Wynyard Masterplan (November 2019), development is being delivered in an attractive setting with an extensive area of existing GI. The Masterplan also details the GI requirements for new development at Wynyard. It is important to note that the Wynyard Masterplan is only an indicative and the quantum and location of the GI is not fixed. That said, our client does not anticipate that there will be justification for the Council to seek financial contributions on top of the GI being delivered by development.</p> <p>Map 1 (Page 16)</p> <p>We have reviewed the GI and Green Wedges shown in the map on page 16 (Map 1) which appears to be consistent with the areas shown on other plans such as the Wynyard Park Indicative Masterplan Framework (ref. AI09 Rev B).</p> <p>Section 10 (Page 27)</p> <p>Section 10 relates to GI within future developments and goes on to list (in paragraph 10.1) a number of housing developments / sites and the requirements relating to GI. The fifth bullet point refers to Wynyard and states: Wynyard developments: The Wynyard Masterplan sets out a green network within the area which will be delivered by developments as they come forward. We recognise and support that the paragraph essentially ‘signposts’ to the approved Wynyard Masterplan which contains further detail on the GI requirements for Wynyard Park and other developments at Wynyard.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Action Plan</p>	<p>Noted, no change necessary.</p> <p>Noted, no change necessary.</p> <p>Noted, no change necessary.</p>

	<p>As set out on pages 11-15, Wynyard Park is located in “Area 2: Rural Hartlepool”. Paragraph 5.2 refers to the growth and development at Wynyard and that contributions will be expected towards the provision of walking and cycle links in the Borough in order to improve connectivity and enable sustainable methods of travel. Our client does not object to this in principle but wishes to reiterate the provisions of NFFP (2019) paragraph 56 and that planning obligations must only be sought where they meet all of the following tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; b) directly related to the development; and c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. <p>We also note the projects listed in Table 2 (Summerhill GI Projects) and Table 3 (Other Rural Projects). The majority of the projects in Table 3 are included with funding still required. As stated above, if contributions are sought from development(s) at Wynyard Park, these should meet the tests set out in NPPF paragraph 56.</p>	Noted, no change necessary.
Natural England	<p>The SPD is a very useful document, referring to updated National, Regional and Local Policy Guidance, including the adopted Hartlepool Local Plan (2018), The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) and Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy. The content of the SPD is effective in setting out the objectives and overall vision for the delivery of GI in Hartlepool, highlighting the strengths, weaknesses and functionality of GI within distinct areas of the borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The SPD recognises and promotes the realisation of synergies for ecosystem services and climate-change resilience through multi-functional GI, for example by creating and linking ecological networks; by protecting and enhancing biodiversity; through innovative habitat creation in urban and green wedges, and by providing and improving access to sustainable travel networks, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions. □ A considerable focus of the SPD is also to provide attractive, functional green spaces for exercise and enjoyment by people and supporting business and community adaptation to climate change through the provision of blue/green infrastructure, which is positive. Greener neighbourhoods and improved access to nature may improve public health and quality of life and reduce environmental inequalities. Urban green spaces will also help provide varied ecosystem services and will contribute to coherent and resilient ecological networks. □ As a measure to help realise the vision for Hartlepool, we support the proposed requirement for on-site GI elements to be factored into development schemes through the planning system, understanding that (as stated in the SPD), “where this is not possible or on-site provisions are not considered sufficient, financial contributions towards GI provision within the borough will be sought.” 	

	<p>□ The SPD makes reference to protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, with particular references made within Objective 4. Natural England focusses our advice on embedding biodiversity net gain in development plans, since the approach is better developed than for wider environmental gains. However your authority should consider the requirements of the NPPF (paragraph 72, 102, 118 and 170) and seek opportunities for wider environmental net gain wherever possible. This can be achieved by considering how policies and proposed allocations can contribute to wider environment enhancement, help adapt to the impacts of climate change and/or take forward elements of existing green infrastructure, open space of biodiversity strategies. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, along with partners, has developed 'good practice principles' for biodiversity net gain, which can assist plan-making authorities in gathering evidence and developing policy. The guidance also explores opportunities for the wider environment and developing approaches at the strategic scale, across boundaries.</p> <p>Our specific comments as follows should also be taken in to account in developing the SPD:</p> <p>The draft SPD illustrates and refers to a number of designated sites in Hartlepool, summarised by Appendix 3 of the document. Revision of the draft is recommended, taking account of the following information regarding designated sites in the area:</p> <p>□ Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was notified in 2019 and amalgamated 7 existing SSSIs, including 'Seal Sands SSSI', 'Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI', 'Hartlepool Submerged Forest SSSI' and the 'Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands SSSI'. These SSSIs therefore no longer exist.</p> <p>□ (Other SSSIs which were amalgamated include Redcar Rocks SSSI, South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI; and Cowpen Marsh SSSI).</p> <p>□ Teesmouth European Marine Site (EMS) is the same as the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA (therefore it is not necessary to list the EMS separately).</p> <p>□ Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) and Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential Ramsar (pRamsar) no longer exist; these are now referred to as the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar.</p> <p>To help clarify how the above influences the details of Appendix 3 (and where corresponding changes may need to be made in the content of the SPD) please see our suggested edits to Appendix 3.</p>	<p>Noted, please see amendment at Appendix 3 of the main document.</p> <p>Noted, reference has been removed in Appendix 3.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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HBC Regeneration Team	<p>Below is an outline of forthcoming project managed by the Regeneration Team which will be influenced by the GI SPD or can contribute to the delivery of the GI SPD ambitions.</p> <p>Town Centre Masterplanning</p> <p>The regeneration team have begun the process of developing a town centre masterplan. The objectives is to renew and reshape Hartlepool Town Centre in a way that improves experience, drives growth and ensures future sustainability. The process of developing these plans will involve working with stakeholders and the community to analyse the current issues for the town centre. There are a number of themes around the future of the town centre that the masterplanning process will consider: How we experience our town; how our town offers convenience; how well serviced the town is and the towns sense of community. Green infrastructure will play a role in improving peoples experience of the town centre through interventions or improvements in small-scale green spaces, urban trees and green public spaces as well as contributing to 'experience lines' that will reinforcing connectivity and movement through the town. We see this as valuable in increasing economic activity and investment in the town. Through these improvements we expect GI to also support the development of people's sense of community through extending dwell times and providing spaces for community congregation for events and activities.</p> <p>Industrial Estate Improvements: Brenda Road Corridor</p> <p>A forthcoming project to enhance the Brenda Road corridor aims to improve the area's identity as an active business zone using landmark features, treatment of external estate boundaries (particularly frontages) and improved wayfinding into the numerous industrial estates is an opportunity to develop green infrastructure in this area. Addressing the quality of green infrastructure would be aimed at retaining and attracting businesses, encourage private sector investment and improve the sense of place between estates and throughout this area.</p>	<p>Please see addition at paragraph 9 of the GI main document – "Regeneration and Green Infrastructure" this document details the overall importance of the two, and cites the Brenda Road estate as a particular example.</p>
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REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

23rd July 2020



Report of: Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND OTHER ACCESS
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Regeneration Services Committee of the results from the targeted consultation on the Draft Public Rights of Way and Other Access Supplementary Planning Document (PRoW SPD) that was consulted on between Friday 7th February 2020 and Friday 17th April 2020 and to seek approval for the amended SPD (**Appendix 3**) to be reported to full Council for adoption.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 This is a new document within the existing suite of SPDs. The aim of this document is to allow the Council to define relevant standards and provide guidance regarding Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within the borough. This is to ensure that the planning and development process complements the network through sufficiently considering PRoW at early stages and throughout the process.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 No options submitted for consideration other than the recommendation.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 The SPD has been composed in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) (as amended).

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The SPD was consulted upon from Friday 7th February until Friday 17rd April 2020. This 10 week period goes above the 6 week statutory consultation period for SPDs, and an additional 2 weeks was allowed for in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. Correspondence was sent to the statutory consultees, and other organisations and interested parties whose details are stored on our consultation database. Representations, an officer response and the resultant amendment to the SPD is included within the Consultation Statement (**Appendix 4**).
- 6.2 The document was available on the Council's website, and a paper copy was made accessible at the Civic Centre.
- 6.3 All comments received were considered, fed into the SPD where appropriate, and the attached document is the draft final iteration for Regeneration Services to endorse and forward to full Council for adoption.

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Risk Implications	No relevant issues
Financial Considerations	No relevant issues
Child/Family Poverty Considerations	See Appendix 1
Equality and Diversity Considerations	See Appendix 2
Section 17 of The Crime And Disorder Act 1998 Considerations	No relevant issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant issues
Asset Management Considerations	No relevant issues

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Note and agree the content of the revised Public Rights of Way and Other Access SPD following the public consultation and submit the revised SPD to full Council for adoption.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Once adopted, this SPD will form part of the Hartlepool Local Development Framework.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 There are no background papers in relation to this report

11. CONTACT OFFICER

Tony Hanson
Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services)
Civic Centre
Hartlepool Borough Council
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523400
E-mail: tony.hanson@hartlepool.gov.uk

Rebecca Cockburn
Planning Policy Officer
Civic Centre
Hartlepool Borough Council
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 284179
Email: rebecca.cockburn@hartlepool.gov.uk

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

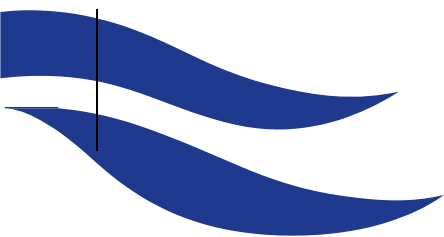
1. Is this decision a Budget & Policy Framework or Key Decision? <u>YES</u> / NO If YES please answer question 2 below				
2. Will there be an impact of the decision requested in respect of Child and Family Poverty? YES / <u>NO</u> If YES please complete the matrix below				
GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Young working people aged 18 - 21				
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness				
Those with low educational attainment				
Those who are unemployed				
Those who are underemployed				
Children born into families in poverty				
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances				
Lone parents				
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds				
Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Overall impact of Policy / Decision				

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE		ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE	
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE	
Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.			
Economic			
Children in Low Income Families (%)			
Children in Working Households (%)			
Overall employment rate (%)			
Proportion of young people who are NEET			
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment			
Education			
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)			
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM			
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)			
Housing			
Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims			
Number of affordable homes built			
Health			
Prevalence of underweight children in reception year			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year			
Prevalence of underweight children in year 6			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6			
Life expectancy			

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Department	Division	Section	Owner/Officer	
Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Economic Growth & Regeneration	Planning & Development	Rebecca Cockburn	
Service, policy, practice being reviewed/changed or planned	Public Rights of Way and Other Access SPD			
Why are you making the change?	To add this SPD to the existing suite of documents to provide topic-specific guidance.			
How might this impact (positively/negatively) on people who share protected characteristics?				
		Please tick	POSITIVELY	NEGATIVELY
Age				
N/A				
Disability				
N/A				
Gender Re-assignment				
N/A				
Race				
N/A				
Religion				
N/A				
Gender				
N/A				
Sexual Orientation				
N/A				
Marriage & Civil Partnership				
N/A				
Pregnancy & Maternity				
N/A				
Has there been consultation /is consultation planned with people who will be affected by this policy? How has this affected your decision making?		A 10 week consultation period was undertaken, which is in accordance with the Council's adopted SCI, and meets the statutory 6 week requirement.		
As a result of your decision how can you mitigate negative/maximise positive outcomes and foster good relationships?		The SPD encourages the creation, protection and enhancement of the PRow and access network within the borough.		
Describe how you will address and monitor the impact		1. No Impact - No Major Change There is not considered to be an impact.		
		2. Adjust/Change Policy N/A		
		3. Adverse Impact but Continue as is N/A		
		4. Stop/Remove Policy/Proposal N/A		
Initial Assessment	00/00/00	Reviewed	00/00/00	
Completed	00/00/00	Published	00/00/00	



Hartlepool Borough Council

Standards and Guidance for Public Rights of Way

Supplementary Planning Document

Final Version



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1 Introduction

What is a Public Right of Way (PRoW)?

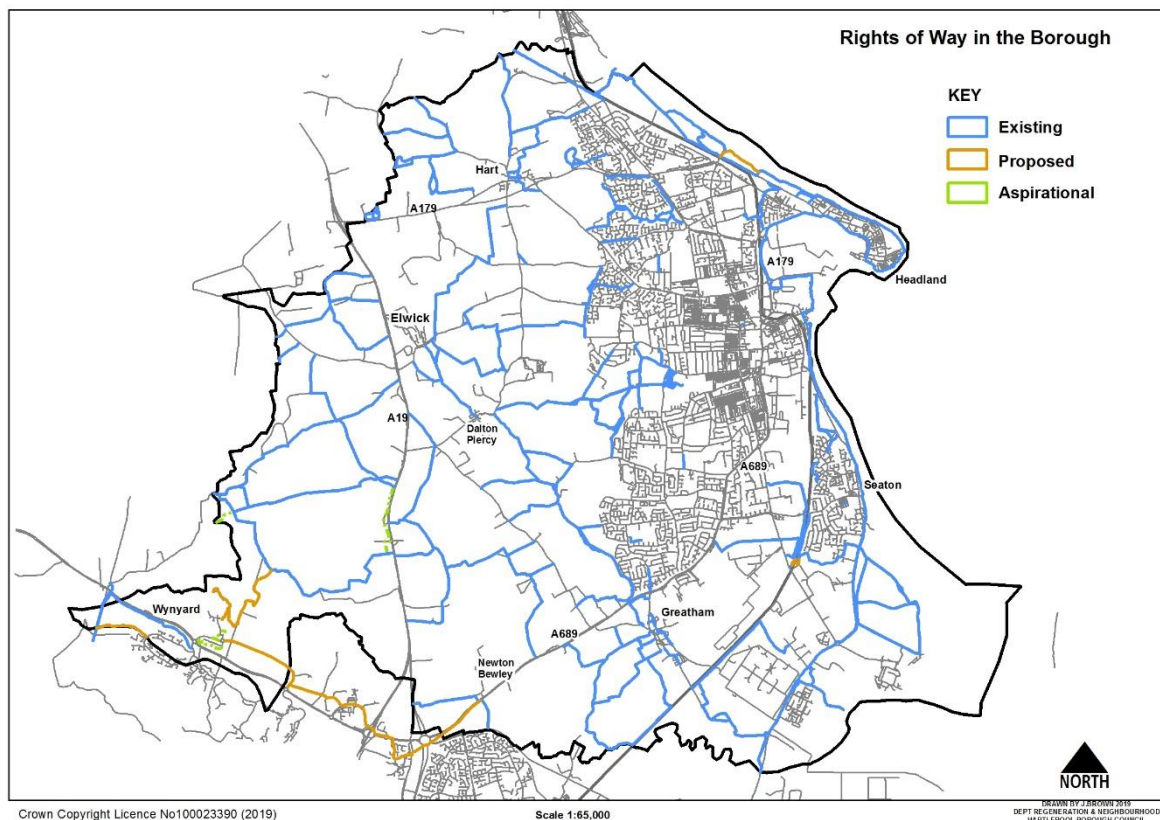
- 1.1 A public right of way is a way that anyone can legally use 'as of right'. There are a number of differing statuses that allow different levels of use. Footpaths are for pedestrian use only, bridleways allow pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to access the path and byways add vehicular access to the pedestrians, cyclists and equestrian users. Legally, PRoW forms part of the highway network and is subject to the same protection in law as all other highways.
- 1.2 The aim of this guidance is for Hartlepool Borough Council (the council) to define standards and give relevant advice so that all involved in the planning and development process consider PRoW at an early stage; designing it into a development proposal to deliver the most sustainable and viable scheme.

The Importance of Protecting PRoW

- 1.3 PRoW can positively contribute to open space provision and the access network, for a development site.
- 1.4
- 1.4 PRoW run through all types of development areas: residential, commercial, leisure and recreation, agricultural (including horticultural and equine) developments and minerals and waste schemes.
- 1.5 All types of development will have to consider PRoW at the earliest opportunity. The production of an accepted rights of way scheme early on will ensure that the planning process runs smoothly and public access is properly designed into the development proposals.
- 1.6 PRoW and access to the countryside are important elements of Green Infrastructure. The council will ensure that PRoW are protected, enhanced and promoted. Through doing so, it is hoped that it will encourage a healthier lifestyle through making walking routes more accessible.
- 1.7 The PRoW network offers people access to countryside and heritage and this can have a positive effect on quality of life and health. It forms a practical part of our transport network, providing valuable access on foot, bicycle and other modes of transport to the wider countryside, employment, schools, shops and other local amenities.
- 1.8 There may be a need for improvements to the PRoW network linked to development proposals in terms of accessibility, surfacing and connectivity. Where the scale and location of development requires connections and/or leads to increased use, the council will secure these works through appropriate developer contributions and/or planning conditions. Particular consideration will be given to achieving offsite local pedestrian/cycleway routes which connect development sites with employment, services, open spaces, leisure/community uses and strategic access routes.
- 1.9 The grant of Planning Permission in itself does not legally authorise this diversion, extinguishment or other legal change to a PRoW. Anyone undertaking a development that affects a PRoW should be aware that there are legal obligations and procedures, which lie outside of any grant of planning permission that need to be addressed. Although not all development will impact on PRoW, it is the responsibility of the developer to find out if their

development will have an impact or not and the legal obligations of this. This can be done by getting in touch with the Countryside Access Team at **01429 523524** or at rightsofway@hartlepool.gov.uk

Map 1: Rights of Way in the Borough



2. National and Local Planning Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1 Paragraph 98 of the NPPF states that planning policies should protect and enhance PRoW and access and that local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users.

Rights of Way Circular (1/09) (2011)

- 2.2 Section 7 of the circular sets out the importance of PRoW when granting planning permission. Section 7.1 states that proposals for the development of land affecting PRoW give rise to the adequate consideration of the rights of way before the decision on the application is taken and the need for the right of way to be kept open and unobstructed once permission has been granted. Section 7.2 highlights that the effect of development on a PRoW is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Hartlepool Local Plan (2018)

- 2.3 Hartlepool Council's Local Plan includes specific policies to protect, enhance and promote the enjoyment of PRoW and countryside access. These policies can be read in Appendix 1.



3. The Role of the Council

3.1 The council will protect, enhance and promote the enjoyment of the PRoW network. This will be achieved by:

- Requiring applicants to record the route of any PRoW affected by development, and develop a scheme for their improvement, accommodation or diversion in accordance with the council's legislative PRoW standards. For more information on this, please contact the Countryside Access Officer using the contact details in section 1.9.
- Requiring contributions, through planning obligations, towards the PRoW network including the delivery of routes both on site and off site as appropriate.
- Not permitting planning applications that contain proposals that would adversely affect the existing PRoW network.

Planning Conditions and Planning Obligations

3.2 Development that affects PRoW and access to the wider countryside should clearly identify existing PRoW and proposed changes to the PRoW, and other access links, on the proposed layout plan(s) and supporting information. This will ensure that applicants and developers both consider, at the earliest opportunity, how to plan and incorporate PRoW and access into the development. Where appropriate planning conditions or obligations may be imposed requiring the appropriate changes to any PRoW or access affected or required by a development. For example detailing

3.3 Prior to the commencement of a development, a scheme for the provision of PRoW shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the council to include:

- The design of access and PRoW routes (to include landscaping, widths, surfacing and, where necessary, appropriate countryside furniture)
- Proposals for diversion of PRoW (where necessary)
- The temporary closure and alternative route provision (where necessary) of an existing right of way

3.4 Any scheme submitted should be in accordance with the approved PRoW Standards and Guidance. This is in the interests of the amenity of pedestrians and other non-motorised users and to ensure the safety of users is not compromised by the traffic associated with the development. Developers considering or undertaking works that might affect a PRoW are advised to ensure that the definitive legal line of any PRoW is mapped at the earliest opportunity and that no development should take place on or near a PRoW unless the statutory legal process (where necessary) has been completed in accordance with:

1. An order made, confirmed and certifies under the provisions of Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (The 1990 Act), or
2. An order made, confirmed and certified under the provisions of sections 25, 26, 116, 118 or 119 of the Highways Act 1980 (The 1980 Act), or
3. An order made under any other relevant legislation concerning the modification, creation, diversion or extinguishment of a right of way.

3.5 There may be a requirement to consider an application to temporarily close and/or divert an existing PRoW as part of the formal diversion process within the development. This allows a

developer to legally either temporarily close, or close and divert the PRoW so that the Health and Safety of the public is not compromised and also so that the developer can continue to construct the housing/development without the issues of the public entering a construction site. These Traffic Regulation Orders last, initially, for six months but can be extended for longer periods of time, dependant on the development of the site. It must be noted that this is outside of the control of the planning system and is subject to separate legislation.

- 3.6 The requirement to improve accessibility, surfacing and linkages to existing and proposed rights of way networks will still have to be provided by individual development proposals and this will have to be included, where appropriate, in S106 agreements. Where the scale and location of development will require linkage and/or lead to increased use this Council will secure appropriate planning obligations.

Types of Contribution

- 3.7 New routes or improvements to existing routes and important off-site links (including footpaths, cycleways and bridleways as appropriate) will be sought. These improvements will include surface upgrades appropriate for the use of the end user, erection of structures and countryside furniture, which are access friendly (such as bridges and gates rather than stiles), signage, lighting, dog bins and other works, where appropriate and necessary, to make routes accessible. Contributions will be sought to provide improved links to community infrastructure.
- 3.8 Contributions may include commuted sums to cover establishment, management and maintenance where new routes are required.

Steps of the Process

- 3.9 Table 1 below highlights the process of a planning application, from the initial site allocation to the commencement of planning permission, and it highlights the duties of the council's Countryside Access Officer, alongside the considerations that the applicant/developer must factor in themselves. It is strongly encouraged that applicants factor in PRoW at the earliest stage in the process to mitigate against unnecessary delays.

Table 1 - PRoW throughout the development/application process

Stage of the Development/Application Process	Considerations for the Applicant/Developer	Duty of the council's Countryside Access Officer
Site Allocation	The site allocation may highlight access and PRoW proposals that should be incorporated into a scheme.	Check site allocation
Master plan/development Proposal	The Definitive Map should be checked and the team contacted to discuss PRoW. Consideration given to need for diversion, design and submit RoW scheme.	Check Definitive Map and contact Countryside Access Officer (CAO).
Pre Application	The Heads of Terms for a RoW scheme (including diversion proposals) should be drawn up with Countryside Access Team.	Consider submitted Rights of Way Scheme
Planning Application Submission	A worked up RoW scheme should be submitted. This should be submitted as part of the planning application – together with any diversion application.	Process diversion application
S106	The Section 106 agreement should include contributions towards the maintenance of on-site routes and the enhancement and maintenance of the adjoining network.	Confirm S106 contributions.
Application Process Determination	All design matters regarding the Rights of Way and access routes will have been conducted and detailed in the 'Rights of Way Scheme' document. Conditions may be imposed on the scheme.	Rights of Way scheme approved (with conditions)
Commencement of Planning Permission	Any diversion applications will be processed and there should be continual dialogue with the CAO to ensure that the access is being provided in line with the submitted 'Rights of Way Scheme'.	Rights of way Scheme approved (with conditions)

4. The Role of Developers

Submission of a Rights of Way Scheme

- 4.1 Any development that would affect or include PRow should submit a PRow scheme. Ideally the scheme should be submitted at outline application stage and discussed in pre-application discussions.
- 4.2 It should detail what is proposed for existing routes, including whether the paths are to be incorporated into the design or diverted, landscape proposals for the paths and details regarding new routes and connections to the rights of way and access network.
- 4.3 It must include details regarding how any rights of way are to be dealt with during construction.
- 4.4 The submission of a Rights of Way Scheme will allow for early consideration and aid the effective delivery of development proposals.

A Rights of Way Scheme should include:

- Detail drawings showing the current legal route of the PRow
- An indication of whether a diversion order is required
- Design drawings showing the proposed new routes through the final development
- Details on how the routes are to be dealt with during the layout of the development – i.e. routes for temporary diversions
- Design, surfacing, management and maintenance details

Diversion Schemes

- 4.5 The best route for the right of way may be away from the original line of the path, which means a diversion order would be required. The council will work with developers to divert rights of way as quickly as possible ensuring minimal impact on the development. In order to prevent unnecessary splits from a right of way it may be necessary to extend the diversion beyond the limits of the development and to involve other landowners. For more information on the 1990 Act and 1980 Act Orders, costs and associated timescales please contact the Countryside Access Team on 01429 523524 or email them at rightsofway@hartlepool.gov.uk

Applying for a change to the Rights of Way

- 4.6 The council can consider applications to alter the PRow network ahead of granting planning consent. In order to do this, applicants need to ensure that they have produced and had their Rights of Way Scheme approved by the council.
- 4.7 Applications based on an approved Rights of Way Scheme and submitted with the planning application will be fast tracked and determined at the same time as the application for development consent.
- 4.8 Where a Rights of Way Scheme is either not approved or not submitted, any application to alter a right of way will not be processed until after planning consent has been granted.

Additionally, the council may refuse to approve the application and/or oppose the planning proposal if it does not give due consideration to the PRow network.

- 4.9 Once an application to alter the PRow network is approved a legal order has to be made and advertised. A charge will be made for Council administration and the cost of advertising the orders. Such orders are subject to public scrutiny and may receive objections. The council can only confirm an order if it is unopposed. If objections are received and not withdrawn, the order can only be confirmed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs after having considered the objections – a process that can take around nine months. No development affecting the legal line of a public right of way can take place until an order has been confirmed and if necessary, certified. A further charge will be made for advertising any confirmed orders and associated certificates.

Construction Phase

- 4.10 It is imperative that the route of any PRow should be delineated through any development site throughout its construction phase. If a path is to be left on its original line – the route (including the width) will have to be accurately surveyed and pegged before any works takes place. The Countryside Access Team can assist in this process.
- 4.11 Developers may need to apply for temporary diversions and will be expected to provide an alternative route through or around the site (wherever practical). A charge will be made for this process.
- 4.12 Any diverted routes should be provided at the earliest opportunity along an agreed route and should be surfaced to the standard agreed by the council.

5. The Importance of Design

Development and Path Design

- 5.1 A development site which is affected by PRoW requires careful planning. It is not always practical to keep a PRoW on its original legal line and a diversion under the 1990 Act may be required.
- 5.2 Ideally, the Council would not encourage the incorporation of PRoW directly alongside estate roads, permanent extinguishments, or unofficial diversions/encroachments. However, proposals on landscaped areas which follow the route of the road might be deemed acceptable if there is sufficient separation between the route and the road. Proposals should give due consideration to the existing rights of way and their links with nearby communities.

Links to Community Facilities

- 5.3 PRoW often provide valuable links between communities/villages and to local facilities such as schools, shops and pubs. New developments may place pressure on these paths but provide an opportunity for localised enhancement by better design or contributions towards off-site mitigation or improvements.

Design

- 5.4 The relationship between a proposed development and the established landscape as well as the standards within the design guide are key principles that should be considered when looking at how PRoW and the countryside access network are to be incorporated into a development. Local character and distinctiveness should be factored into the design on new access routes.
- 5.5 The council looks for PRoW to run in green corridors which connect to other rights of way and to nearby facilities and amenities. The priority is to create an enjoyable, easy accessible, direct network.
- 5.6 Sport England's Active Design guidance is a recommended resource for developers to use. This guidance recognises the importance of the PRoW network and provides information regarding how their full worth to the public can be unlocked.

Poorly designed paths

- 5.7 The following picture examples show routes which are narrow and enclosed, badly designed, are poorly incorporated into public open space and infringe unduly on private space.



- 5.8 Poorly designed paths can be unattractive, alter people's perception of route safety, and have a potential to deter public usage. Poor design may also lead to criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

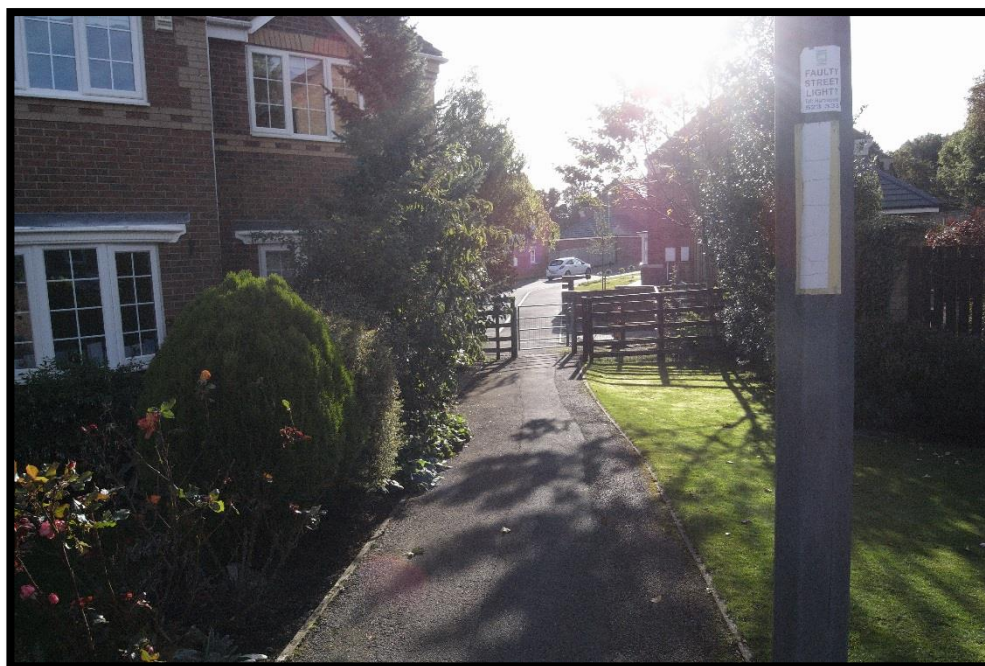
Well Designed Paths

- 5.9 The following images show examples of well-designed paths. These paths are attractive, open and overlooked, and this is likely to be safer and less likely to give rise to crime and anti-social behaviour.



Path Standards

- 5.10 Paths should run through open landscaped areas away from roads. They should form part of the open space provision and, where possible, should be overlooked and free from sharp bends, in order to prevent areas where crime is easier to commit.
- 5.11 In general terms, the relevant design and engineering standards should be taken from the standards below. *(Supported by Department for Transport, CBC Design Code, Sustrans, and The Fieldfare Trust's Accessibility Standards and guidance).*



Accessibility

- 5.12 All paths should adhere to the Access 4 All Principle in order to ensure they are accessible to all users. Any countryside furniture to be installed should be mobility friendly. The following countryside furniture is recommended:
- Self-closing pedestrian and equestrian gates; these gates range from 1.0 metres to 1.2 metres in width (actual opening width). They are robust galvanised steel construction with a 15 to 20 year life.
 - Kissing gates; these gates incorporate a system that allows pushchairs and wheelchairs through but also prevent egress for agricultural stock. They have been used in fields of sheep and cattle and are effective.
 - Motorbike Inhibitors (A Frames); these structures allow pushchairs and wheelchairs as well as some makes of mobility scooters through. Cyclists can also use these effectively.
- 5.13 Purchasing furniture that complies with British Standard BS5709:2018 for Gaps, Gates and Stiles will ensure that mobility friendly furniture is installed where possible.

Urban Paths

- 5.14 An urban path should connect with other nearby communities, facilities and amenities. It should be direct and easily accessible to all nearby residents. The path should have a sealed surface and be incorporated within a green corridor, with an appropriate width, with raised tables, dropped kerbs and appropriate markings/signage at road junctions. If necessary, the path should utilise barriers, bollards, soft furniture etc. to prevent vehicular access.

Table 2 – Urban Path Requirements



Minimum Width	Landscaping considerations	Other matters
2m surfaced footpath 3m surfaced cycle route	Tarmac surface Min 1m green space on either side	No high fences or planting Not to be along estate roads or private roads



Urban Edge Paths

- 5.15 These paths should provide users with a gateway into the nearby countryside. They will typically have a surface dressing to ensure they are useable throughout the year, yet the surface should use materials which will easily blend the paths into their rural surroundings. These paths need to be clearly waymarked and signposted; with map boards used at all main exits of the existing rights of way network.



Table 3 – Urban Edge Path Requirements

Minimum Width	Landscaping considerations	Other matters
2m surfaced footpath 3m surfaced cycle route	Bound surface Located in green corridor	Located in open space



Rural Paths

- 5.16 Rural paths will have a natural surface that is level and well drained. These paths need to be waymarked and should be at least 2m wide. They need to have good connections with other rights of way and not be enclosed by high fences or shrubs.

Table 4 – Rural Path Requirements

Minimum Width	Landscaping considerations	Other matters
2m footpath 4m bridleway	Min. 1m greenspace either side Min. 1m greenspace either side	No high fences or planting Not along estate roads or private roads



Minerals and Waste

- 5.17 Paths provided through quarry restoration schemes should be provided to a high standard in order to encourage use by a variety of legal users. They should have a surface dressing to ensure they are useable throughout the year, yet the surface should use materials which will easily blend the paths into their rural surroundings. Materials should be ideally sourced from the quarry itself. Paths need to be clearly waymarked and signposted; with map boards used at all main exits of the existing rights of way network.



Table 5 – Quarry Restoration Path Requirements

Minimum width	Landscaping considerations	Other matters
2m surfaced footpath 3m surfaced cycle/bridleway route	Min. 1m greenspace either side Min. 1m greenspace either side	No high fences or planting

Commercial/Industrial Development

- 5.18 Paths through these areas should have a sealed surface and be incorporated within a green corridor or the public realm, with a width of at least 2 metres, with drop kerbs and appropriate markings/signage at road junctions.
- 5.19 It is acknowledged that these sites may have particular security arrangements; however, security measures should not be put in place to the detriment of access and rights of way.



Table 6 – Commercial/Industrial Path Requirements

Minimum Width	Landscaping considerations	Other matters
2m surfaced footpath 3m surfaced cycle route	Min. 1m greenspace either side Min. 1m greenspace either side	No high fences or planting Not to be along estate roads or private roads

Appendix 1 – Relevant Local Plan Policies

INF1: Sustainable Transport Network

In Hartlepool, a key priority of a sustainable transport network is to provide a comprehensive, safe and well-managed network of footpaths and cycle routes throughout the borough linking residential areas with employment sites, shopping and community facilities, and leisure/recreation sites.

INF2: Improving Connectivity in Hartlepool

The council will aim to maximise the level of sustainable access to areas of development, which includes ensuring safe, attractive and well-lit pedestrian and cycle routes.

QP1: Planning Obligations

Planning obligations will be sought where viable and deemed to be required to address the impacts arising from a development. Green infrastructure (including PRow) is an area towards which obligations may be sought.

HSG4: The South West Extension Strategic Housing Site

Within the South West Extension appropriate vehicular, pedestrian and cycle linkages to the adjoining urban and rural area must be provided with each phase of the development.

HSG5: High Tunstall Strategic Housing Site

Within the High Tunstall site appropriate vehicular, pedestrian and cycle linkages to the adjoining urban and rural area must be provided with each phase of the development.

HSG5a: Quarry Farm Strategic Housing Site

Within the Quarry Farm site appropriate vehicular, pedestrian and cycle linkages to the adjoining urban and rural area must be provided as part of the development.

HSG6: Wynyard Housing Development

Within the Wynyard Developments appropriate pedestrian and cycle linkages to the adjoining areas at Wynyard and linking to Hartlepool along the A689 must be provided by the development.

HSG7: Elwick Village Housing Development

Within the site at Elwick, appropriate pedestrian and cycle linkages to the adjoining areas of countryside and linking to Hartlepool along Elwick Road will be required as part of the residential development.

HSG8: Hart Village Housing Development

At the Hart Village sites, appropriate pedestrian and cycle linkages to the adjoining areas of countryside and linking to Hartlepool along the footpath adjacent to the A179 will be required.

RUR1: Development in Rural Areas

Developments in the rural area has the responsibility to, where possible, create and improve sustainable connectivity.

RUR4: Equestrian Development

Equestrian development will be supported as an appropriate use in the rural area where they are located close to existing bridleways or other routes suitable for trekking or hacking out where this forms part of the business; where this is not the case, provision of safe equine routes should be provided.

RC2: Town Centre

Where appropriate, all developments should provide improvements to connectivity from the Town Centre to Edge of Town Centre areas and the Retail and Leisure Parks including improved pedestrian and cycle provision.

RC5: The Brewery and Stranton Edge of Town Centre Area

Development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the Burn Valley Green Wedge through environmental improvement works and improved pedestrian and cycle provision.

RC6: East of Stranton Edge of Town Centre Area

All development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the Town Centre by improving crossing points and cycling facilities.

RC7: Lynn Street Edge of Town Centre Area

All development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the Town Centre and Retail and Leisure Parks to the north of the railway through improved pedestrian and cycle provision.

RC8: Mill House Edge of Town Centre Area

All development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the Town Centre through environmental enhancement works and improved pedestrian and cycle provision.

RC12: The Marina Retail and Leisure Park

Development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the Town Centre and the Retail and Leisure Parks through improved pedestrian and cycle links.

RC13: West of Marina Way Retail and Leisure Park

All development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the Town Centre and the adjacent Retail and Leisure Parks through improved pedestrian and cycle links and cycling facilities.

RC14: Trincomalee Wharf Retail and Leisure Park

All development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the Town Centre and the Retail and Leisure Parks through improved pedestrian and cycle links.

RC15: Tees Bay Retail and Leisure Park

All development should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the surrounding area, especially to the Town Centre and Seaton Carew train station through improved public transport provision and facilities and pedestrian and cycleway provision and facilities.

RC16: The Local Centres

All development in the local centres should facilitate, where appropriate, improvements to connectivity to the surrounding area through improved pedestrian and cycle provision.

LT1: Leisure and Tourism

Summerhill will continue to be developed as a focus for access to the countryside, nature conservation and informal recreational and leisure activities such as walking, cycling and climbing.

LT2: Tourism Development – Marina

Developments should link to each other and to leisure and tourism attractions across the borough by incorporating and encouraging sustainable transport links through the provision and enhancement of pedestrian and cycle routes.

NE2: Green Infrastructure

The council will investigate the potential for improving access to open spaces and the countryside and will seek opportunities to expand and improve the Rights of Way network, making it accessible to sections and groups in the community in accordance with policy QP3.

**Standards and Guidance for Public Rights of Way Supplementary
Planning Document
Consultation Statement
May 2020**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Standards and Guidance for Public Rights of Way Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared by Hartlepool Borough Council. The Draft SPD was published for public consultation over a ten week period from 7 February 2020 until 17 April 2020. The consultation period was extended to provide further time to comment in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 This Consultation Statement addresses the requirements of Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 that requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare a statement setting out:-
- the persons the Local Planning Authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;
 - a summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and
 - how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document.
- 1.3 Section 2 of this Statement outlines the consultation processes and provides details of those people and organisations that were consulted.
- 1.4 Section 3 gives an overview of the representations made within the consultation period. Appendix 1 provides a full schedule of the representations made and the Council's response to each. Where a representation has informed a revision to the SPD, this is set out.
- 1.5 Section 4 gives a brief overview of the next steps in the process of adopting the SPD.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 A public consultation on the Draft SPD was approved at the Regeneration Services Committee meeting of 5 February 2020.
- 2.2 The public consultation began on the 7 February 2020 until 17 April 2020.
- 2.3 External and internal consultees were contacted via email or letter. This included housebuilders, residents' associations, Parish Councils and adjacent Local Authorities. The statutory consultees Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England were consulted.
- 2.4 Consultees were informed that a copy of the Draft SPD was available to view at the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, and online on the Council's Planning Policy webpage. Hard copies were available on request.

3. Representations Made and Officer Responses

- 3.1 A total of 5 consultees made representations on the Draft SPD. The consultees that made representations were: HBC Development Control, HBC Countryside Access Officer, Historic England, Sport England and Wynyard Park.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 includes a full schedule of representations, along with an officer response and suggested SPD amendments to reflect the representation is provided at Appendix 1.

4. Next Steps – Adoption

- 4.1 The representations received during the consultation period have, where appropriate, been reflected in the finalised version of the SPD prior to being presented at full Council in **X** for adoption.
- 4.2 It will be important following the adoption that the SPD is kept up to date and modified to reflect any changes in government regulations and emerging opportunities across the Borough.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Representations and Officer Responses

Respondent	Representation Feedback	HBC Response/Proposed Action
HBC Development Control (Daniel James)	<p>I would suggest merging the title at 3.2 to 'Planning Conditions and Planning Obligations' (as both are correctly referenced in that section). You could then probably merge the 3.6 para (planning obs) into that main section. As an example, works to create or extend a PRow (beyond the site boundary) would be through a planning obligation as you correctly note in para 3.6. Where a PRow runs through an actual site (for example High Tunstall), we would apply a condition such as:</p> <p>"No part of the development of Parcel A shall be occupied until details for the works to Public Right of Way (Public Footpath No 7, Hartlepool) located in parcel A have been submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include details of surfacing, countryside furniture and dropped kerbs, and a timetable for the implementation of the agreed works. Thereafter, the scheme shall be carried in accordance with the agreed details and timetable, to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority. In the interests of highway and pedestrian safety and in the interests of the visual amenity of the surrounding area."</p> <p>In that instance, Chris discussed the PRow matter direct with the applicant through the process (their plans reflected that there was a PRow) with final details left to condition (as above). We also usually put an informative on directing them to contact Chris Scaife at the earliest stage.</p> <p>It may be worth clarifying a para 3.5 (temp stopping up etc) would be outside of planning control/subject to appropriate legislation?</p> <p>Just in terms of the processes list/table which looks good, as I previously indicated (see attached email), some developers may not have engaged at pre-app and may not be aware of PRow and therefore it would not be reflected in initial submission – usually throughout the application process they will have to amend the plans to incorporate the PRow with final details subject to condition. Again, I appreciate the list is likely to be an ideal scenario (OSS, submitted at validation stage etc) as I think it would be difficult to make it a formal requirement for the provision of PRow details (that run through at site) at validation stage – they may not have that info and we as DC officers don't.</p>	<p>Noted, changes have been made to the title at 3.2 and paragraph 3.6 has been merged into this section.</p> <p>Noted, additional sentence added to paragraph 3.5 to clarify this matter.</p> <p>Noted, no further change required.</p>
Countryside Access Officer (Chris Scaife)	<p>Many thanks for the email and I hope the following information helps to clear up this concern of access and those with mobility issues. It is not just a question of disability but it covers a range of many users: old, young, infirm, mothers or fathers with pushchairs, wheelchair and mobility scooter users and those with short terms as well as long term or permanent disability. This list is not</p>	<p>Noted, additional information added at paragraph 5.11 and 5.12.</p>

	<p>comprehensive but shows the range of people we cater for.</p> <p>I adhere to the Access 4 All Principle and so the countryside furniture I install is mobility friendly and does take into account those with mobility issues.</p> <p>We use the following furniture when replacing old stiles or old wooden pedestrian gates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-closing pedestrian and equestrian gates; these gates range from 1.0 metres to 1.2 metres in width (actual opening width). They are robust galvanised steel construction with a 15 to 20 year life. - Kissing gates; these gates incorporate a system that allows pushchairs and wheelchairs through but also prevent egress for agricultural stock. They have been used in fields of sheep and cattle and are effective. - Motorbike Inhibitors (A Frames); these structures allow pushchairs and wheelchairs as well as some makes of mobility scooters through. Cyclists can also use these effectively/ <p>Other gates/barriers are used in relation to equestrian use, disallowing the passage of mechanically propelled vehicles. We use these in conjunction with A Frames as a way to prevent illegal vehicular use. The barriers allow the safe passage of horses but are prevention against most determined quads and motorbikes and the A Frame, similarly allows pedestrian/cyclist access, as well as those with mobility issues.</p> <p>Where possible we will do our best to provide the best access for as many users as we can. This is on a normal basis of replacement and repair as well as new, in relation to planning applications and development.</p> <p>We do try to purchase furniture that complies with British Standard BS5709:2018 for Gaps, Gates and Stiles. This means that we will install mobility friendly furniture wherever we can.</p> <p>Ultimately we do try to have open access where the development can allow but realise that we need to protect regular and legal users against illegal users.</p> <p>The Council as a Highway Authority, has a legal statutory duty to protect all public rights of way and protect all legal users of these rights of way.</p>	
Historic England	<p>We would encourage you to consider the historic environment in the production of your SPD. We recommend that you seek advice from the local authority conservation officer and from the appropriate archaeological staff. They are best placed to provide information on the historic environment, advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, indicate how heritage assets may be affected and identify opportunities for securing wider benefits through the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.</p>	<p>The relevant Council officers were consulted on this document, no further action required.</p>

Sport England	<p>There are aspects of both SPDs which have synergy with Sport England's work around Active Design / Active Environments / Active Travel. Modern-day life can make us inactive, and about a third of adults in England don't do the recommended amount of weekly exercise, but the design of where we live and work can play a vital role in keeping us active.</p> <p>We know sport isn't for everyone, but embracing a lifestyle change to be more active can have real benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Improving physical health . Increasing mental wellbeing . Building stronger communities. <p>As part of our drive to create an active environment, Active Design wraps together the planning and considerations that should be made when designing the places and spaces we live in. It's about designing and adapting where we live to encourage activity in our everyday lives, making the active choice the easy choice.</p> <p>Active Design is based around ten principles, and it is considered that the detail of the respective SPDs supports the following principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Activity for all' neighbourhoods Walkable communities Connected walking and cycling routes Network of multifunctional open space High quality streets and spaces <p>Active Design also recognises that for green infrastructure and the public rights of way network to work well and provide their full worth to the public they need to be supported by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate infrastructure Management, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation Activity promotion and local champions. <p>We've developed a range of support guidance to help Local Authorities in this area.</p> <p>The full Active Design guidance can be found at the following location on our website;</p> <p>https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf?uCz_r6UyApzAZlaiEVaNt69DAaOCmkIQ</p> <p>Subsidiary guidance on designing for physical activity - outdoor spaces, and designing for physical activity – routes and wayfinding, both of which I think will be of use, can be found at the following location on our website;</p> <p>https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-activity-outdoor-spaces.pdf?oeqbnn6m9d3vmZ7Xh_fldeqWnCpdmFG</p> <p>https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-activity-routes-and-wayfinding.pdf?eX2Y6b3P_xuFhf5ESTG0vgHkeNgdcLWz</p>	<p>Noted. 1.7 does acknowledge a link between the PRoW network and health but this can be expanded upon. Please see addition to paragraph 1.6 which details this further. Paragraph 5.6 signposts developers to the Sport England guidance as a useful resource.</p>
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20.07.23 - Regen - 4.2 - RND Public Rights of Way and Other Access Supplementary Planning Document

	<p>helpful for the SPD to be amended to provide clarity and avoid ambiguity.</p> <p>For instance, paragraph 5.2 states that, among other points, “The council does not encourage or support the incorporation of rights of way along estate roads”. At paragraphs 5.5 and 5.9, the draft SPD goes on to outline the Council’s preference for PRoW to be located in “green corridors” and in “open landscaped areas away from roads”.</p> <p>We suspect that paragraph 5.2 seeks to avoid scenarios where a PRoW immediately adjoins a road with a hard surface. However, it is unclear whether the Council would be willing to support a PRoW which is routed through an attractive landscaped area which provides separation from the road but generally follows its alignment.</p> <p>To put this into context, on the first page of this letter, we referred to Map 1 on page 4 of the SPD and highlighted a proposed RoW at Wynyard Park and its alignment with the east-west link road through the development. This PRoW is likely to be located through an attractive landscaped area (as per the above paragraph) but, to all intents and purposes, its route will follow a road. It should also be noted for context that, whilst this section of the PRoW follows the road, it does ultimately connect with routes which allow access to the more rural surroundings. To provide further clarity we suggest that the text in Section 5 is amended to allow for such instances.</p>	<p>Noted, amendments have been made to paragraph 5.2</p>
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REGENERATION COMMITTEE

23rd July 2020



Report of: Director of Adults and Community Based Services

Subject: STRATEGIC OUTCOMES PATHWAYS FOR CULTURE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To propose the progression of a strategic outcomes pathways for culture that will inform the priorities for the sector in Hartlepool, ensure sustainable recovery from COVID 19 and develop a vision for the town.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Hartlepool is rich in culture and heritage, it is what defines much of the town's foundations and its influence on local residents and the visiting population.
- 3.2 There are a significant number of opportunities to pursue investment into the cultural infrastructure and assets however it is essential that all developments are collaborated, well informed and there are clear outcomes.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that there is progression of a Strategic Outcomes Pathway to ensure that all further decisions and opportunities for culture are working towards an overall vision. It will also ensure connectivity across other sectors specifically considering the relevance of leisure, sport and environment for the Waterfront Development and the Town's Fund progression.
- 4.2 The Strategic Outcomes Pathways will be approached consistently with the work that is currently being progressed for sport and leisure. This will include a framework inclusive of outcomes, insight, intervention and commitment.

- 4.3 People will be placed at the heart of the cultural developments ensuring that the future of culture is enriching to lives through health, economy, ecology and social interactions. Hartlepool has one of the lowest engagement rates of culture in the UK with less than 20% of our population actively engaging in culture regularly. For a town with so much to offer the outcomes pathway will consider what the needs of the local and visiting population are and how do we fulfil those needs by ensuring accessibility to the sector on whatever level people would like to be involved.
- 4.4 The outcome pathway will be used to inform, progress and connect key cultural programmes already identified as being delivered/developed in the future:
- 4.5 Development of Waterfront cultural events space will be an integrated part of the wider Waterfront Development scheme. Work is progressing to development the strategic leisure facility, an outcome pathway for leisure is being conducted by Max Associates and tender is currently out for the appointment of an architect which will conclude in September. The architect for the leisure centre will work with the landscape architect for the events space to ensure the overall design is well connected and will enable the delivery of all proposed events and activities. The cultural outcome pathway will interact with the leisure outcome pathway to ensure the needs of the local and visiting communities are well considered in determining final design and build.
- 4.6 Commissioning of Community art/sculpture that will provide unique representation of Hartlepool and its social history. Concepts have been explored with an American Sculptor and work is progressing with HBC engineers to scope the landscape and engineering considerations to inform where a sculpture or number of sculpture can be located on the Waterfront site. The outcome pathways will further inform this through public consultation and considering cultural impact based on how it interacts with the environment, what it represents and tourism.
- 4.7 Refurbishment of Headland Amphitheatre work has commenced however due to the impact of COVID 19 work was suspended on site for the period of lockdown. There is further delay due to bird nesting season and work will recommence once the nesting season has finished. The outcome pathway will consider direction of the Amphitheatre and what the calendar of activities and events can look like. It will also inform how the Amphitheatre interacts with other event venues ensuring that the unique selling point of location is capitalised on and this will determine what type of performances can be hosted.
- 4.8 Borough Hall, Town Hall Theatre and Art Gallery improvement programme is on hold pending agreement of TVCA cultural programme and currently suspension of Art Council funding streams. Early feasibility work is underway exploring potential costs of completing improvements to all buildings. The outcome pathway will support what is needed to ensure the sustainability of and inform robust business models.

- 4.9 Pending the outcome of an application to host Tallships 2023 the events programme for Hartlepool will be reviewed and consideration will be given regarding what events are critical to ensure the build-up to and legacy of Tallships is represented in the overall calendar of events. The outcome pathway will consider the views of the public and visiting population to better understand what is important economically, socially, educationally and for the health of the population and ensuring the impact of events is relevant and sustainable.
- 4.10 There will be interaction across the whole sector to ensure wider engagement of partners on a national and local level to ensure strategic fit, sustainability and future opportunities for resource and engagement are explored.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are limited risks attached to the development of an outcomes pathways as this will not identify commitment of resource to specific programmes however it will capture the overall priorities for the town ensuring that future decisions and the need for resource and funding are well informed.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 It is proposed that an external advisor from the sector is commissioned to fulfil this work therefore a specification will be developed and funds identified for progression once costs are known.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 It is obviously throughout the progression of the sport and leisure outcomes pathways that this is needed to ensure clear connectivity and interaction of the sectors.
- 7.2 Robust consultation plans will be developed as part of the work.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Procurement processes will apply for progression.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 Ensuring an accessible cultural offer in town will support to reduce inequalities and raise aspirations of residents. This will be a key consideration in the progression of the outcome pathway.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 Equality and diversity will be a critical part of successful progression ensuring that the consultation process is inclusive and how this is considered in the outcomes framework.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 No applicable at this time.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 Assets and facilities will be considered in the wider outcomes framework.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 That committee note the proposal of a Strategic Outcomes Framework and provide any comments on the process that is being proposed.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 To ensure successful progression and implementation.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 Not specifically relating to this item.

16. CONTACT OFFICER

- 16.1 Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director Preventative and Community Based Services
01429 523441
Gemma.ptak@hartlepool.gov.uk

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date 23rd July 2020



Report of: Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods

Subject: PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR CONDITION STOCK
SURVEY LINKED TO STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To seek Members approval to commission a private rented stock condition survey which would include student accommodation.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Hartlepool town centre like many town centres is facing an unprecedented number of challenges including the impact increased competition from online retailing on town-centre retailing, changing consumer preferences and the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic. Hartlepool is not unique in this regard and must respond to these challenges by diversifying and finding new ways to attract footfall and visitors. The town centre can no longer rely on traditional retail uses in order to ensure its long term sustainability.
- 3.2 The Bill Grimsey Review 2 (2018) report on Reinventing High Streets recommended to *'urgently repopulate and refashion high streets and town centres as 'community hubs', including housing, health and leisure, entertainment, education, arts, business/office space and some shops, i.e. reduce the retail offer.*
- 3.3 The government has reinforced this recommendation with its vision for high streets and town centres in 2030. It called for *'activity based community gathering places where retail is a smaller part of a wider range of uses and activities and where green space, leisure, arts and culture and health and social care services combine with housing to create a space based on social*
- 3.4 Members will be aware a report advising progress on our Towns Fund, Town Centre Masterplan and High Street Task Force was submitted to Finance and Policy Committee in June. A Town Board has been set up to improve our

partnerships and communications with business leaders and the wider community. Stronger partnerships between the Council, businesses and the wider community will build more capacity for making change in the town.

- 3.5 In addition the Council is currently working on the production of our 3 year Council Plan. Virtual consultations with staff, anchor organisations, businesses and the voluntary sector have taken place ensuring their views are taken into account as we enter the recovery phase of living with the Coronavirus pandemic. This will enable a better-quality and more distinctive vision to be developed, which can inform the Town Centre Masterplan and address the challenges that were identified from the High Street Task Force unit such as improving the leisure offer, developing an evening economy, making more of markets, extending office and housing space and quality in the centre, creating more green space, and addressing issues of vacancy and blank frontages.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Growing the existing, or developing new, town centre residential populations will have a helpful effect on the viability of town centre businesses and retail, and create opportunities for new businesses catering to the needs and demands of a residential population. Repurposing the High Street and the greater use of existing buildings and potentially new sites in the central area of town for residential purposes stands to deliver substantial benefits in terms of quality of life, economic productivity and environmental sustainability.
- 4.2 The advantage of housing in the town centre as part of the town centre masterplan is that people will be encouraged to stay active longer, visiting town centres for leisure and recreation as well as access to shops and other services. People may be look to move to town centres, as they want to live somewhere without needing to drive to access services, whether this is a personal choice or enforced by declining health concerns.
- 4.3 The private rented sector (PRS) accounts for almost 15% of housing stock in Hartlepool and has an important role to play in the housing market. Nationally the private rented sector is at its highest levels since the 1960s yet almost a quarter of the sector does not meet the decent homes standard, tenants can be vulnerable and unaware of their rights. The sector provides homes for a variety of people at different stages in their lives, including would-be first time buyers who cannot afford to take the first step onto the property ladder, people who enjoy the flexibility of short tenancies, students and those who the Council has helped into the sector to prevent them from becoming homeless.
- 4.4 Whilst we know the condition of town centre properties within the ownership of the Council have been refurbished to a high standard and we have a responsive repairs and maintenance service we do not have an up-to-date private rented stock condition survey, the last one was commissioned in 2009.
- 4.5 Members will recall the Council commissioned Arc4 to undertake a student accommodation needs assessment to establish the current and emerging need and demand within Hartlepool as well as type and quality of existing provision.

The final report was received in February 2020 prior to the Coronavirus lockdown and is attached as **Appendix 1**.

- 4.6 The potential need for Student Accommodation relates to students attending the Northern School of Art. Current demand is met from a combination of provision by private sector rental, halls of residence managed by Thirteen Group and the Council. The report indicates there isn't a shortage of student accommodation, however due to the role of the private rented sector in the provision of some of the student accommodation it was not possible to quantify exactly the scale of existing infrastructure, but it is believed a range between 352 – 598 units including 159 in halls of residents.
- 4.7 There is however anecdotal evidence regarding the quality of private rented sector accommodation for students and it is therefore proposed that the Council identifies a funding stream to commission a private sector stock condition survey with a particular focus on student accommodation, completing the work started by Arc4 feeding into the town centre master planning within the context of the Town Deal.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are risks attached to commissioning of a private rented stock condition survey whilst we continue to live with the coronavirus and therefore it is proposed that we undertake a phased approach. The first phase will be a desk top survey to clarify the numbers of students living in the private rented sector and undertake a questionnaire survey to capture student views in partnership with The Northern School of Art. The second phase will require an actual property survey, however we are unable to carry out a physical private rented sector stock condition survey for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus. As and when the time allows and funding has been identified to enable the survey to be undertaken this work will be commissioned and reported back to Members.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Funding to commission the private rented stock condition survey has yet to be identified. Further work is required to estimate the costs and this will be completed over the summer with a view to including this in the December MTFS proposals to be considered by Finance and Policy Committee.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 In order to capture views from students, it is proposed a consultation survey is undertaken in collaboration with The Northern School of Art, Hartlepool College of Further Education and Hartlepool Sixth Form College.

8. STAFF IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Staff will undertake the desk top survey to clarify the numbers of students living in the private rented sector and undertake a questionnaire survey to capture student views in partnership with The Northern School of Art.

9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That committee note the content of this report.
- 10.2 It is proposed that we will undertake a desk top survey to identify the numbers of students living in the private rented sector and undertake a survey to capture their views.
- 10.3 Unfortunately we are unable to carry out a physical private rented sector stock condition survey for the foreseeable future, however this will be included within the Council plan and when the time allows.
- 10.4 Further work is required to estimate the costs of the survey and this will be completed over the summer with a view to including this in the December MTFS proposals to be considered by Finance and Policy Committee.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 We do not have an up-to-date private rented stock condition survey, the last one was completed in 2009. This work will feed into our town centre master planning within the context of the Town Deal.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Hartlepool Housing Strategy 2019-2024, Regeneration Services Committee, 13th November 2019
Housing Revenue Account and Student Accommodation, Finance & Policy Committee, 9th March 2020.
Student Accommodation Needs Study – Regeneration Services Committee, 18th September 2019

13. CONTACT OFFICER

- 13.1 Denise McGuckin, Director for Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
01429 523301
denise.mcguckin@hartlepool.gov.uk

Sign Off:-

- Director of Finance and Policy ☒
- Chief Solicitor/Monitoring Officer ☒
- Chief Executive - Finance & Policy Committee only ☒

Hartlepool Student Accommodation Needs Study

Hartlepool Borough Council

Final Report

February 2020

Main Contact: Dr Michael Bullock
Email: michael.bullock@arc4.co.uk
Telephone: 0800 612 9133
Website: www.arc4.co.uk



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Registered Address: arc4, 41 Clarendon Road, Sale, Manchester, M33 2DY

Email: businesssteam@arc4.co.uk Web : www.arc4.co.uk

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Directors Helen Brzozowski and Michael Bullock

Executive Summary

Hartlepool Borough Council invited arc4 to undertake a student accommodation needs assessment to establish the current and emerging need and demand within Hartlepool as well as type and quality of existing provision.

The study was also commissioned to inform the emerging Housing Strategy in which student accommodation is a new theme.

Located on the north east coast of England, Hartlepool is located within the Tees Valley Combined Authority which also includes Darlington, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

The following three organisations deliver all the Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) learning in the area:

- The Northern School of Art
- Hartlepool College of Further Education
- Hartlepool Sixth Form College

The Northern School of Art delivers all the Higher Education (HE) with the focus of the other two establishments being Further Education (FE). As a result, the Northern School of Art is particularly interested in student accommodation.

Due to the role of the private rented sector (PRS) in the provision of some of the student accommodation it is not possible to quantify exactly the scale of existing infrastructure, but it is believed to range between 352-598 units including 159 in halls of residence.

The quality of the student accommodation is not a concern. The halls of residence are maintained and managed through a combination of local registered social housing provider, Thirteen, and Hartlepool Borough Council. HMOs (House in Multiple Occupation) are licensed by the Council. The license agreements with the Council allow for an on-going inspection regime and the evidence of reported complaints has been negligible.

In terms of the scale of need it has been difficult to gain an exact figure on student numbers from The Northern School of Art due to its confidential and sensitive nature although a figure of 'around 600' is often referenced.

From historic information held by the Office for Students regarding The Northern School of Art undergraduate levels covering the period 2013-2018 It can be seen the average annual level of undergraduates is 260. Across the three student years this would give a total of 780 but taking the last 3 years of figures available gives a total 670.

Currently:

- None of the evidence available indicates a shortage of student accommodation.
- None of the three FE/HE providers indicate a need for new student accommodation.
- The known top end of the capacity range of 598 units broadly mirrors the calculated requirement levels of circa 600- 669.
- Understanding the impact of any new development needs to be carefully considered when assessing the general local housing market.

For the future:

- It is understood that this study and specifically the capacity and demand information will be used to inform the emerging Housing Strategy.
- To ensure the strategy continues to evolve, it is suggested that a group of strategic partners, for example The Northern School of Art, Hartlepool College of Further Education and Hartlepool Sixth Form College are engaged on a regular and formal basis to ensure that it continues to develop and reflect the ambitions of these local institutions.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2019 Hartlepool Borough Council invited arc4 to undertake a student accommodation needs assessment to establish the current and emerging need and demand within Hartlepool. The study would inform the emerging Housing Strategy and proposed action within the strategy to 'deliver a range of accommodation for the increasing student population'.
- 1.2 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) which supports the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) addresses the issue of assessing student housing needs as follows:
- Strategic policy-making authorities need to plan for sufficient student accommodation whether it consists of communal halls of residence or self-contained dwellings and whether or not it is on campus.
 - Encouraging more dedicated student accommodation may provide low cost housing that takes pressure off the private rented sector and increases the overall housing stock.
 - Strategic policy-making authorities are encouraged to consider options which would support both the needs of the student population as well as local residents before imposing caps or restrictions on students living outside university-provided accommodation.
 - Local Planning Authorities will also need to engage with universities and other higher educational establishments to ensure they understand their student accommodation requirements in their area.
- 1.3 In terms of how this study's information is used it is important to consider when developing the Housing Strategy that:
- Student accommodation counts towards an authority's land supply and therefore this accommodation is part of the housing requirement.
 - PPG implies that the net impact of student accommodation development should be considered in calculations to avoid double counting of dwelling need.
 - It will be important to consider whether student need can be addressed through the overall established dwelling mix or whether adjustments are necessary.

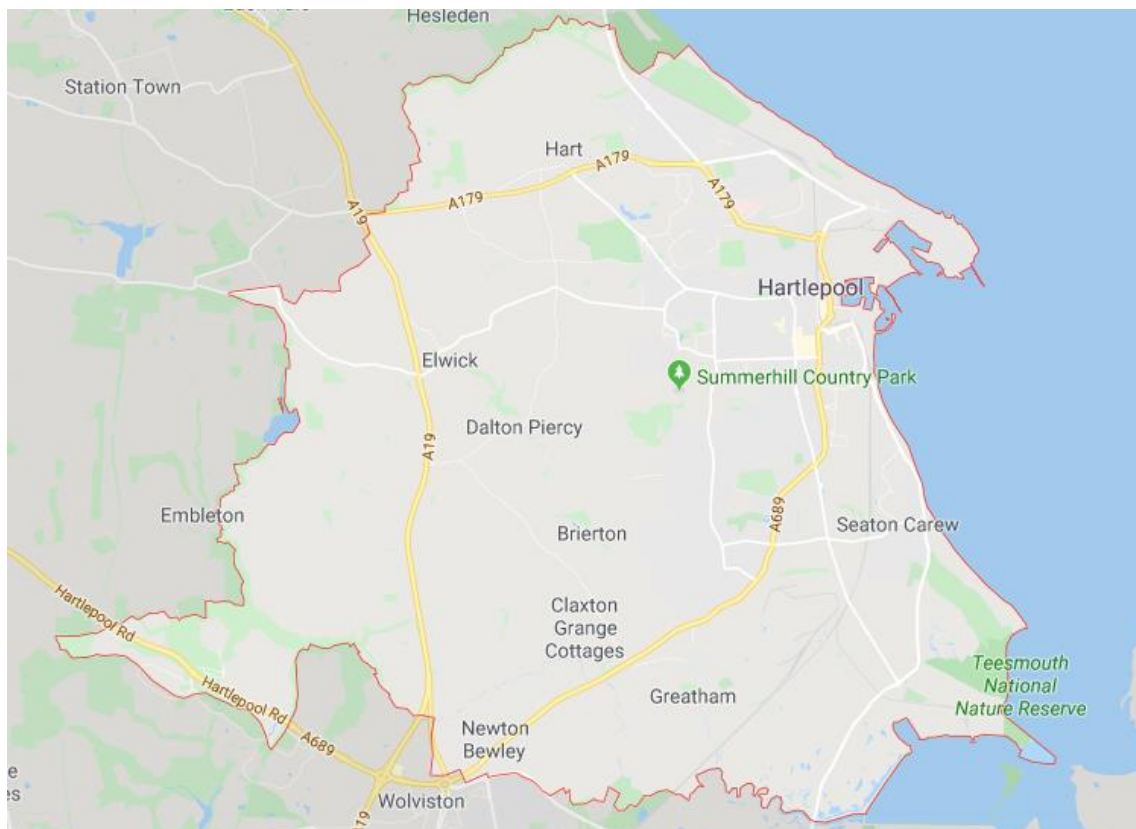
2. Methodology

- 2.1 A clear methodology has underpinned our approach to this commission and consists of the following elements:
- Background – brief context in terms of place and educational offer;
 - Baseline – understanding the current level, type and location and quality of student accommodation stock;
 - Analysis of current and projection of future accommodation demand;
 - Identification of gaps in accommodation requirements; and
 - Reflection upon analysis and assessment.
- 2.2 In support of our methodology we undertook a number of interviews and meetings with key stakeholders and also ran a workshop with students from the Northern School of Art to gather their views on current and future student accommodation.
- 2.3 The following meetings took place:
- Darren Hankey (Principal & Chief Executive) – Hartlepool College of Further Education, 8th October 2019.
 - Mark Hughes (Head of Hartlepool Sixth Form) – Hartlepool Sixth Form College, 8th October 2019.
 - Dr Martin Raby (Principal) and Patrick Chapman (Vice Principal -Employability & External Relations) – The Northern School of Art, 9th October 2019.
 - Rob Collier (Managing Director) and Michael Thompson (Creative Director) - Advanced Retail Solutions Limited, November 6th, 2019.
- 2.4 We also enjoyed a very positive and informative workshop on November 5th, 2019 with 8 students and Daniel Tierney, Student Liaison Officer (The Northern School of Art) where we discussed current and future student accommodation.

3. Hartlepool – Background

- 3.1 Hartlepool is a town in the Tees Valley, County Durham, with a population of 93,200 (51% female) in 2018. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne is around 29 miles north-west of the town; Middlesbrough is around 10 miles broadly due south with Stockton-on-Tees around 11 miles south-east of the town.

Map 3.1 Borough of Hartlepool



Source: Google Maps

- 3.2 Hartlepool was originally two towns, known locally as the Headland, and the more recent West Hartlepool. They amalgamated in 1967 to form what is now the single entity known as Hartlepool. The town may not always readily accept association with Teesside as it has its own natural harbour to the north of the river, but as in recent centuries its industrial history has been very closely tied up with the River Tees.
- 3.3 Hartlepool is part of the Tees Valley Combined Authority which was created in April 2016 and is made up of a partnership of five authorities; Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

Hartlepool Education

- 3.4 There are three further and higher education establishments in Hartlepool:
- The Northern School of Art is the only educational institution in the north east devoted to art and design. It is one of the few specialist art and design institutions

in the country¹. The college has a vision of itself as a proactive art school, at the cutting edge of developments in both the creative industries and art and design education².

- In Hartlepool the Northern School of Art has campus facilities at Church Square and at 1 Church Street and has a desire to create a campus feel. Therefore, any expansion would have a target area within the Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ) – see Appendix A.
- The Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ) aims to revitalise Church Street and develop a thriving creative industries quarter based around the Northern School of Art's new campus.
- Hartlepool College of Further Education is in the centre of the town and aims to be one of the leading colleges in the Tees Valley, East Durham and beyond for the provision of high quality professional and technical education.³
- Hartlepool Sixth Form College is located south-west of the town centre and provides a range of vocational and level 2 but predominantly level 3 courses to students.

3.5 These three establishments deliver Higher Education and Further Education qualifications and in the context of this study it is important to understand how student accommodation is related to the educational offer they provide.

3.6 Further Education (FE) is used to describe education following compulsory secondary education and is different to that offered in universities (higher education or HE). Further education is usually taught in the sixth-form college part of a school or in independent FE colleges, as well as in other work-based, adult and community learning institutions. FE programmes will usually go up to Level 3 (the same as Advanced Apprenticeships or A-levels) and are often designed to provide the skills to advance to higher education or into work. All FE courses are free up until the age of 18. Students within these types of establishments are 16-18-year olds and are therefore generally living locally or travel in daily to access the courses they want, Alternatively there are mature students undertaking adult learning courses and already have homes of their own as owner occupiers or tenants

3.7 Across Hartlepool, The College of Further Education and Sixth Form College predominantly provide FE qualifications and as such do not generally have a need for student accommodation.

3.8 Higher Education (HE) is third level education post leaving school. It takes place at universities and colleges and normally includes undergraduate and postgraduate study. Traditionally this is where 'student' life starts from 18 year olds and over where students look to study at different HE establishments across the country. For example, in discussions with some of the students in Hartlepool, people explained that they moved to Hartlepool from all areas of the country including for example Milton Keynes and Brighton. This cohort of students does require accommodation because they have

¹ Northern School of Art web-site: <https://northernart.ac.uk/about-northern-school-of-art/how-we-are-run/>

² Northern School of Art Strategic Plan 2017-2020: <https://northernart.ac.uk/about-northern-school-of-art/how-we-are-run/>

³ Hartlepool College of Further Education web-site: <https://www.hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/college>

moved to a new area for the first time to study on a particular course. Conversely some people do live locally and travel from home or travel in further afield using public and private transport.

- 3.9 For Hartlepool, only the Northern School of Art provides HE courses, and it does have a clear and organised interest in student accommodation.

4. Baseline - Current Student Accommodation Provision

- 4.1 In this section we quantify the scale, type and location and quality of student accommodation that is currently available across Hartlepool.
- 4.2 Within this section we have primarily used Council Tax data and planning approval information to confirm halls of residence capacity.

Council Tax Information

- 4.3 Council Tax is a local tax on residential property. There are certain exemptions from paying the tax which are based on the type of people who live in the property. A property is exempt from Council Tax if it is wholly occupied by full-time university or college students. Student halls of residence are automatically exempt.
- 4.4 If your property is not exempt, certain people, including full-time students, are disregarded. Council Tax provides a strong picture of the volume and to some extent scale of student accommodation in the area.
- 4.5 The Council Tax information gives us a starting point in terms of understanding the nature and type of current student accommodation across Hartlepool.
- 4.6 A report of Council Tax exemption records was made available in October 2019 which revealed the following:

Table 4.1 Council Tax Student Exemption Properties – October 2019	
No of addresses indicating Halls of Residence	5
No of Houses in Multiple Occupancy	8
No of Houses in Multiple Occupancy – Planned	2
No of single flats listed	6
Remaining No of different locations listed	123
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTIES LISTED	144

- 4.7 Table 4.1 reveals a total of 144 different locations for Council Tax student accommodation exemptions. Some of the properties within this list are easy to identify, for example halls of residence and HMOs (House in Multiple Occupancy). This leaves us with 123 locations where capacity is unqualified.
- 4.8 Combining the Council Tax information with data on licensed HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) and Registered Provider statistics in relation to the student halls allows us to detail the capacity delivered through these accommodation types – see following Tables 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

Table 4.2 Houses of Multiple Occupancy – October 2019	
Houses of Multiple Occupancy - Hartlepool	Units of accommodation
23 Lowthian Road	5
30 Mitchell Street	5
9 Park Square	8
6 Rium Terrace	5
10 St Pauls Road	5
40 Victoria Road	7
45 York Road	6
66 Grand Road	5
TOTAL	46

Table 4.3 Council Tax Proposed Houses of Multiple Occupancy – October 2019	
Proposed Houses of Multiple Occupancy – Hartlepool	Units of accommodation
38 Victoria Road	12
23 Grange Road	6
TOTAL	18

Table 4.4 Council Tax – Halls of Residence – October 2019	
Halls of Residence – Hartlepool	Units of accommodation
Avondene	12
Hutton Halls	24
Lime Crescent	23
Crown Halls	56
Titan House	44
TOTAL	159

- 4.9 More information relating to the halls of residence is provided in Appendix A. If we use the capacity information provided to update Table 4.1 a more complete picture of the overall current level of student accommodation across Hartlepool is gained (see Table 4.5 below) which totals 229 units.

Table 4.5 Council Tax Student Exemption Properties including capacity – October 2019

Description	No Units	Units of accommodation Capacity
No of addresses indicating Halls of Residence	5	159
No of Houses of Multiple Occupancy	8	46
No of Houses of Multiple Occupancy – Planned	2	18
No of single flats listed	6	6
Sub-Total	21	229
No of addresses remaining	123	

- 4.10 The precise capacity of the remaining 123 locations of accommodation has not been ascertained. However, if it is considered that to be a licensed HMO the property would need to be rented by 4 or more people, it can be concluded that the 123 properties listed are not HMOs. It is expected these properties predominantly have 1-2 rooms with a smaller number of 3 room properties, where 1 room provides accommodation for 1 student. Overall this provides us with a capacity range of 123-369.
- 4.11 If we then add this to the known previously identified capacity of 229 we get a Total Capacity Range of 352-598 units of accommodation, see Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Potential student accommodation capacity in Hartlepool – October 2019

Remaining Addresses	123	123	123
House Capacity	1	2	3
Sub-Totals	123	246	369
Previously Identified Capacity	229	229	229
TOTAL	352	475	598

- 4.12 The map in Appendix B illustrates the locations and properties detailed above across Hartlepool.

Accommodation Quality

- 4.13 To understand the quality of privately rented student accommodation across Hartlepool we have looked at the history of disrepair complaints received by the Council. The data reveals that the Council has only received 6 complaints since 2012 with the last received in 2018. Of these complaints, 3 had work completed by the landlord and the other complaints were closed as the tenant could not be contacted. The evidence suggests that the quality of this type of accommodation is not an issue.
- 4.14 HMOs (Homes of Multiple Occupancy) are licensed through the Council and are visited regularly and kept at a high standard and as such don't attract any concerns in terms of quality.

- 4.15 The halls of residents are owned either by local Social Housing Provider Thirteen or Hartlepool Borough Council and the facilities are of a high standard.

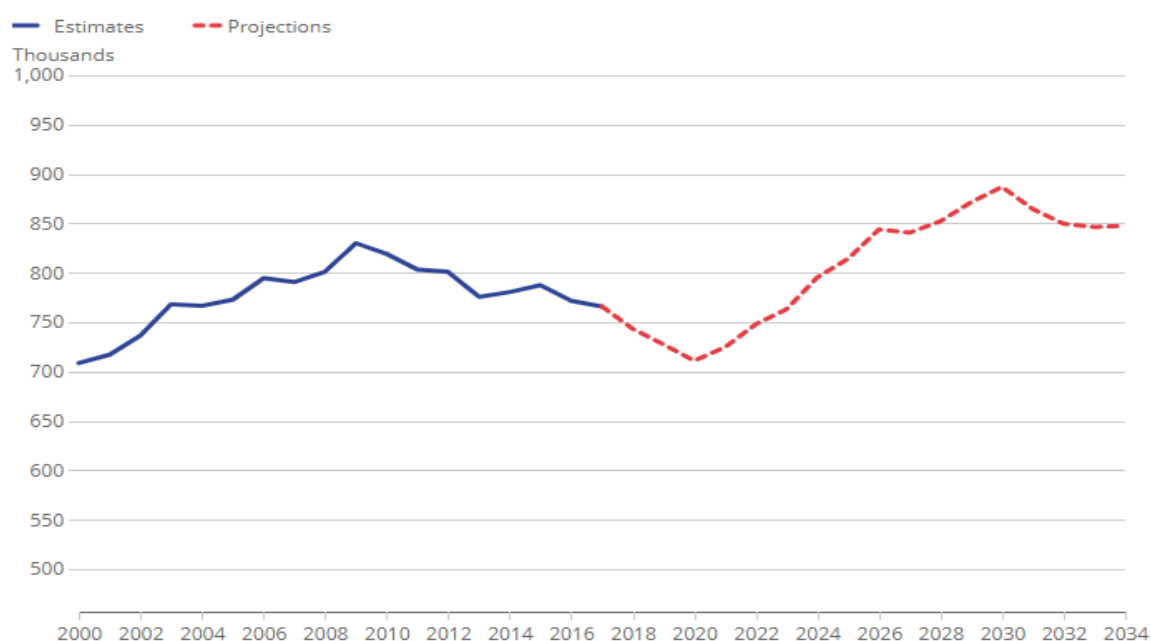
5. Analysis of current and projection of future accommodation demand

- 5.1 A combination of issues including funding levels, the competitive nature of the higher education market and the commercially sensitive nature of the exact figures makes it difficult to forecast accurately future levels of students. In turn estimating the future need of accommodation is equally uncertain.
- 5.2 However, as part of this study we have talked to the Northern School of Art about their future aspirations around student numbers and have also looked at some proxy measures in relation to population trends and education participation to help guide our views.

Hartlepool and UK Population Trends

- 5.3 The population of the UK is projected to increase by 3.0 million (4.5%) in the first 10 years of the projections, from an estimated 66.4 million in mid-2018 to 69.4 million in mid-2028⁴.
- 5.4 In the middle of 2017, there were 766,000 people in the UK aged 18. At the start of the millennium the number of 18-year-olds in the UK was rising – but since 2009 it has been going down.

Figure 5.1 Estimated and projected number of 18-year-olds in the UK population, 2000 to 2034



Source: ONS Mid-year population estimates and 2016-based population projections, UK

⁴ ONS – Population Projections

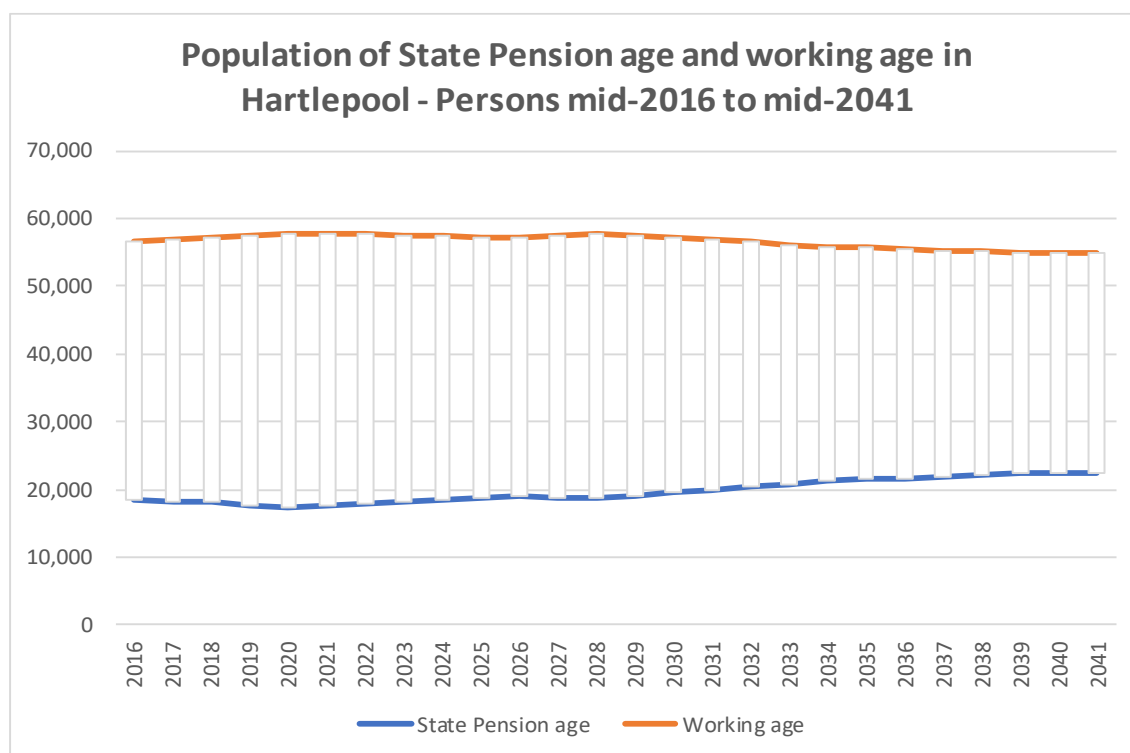
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/populationofstatepe n sionageandworkingageandoldagedependencyratiosforlocalauthoritiesandregionsinengland>

- 5.5 The ONS forecasts show that the number of 18 year olds is expected to drop nationally until around 2020 when the trend is expected to turn with this particular population age group continuing to rise towards 850,000 over the following 6-7 years⁵. At the time of writing the ONS forecast is positive in terms of the growth in the pool of individuals who may choose to take up some form of HE learning. Therefore, we can be as confident as possible from this data that there is no need for concern about the under supply of students over the coming years.

Hartlepool Population Figures

- 5.6 Figure 5.2 provides the latest local population information from the ONS for Hartlepool ranging from mid-2016 to mid-2041 (10). Within Figure 5.2 we can see a small increase in the working age population (aged 15+) locally over the next few years until about 2021/2022, which is positive in terms of potential student numbers increasing within the local population. Beyond 2022 there is a general small decline over the following years but the reductions are small.
- 5.7 As with the overall UK population figures the local data does not raise any concerns about the potential number of people who might chose HE study in the future.

Figure 5.2 Number of people of State Pension age and working age in Hartlepool mid-2016 to mid-2041



Source: ONS

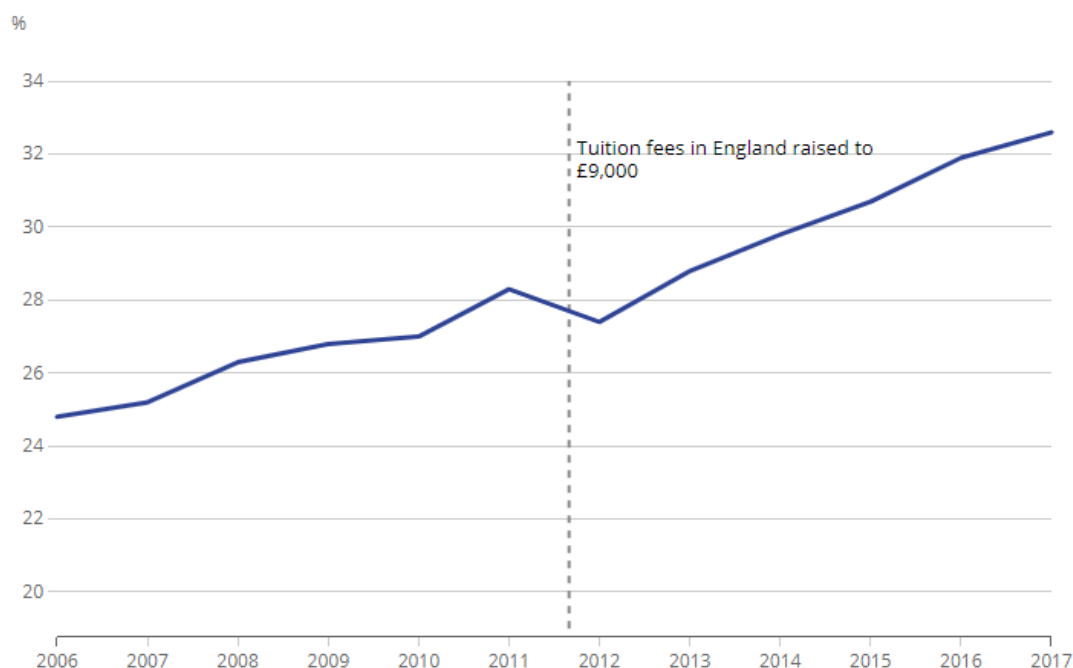
⁵ ONS – Being 18 in 2018:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/articles/being18in2018/2018-09-13>

UK Education Numbers

- 5.8 In the UK there has been a long-term increasing trend in the number of people remaining in education beyond 16 and beyond 18. In 2017, there were a record number of 18-year-olds from the UK (241,500) accepted at British universities – representing one in three of the 18-year-old population. (10)

Figure 5.3 Proportion of the 18-year-old population accepted onto an undergraduate higher education course, UK, admissions cycles 2006 to 2017



Source: ONS - UCAS end of cycle report 2017

- 5.9 Overall, none of the indicators in terms of population, local and national, or numbers of individuals staying in education, directly correlate to a guaranteed increase in the volume of students in Hartlepool. However, they provide a positive picture in terms of the continued quantity of potential students and the desire of 18 year olds to seek HE.

Local Current Student Accommodation Projected Requirements

- 5.10 Building on the definitions provided earlier in the report relating to FE and HE we need to understand that the vast (if not all) number of students studying at the Sixth Form College and the College of Further Education are generally not going to impact on the need for student accommodation.
- 5.11 In a meeting with Darren Hankey, Principal Hartlepool College of Further Education on October 8th, 2019, he revealed current student numbers including adult learners and apprentices totalled around 6,500. However, these individuals are not generally looking for accommodation, with the exception of very limited cases to resolve

difficult personal situations (small numbers – singular cases that arise from time to time).

- 5.12 Previously both colleges have needed to secure accommodation for overseas students e.g. Qatar / USA but these programmes ended a few years ago and no programmes replacing these are imminent.
- 5.13 During discussions with both Darren Hankey and Mark Hughes, Principal Hartlepool Sixth Form College, both made it clear they had no need for any student accommodation at this time.
- 5.14 Therefore, the picture of demand is currently driven entirely by The Northern School of Art.
- 5.15 Within their Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (8) they indicate enrolment targets for the 2018-2020 academic years as follows:

Table 5.1 Northern School of Art Enrolment Targets 2018-2020

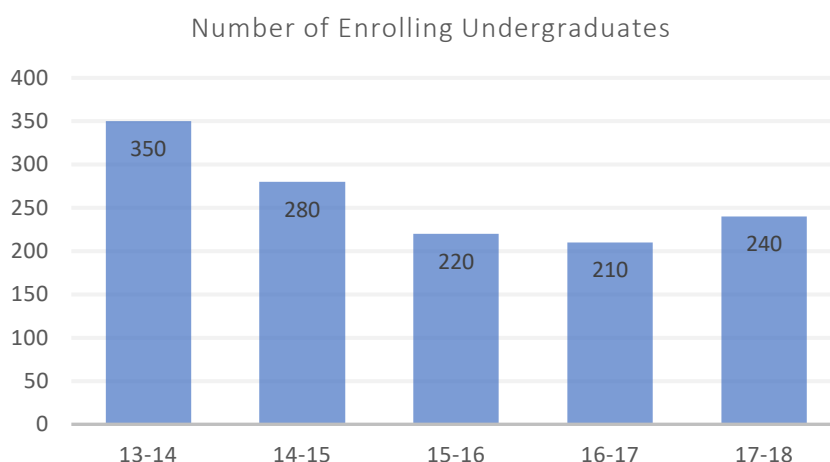
	2018			2019				2020			
	L4	L5	L6	L4	L5	L6	L7	L4	L5	L6	L7
HE Courses eg HNDs, FdAs, BAs and MAs	263	183	131	300	229	168	10	330	262	211	10
Annual Total	577			707				813			
Average	699										

Source: Northern School of Art Strategic Plan 2017-2029

- 5.16 The exact number of students are not available from the Northern School of Art but in addition to the figures above we have been able to look at their Transparency Return for 2019 which shows that entrant levels reached 250 FT students⁶. However, looking at data from the Office for Students has enabled us to gather a clearer picture of undergraduate levels at the Northern School of Art over the last few years.

⁶ Northern School of Art Transparency Return 2019

Figure 5.4 Number of enrolling undergraduates at The Northern School of Art 2013/2014 – 2017/2018



Source: Office for Students: Access and Participation

- 5.17 The figures obtained show more consistency over the last 3 years ie 2015/16 – 2017/18. The average over the 5 years is 260 per annum but over the last 3 it is 223. Taking the 5-year average of 260 it would equate to around 780 students in total at the Northern School of Art but taking the 223 average, a total of 669. Talking to members of staff at the Northern School of Art a figure of ‘around 600’ is always mentioned and therefore we would consider 669 as a prudent estimated total student figure.
- 5.18 Discussions with Dr Martin Raby and Patrick Chapman revealed clearly that at present they do not see a need for additional student accommodation ie current requirements are being met. Potentially in the future they may need 8-12 units, but this is not linked to any known or forecast timeline and in the first instance would work with existing partners in the area to resolve the issue. For example, they have strong strategic and working relationships with Thirteen, a registered social housing provider that operates across the north-east of England, and they have worked closely with the Borough Council in the past which led to the development of Avondene.

6. Identification of gaps in accommodation requirements

Student Survey

- 6.1 As part of this study a student survey was developed, going live on October 17 2019 and was left open until the end of November 2019. The questionnaire was placed online at the following address (www.hartlepoolstudentsurvey.co.uk). Every student was directly emailed the link by the Northern School of Art and asked to complete the survey. Unfortunately, no completed surveys were received.

Student Focus Group

- 6.2 On November 5th, 2019 a focus group with 8 students was run from the Northern School of Art, again thanks to the co-operation and support of the institution. The findings from the meeting were clear:
- All but one of the students lived in student halls, the other in PRS accommodation. Current weekly rents for student accommodation appear to vary between £75-£100 per week (pw).
 - Students explained they had looked at both living and course costs when deciding on which course to take.
 - For example, £150pw accommodation in Salford and £135pw in York for the same course compared badly with cheaper accommodation and a strong course available at the Northern School of Art in Hartlepool.
 - In terms of what students might be able to afford in terms of accommodation the group were clear that it ranged between £115-£120pw.
 - However, students were equally clear that they would only consider paying this level of rent if the new accommodation provided:
 - Reasonably sized rooms with en-suite facilities and Wi-Fi.
 - Most people indicated a preference for also having self-contained accommodation with individual kitchen facilities, but a communal kitchen would be acceptable if the numbers sharing were kept low i.e. 6-8.
 - A communal area which was critical to the students interviewed as this provides an opportunity to get to know people and prevents social isolation.
 - Management services must deliver secure and safe premises and quick responses to facility problems whilst providing good value for money.

Developer Meeting

- 6.3 At the meeting with Rob Collier on November 6th, 2019 he detailed a planned student accommodation development on Raby Road on the former Engineers Club, close to

the towns Civic Centre. Phase 1 would consist of 184 units of accommodation, priced around £109-112 per week, with additional units planned for phase 2.

- 6.4 The accommodation would be built around pods of 6 rooms, each with en-suite facilities with a shared communal kitchen.

7. Concluding comments: reflection upon analysis and assessment

7.1 Overall we believe the study is seeking to answer two questions:

1. Does Hartlepool require any more student accommodation today?
2. Does the student accommodation market need any new development(s)?

Does Hartlepool require any more student accommodation today?

- 7.2 We can see no evidence that Hartlepool has a shortage of student accommodation.
- 7.3 None of the educational establishments believe they need any new student accommodation at present.
- 7.4 In respect of the potential scale of available student accommodation, the known top end of the capacity range of 598 units broadly mirrors the calculated requirement levels of circa 600- 669.
- 7.5 The only organisation that needs to consider the levels of available student accommodation, the Northern School of Art, does not require any additional accommodation at present.
- 7.6 As indicated earlier in the report there is no evidence to raise concerns about the quality of any existing student accommodation.

Does the student accommodation market need any new development(s)?

- 7.7 This question has two elements which are operational and strategic.
- 7.8 Operational comment:
- The student accommodation market is like any other in that new options or opportunities can always be introduced.
 - Any new offer will need to be attractive enough for existing buyers to change their current purchasing habits and strong enough to secure new market entrants from the outset.
 - The feedback from the student focus group gives some insight into what people require and it was provided in a positive manner.
 - In terms of the overall 'housing' market it will be important to understand how any new capacity will impact on the current market, how quickly the affects will be felt and whether the changes will be positive or negative.

- The decision to develop new build student accommodation in light of the evidenced demand will need to be considered very carefully by any potential developer.

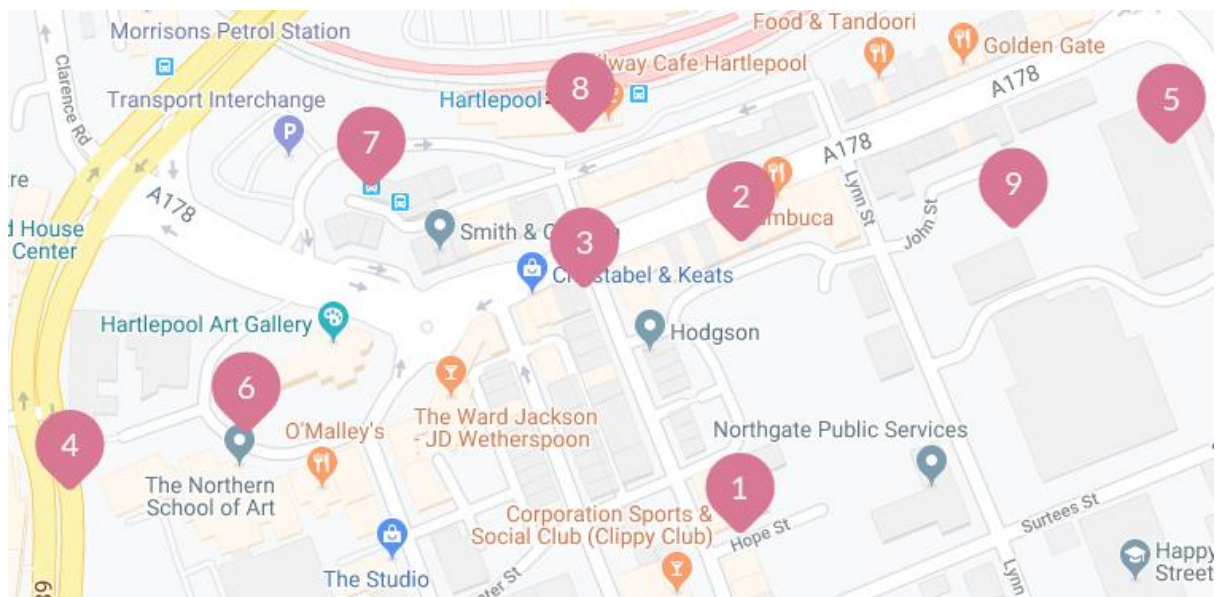
7.9 Strategic:

- It is understood that this study and specifically the capacity and demand information will be used to inform the emerging Housing Strategy.
- To ensure the strategy continues to evolve, it is suggested that a group of strategic partners, for example The Northern School of Art, Hartlepool College of Further Education and Hartlepool Sixth Form College are engaged on a regular and formal basis to ensure that it continues to develop and reflect the ambitions of these local institutions.

Appendix A: Innovation and Skills Quarter

The Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ) aims to revitalise Church Street and develop a thriving creative industries quarter based around the Northern School of Art's new campus. The ISQ will strengthen links between the town centre and Hartlepool Waterfront, and provide modern business workspace in a supported incubation facility for creative industries businesses. Major improvements will be made to the environment in Church Street and Church Square, and a new pedestrian crossing will be created in Stockton Street.

Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ)



Source: Invest In Hartlepool (<https://investinhartlepool.co.uk/regeneration/innovation-and-skills-quarter>)

Key:

- 1) The BIS Creative Industries Creative Workspace
- 2) The Northern Studios
- 3) Church Street Conservation Area Revival
- 4) Stockton Street
- 5) New Northern School of Art
- 6) Church Square
- 7) Public Art – Boy and Bicycle
- 8) Rail Art Project
- 9) Church Street Public Improvements Realm
- 10) The Scott Building

Appendix B: Student Accommodation in Hartlepool

Crown Halls



- 42 en-suite rooms in two blocks
- 14 rooms in two town houses

Titan House



- 3x room types i.e. large / medium / studio
- 44 rooms available

Lime Crescent



- 23 en-suite rooms with their own kitchen
- Large communal room

Avondene Flats



- 12 self-contained flats
- Hallway, one bedroom, lounge, bathroom and kitchen

Hutton Halls



- 24x flats
- Mix of facilities e.g. some en-suite / some shared bathroom with shower / room size varies

Appendix C: Map of Hartlepool Student Accommodation

