

# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

## AGENDA



**Monday 21st September 2020**

**at 10.00 am**

**in 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: FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Brewer, Brown, Harrison, Lindridge, Little, Marshall, Moore, Smith, Tennant and Young.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

### **3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 13 August 2020.
- 3.2 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership held on 10 January and 20 March 2020.
- 3.3 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 26 June 2020.

### **4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

- 4.1 Community Safety Plan 2020-2021– *Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*

### **5. KEY DECISIONS**

- 5.1 Northgate House Lease Extension – *Director of Resources and Development*
- 5.2 Rodney Street Bungalow Acquisition – *Director of Resources and Development* (to follow)

#### **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**

6.1 No items.

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 No items.

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

For Information:

Dates and times of forthcoming meetings of the Finance and Policy Committee –

Monday 19 October, 2020 at 10.00 am  
Monday 30 November, 2020 at 10.00 am  
Monday 18 January, 2021 at 10.00 am  
Monday 15 February, 2021 at 10.00 am  
Monday 15 March, 2021 at 10.00 am



# **FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

**13 AUGUST 2020**

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

**Present:**

Councillor Shane Moore (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, James Brewer, Paddy Brown, Brenda Harrison, Jim Lindridge, Sue Little, Ann Marshall, Leisa Smith, John Tennant, and Mike Young.

Also Present: Councillor Tony Richardson and Edwin Jeffries (HJTUC).

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive  
Neil Wilson, Deputy Chief Solicitor  
Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy  
Sally Robinson, Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services  
Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services  
Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Kieran Bostock, Interim Assistant Director, Place Management  
Ed Turner, Communications and Marketing Team  
David Cosgrove and Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

### **15. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **16. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Little declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 21 “Home to School Transport - Concessionary Seats” as her husband’s business was a contracted transport supplier.

During the meeting Councillor C Akers-Belcher declared a personal interest as an employee of Hartlepool Healthwatch during the discussions under Minute 20 “COVID19 Recovery and Renewal Plan”.

## 17. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2020

A Member raised a query in relation to the information requested at Minute No. 10 regarding the support provided to the homeless during the emergency period. The Chair confirmed they were set out in the report “Provision of Accommodation for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping During COVID-19 Response” later on the agenda.

Minutes confirmed.

## 18. Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 9 March 2020

Received.

## 19. Financial Position Update 2020/21 to 2023/24 *(Director of Finance and Policy)*

### Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

### Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with updates on:

- (i) the forecast 2020/21 General Fund outturn;
- (ii) the financial impact of Covid-19;
- (iii) General Fund budget 2021/22 and futures years outlook;
- (iv) the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021/22;
- (v) the Housing Revenue Account 2021/22 and future years.

### Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Finance and Policy reported that the Covid pandemic will have an adverse impact on the financial position and future financial resilience of all councils. The scale of the impact in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and the measures that will need to be adopted to address these financial challenges will depend on the financial support measures provided by the Government, which continue to evolve and will not be finalised until later in the year.

The Director outlined the main aspects of his detailed report to the Committee highlighting the measures the Council would need to take to mitigate the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the detailed recommendations set out in the report.

The Chair thanked Members for the difficult decisions they had taken earlier in the year on the Council budget which had placed the Council in a much

better financial position than it could have otherwise been in due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members discussed the need to consider the financial situation of many families in Hartlepool and, therefore, the potential to explore seeking Government support for a fully funded Council Tax freeze next financial year, together with the maintenance of the current LCTS scheme. It was suggested that a review of all non-statutory services needed to be undertaken with a view to alternative service delivery options where this would provide savings. The costs of the current building stock also needed to be reviewed in light of the potential continuation of the home-working arrangements that had been implemented during 'lock-down'.

The loss of income in the leisure sector was also raised with a request to share with Members the detailed cost associated with running the leisure sector of the Council together with details of the potential income associated with a reduced capacity re-opening in line with government restrictions. A full review of fees and charges had also been raised during the discussions on the budget earlier in the year and Members noted this was not included within the report.

Members also requested a review of Planning arrangements and the current Section 106 scheme to determine if changes are needed to potentially trade-off a lower S.106 payment against the potential gain in Council Tax income of new properties.

The development of the Community Pot was welcomed by Members. It was suggested that the potential use of Government Covid-19 Grant monies for local welfare schemes be further investigated to add to the pot together with any underspends on Members Allowances.

The Director of Finance and Policy undertook to supply the information requested by Members. In relation to the LCTS and the fees and charges, he commented that these were resource intensive and though would be undertaken if that's what Members agreed. In relation to the Government Covid-19 Grant monies for local welfare schemes, the Director stated that a review if scheduled and the bulk of those monies had been allocated already and should unemployment increase there would be further households eligible to receive the support. The current casework would need to be assessed but Members could be assured that the grant would go out to help people in the town directly.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods commented that the Government had recently announced a consultation on major changes to the planning system including S.106 monies and a response to the consultation was being developed and would be agreed with the Leader, Chair of Regeneration Services Committee and the Chair of Planning Committee prior to submission.

On the wider issues of the reviews of fees and charges, non-statutory services, out-sourcing and alternative delivery models, and the financial

impact of staff working at home, the Director of Finance and Policy stated these were significant pieces of work which would take some time to deliver. The Corporate Management Team had already started some work around some of these issues but there were capacity concerns. The issues around staff working at home had already been identified but it also needed to be acknowledged that for quite a number of staff this in itself posed some mental health concerns; it simply didn't work for everybody or every service.

Questions around the increase in the numbers of looked after children (LAC) were addressed by the Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services who indicated that part of the growth in numbers was down to the government stating that there should be a pause on children/young people leaving care. The significant reduction in Court activity had also affected the numbers and the progress of many cases. The services were also concerned at the potential spike in figures as children returned to school in September as most children had 'not been seen' by authorities for over five months.

During debate Members indicated their support for the maintenance of the current LCTS scheme at 12% and also the lobbying of government for a specific grant to allow a 'freeze' of council tax in the next financial year.

Councillor Young stated his wish to be involved in the Boards supporting the allocation of the Community Pot and also in relation to the Business Support Fund. Following a request for clarification from Councillor Young that Councillor Smith appeared to oppose this request, Councillor Smith advised that she did not believe anyone with any interest should sit on a Panel. Councillor Young requested that it be recorded that he would be seeking legal advice on the comments made by Councillor Smith.

The Chair sought the Committee's support to the Council being part of a lobbying group within the Local Government Association for Unitary Authorities. Other local authority structures had lobbying groups and the one representing District Authorities had proved very successful in lobbying for additional funds for their councils from Government during the Covid-19 emergency.

In relation to the recommendations set out in the report Members agreed that both elements of recommendation (ix) should be retained acknowledging that this may require an additional meeting of the Committee. Members acknowledged the comments of the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods around the consultation on the Government's proposed changes to the Planning system and requested that once the submission to the consultation had been forwarded, the Committee should consider what measures could be taken in the interim prior to the changes in primary legislation to accelerate housing growth in Hartlepool.

The recommendations were agreed without dissent.

**Decision**

## 2020/21 General Fund Forecast Outturn

1. The Committee noted that it was anticipated that increase Looked after Children costs could be funded from underspend in other budgets.

## Financial Impact of Covid-19

2. The Committee noted that it was currently anticipated that Government grant funding should cover forecast Covid costs and irrecoverable sales, fees and charges income, although the position may change if there is a local lock down or second wave outbreak.
3. The Committee noted that the forecast Collection Fund deficit would not be funded from Government grant and based on current forecasts Council resources of £2.154m would need to be allocated to address this funding shortfall, as detailed in paragraph 5.6 of the report.

## General Fund Budget 2021/22 and future years

4. The Committee noted the pandemic has had an adverse impact on the Council's financial position and the forecast funding shortfall for 2021/22 is between £2.886m and £5.086m, including a forecast recurring income shortfall of £1.150m arising from the continued impact of Covid 19 in 2021/22.
5. The Committee endorsed the proposed strategy to fund this shortfall from reserves, whilst noting this was not a permanent strategy and deferred a deficit until 2022/23 to provide a longer lead time to identify budget cuts and clarity over recurring national funding.
6. The Committee approved the suggested submission to the Spending Review Submission and Letter to Simon Clark MP – Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government detailed in paragraph 6.25 of the report, including lobbying for a fully funded 2021/22 Council Tax freeze grant and noting that if this was not provided Council Tax would need to increase in line with Government set referendum limit to protect services.
7. The Committee agreed that the Council should support the establishment of a special interest group for unitary councils within the Local Government Association to provide a forum for sharing experiences and promoting the financial issues facing unitary councils.

## Local Council Tax Support scheme 2021/22

8. The Committee noted the increase in households eligible for LCTS (Local Council Tax Support) in 2020/21 and 2021/22;
9. The Committee approved a recommendation to Council to maintain the existing LCTS scheme at 12% and the Local Welfare Support budget for 2021/22 to provide financial certainty and stability;

#### Housing Revenue Account

10. The Committee agreed a freeze of HRA (Housing Revenue Account) rents for 2021/22 should be recommended to Council and the Committee noted the additional forecast capital investment detailed in paragraph 8.3 of the report.

#### Community Pot

11. The Committee approved the establishment of a Community Pot of £225,000 to be funded from the one off resources as detailed in paragraph 10 of the report and: -
  - earmarked £25,000 to support a programme of activities for Young People and delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of Finance and Policy Committee to approve the use of this fund;
  - noted that proposal for allocating the remaining £200,000 would be made by Finance and Policy Committee.

## **20. COVID19 Recovery and Renewal Plan** (*Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision (tests (i) and (ii) apply). General exception applied.

### **Purpose of report**

To consider the Council's COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan and operating framework and initial investment priorities.

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

The Chief Executive reported that the overarching goal of the COVID19 Recovery and Renewal Plan was to work towards achieving our ambition to grow a healthy, prosperous and inclusive Borough. The Recovery Plan was, therefore, also a plan to renew the local economy and build a better future for the Borough.

The Plan sets out strategic objectives and a framework for engaging partner agencies across the following themes:

1. Health and Social Care
2. Business Economy, Skills & Jobs
3. Community Wellbeing and Financial Inclusion
4. Education and Vulnerable Children
5. Environment and Infrastructure
6. Organisational Change and Resilience
7. Communications
8. Financial Recovery

Working groups will be established involving partner agencies, representatives of the voluntary and community sector and faith communities and business leaders as appropriate and will report through to appropriate Council committees and Boards. Each working group will develop and deliver dynamic action plans which will adapt to changing circumstances.

Hartlepool Borough Council entered the COVID19 crisis from a position of relative strength. However, tackling the social and economic impact of COVID19 and addressing the significant social, economic and health inequalities in the Borough will require a major fiscal stimulus. We will need to focus our efforts on attracting investment from the Town Deal and High Street Funds alongside other national programmes. In addition we will need to work hard with the Tees Valley Combined Authority to attract further devolved funds so that we can properly address the priorities set out in this Recovery Plan over a three year period.

A proposed £500,000 Business Support Fund was already earmarked as part of the TVCA Indigenous Growth Allocation and would be re-purposed towards COVID-19 recovery. A proposed £225,000 Community Fund would also be established, as reported in the previous agenda item, bringing together New Burdens funding, Release of Family Poverty Reserve, the Ward Member Budget underspend at 31 March 2020, and Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for food and essential suppliers.

Members welcomed the plan and identified the need to provide support to the business community as being key to the recovery from the Covid 19 emergency and that strong links with the Combined Authority and the devolvement of further financial support were key to this.

Members also strongly expressed their support to the workforce particularly to providing appropriate mental health support for those working at home or redeployed from their normal duties. Senior officers and Team Managers needed to ensure regular contact with staff to maintain normal interaction and reduce the feelings of isolation that home working may cause some. Members noted the responses to the staff survey and suggested that further re-engagement be undertaken to gain an improved response rate. Officers stated that there was regular contact with home workers but took on board Members comments.

The Chief Executive commented that as well as the work undertaken with the voluntary sector during the Covid 19 emergency which had made a significant impact, the work of the Council's own Support Hub had to be highly commended. The Hub had been developed and implemented very rapidly and had worked closely with the voluntary sector and other partners to provide some very essential support and services to the vulnerable in the town. The Support Hub was still available to support people should they need it even though the lockdown restrictions had eased.

The Chief Executive acknowledged Members comments around future service delivery commenting that there were likely to be a significant number of services that may never return to their previous operation model. Demand may have permanently changed and the future may involve some exciting new models of service delivery with outsourcing being used if it could provide the right level of service and savings.

The Chief Executive supported the comments around the mental welfare of staff working at home and in new ways. Working at home was not for everyone and it had to be acknowledged that many people simply worked better when physically with other people. Others benefitted from the space and time to think clearly. A wider conversation was, therefore, needed around how and if home working could be incorporated into new service delivery models.

The Chair of the Regeneration Services Committee stated his support for the Business Support Fund commenting that it needed to compliment the work around the Town Deal. The work in Church Street was also an area of concern with some businesses being unable to proceed with some of the work associated with the Church Street redevelopment.

Councillor C Akers-Belcher declared a personal interest as an employee of Hartlepool Healthwatch during this item.

The recommendations in the report were agreed without dissent.

### **Decision**

The Committee:

1. Noted the feedback from the wide-ranging consultation that had been undertaken with partner agencies, the voluntary and community sector and faith communities, our staff and elected members.
2. Considered and endorsed the Hartlepool COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan and operating framework.
3. Approved the creation of a single community fund up to £225,000 to support community-led initiatives aimed at tackling the social and

economic impact of COVID-19 and providing new out-of-school and holiday opportunities for vulnerable children and young people.

4. Approved the re-framing of the £500,000 business revolving loan fund to provide a grant scheme to assist local businesses adapt to the new economic environment and to invest in re-animating the visitor and tourist economy and assets.

## **21. Home to School Transport - Concessionary Seats**

*(Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key decision.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide Finance and Policy Committee with further information in relation to the provision of concessionary seats on home to school transport, as requested at the meeting of Council on 30 July 2020 and to outline proposals for autumn term 2020.

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

The Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services reported that the Council had a duty to provide free Home to School travel assistance to students who are eligible under the Education Act 1996 and the Education and Inspection Act 2006. The Education Act 1996 provides a statutory obligation on local authorities to provide home to school travel assistance free of charge to all eligible students of compulsory school age. The obligation on the Council to provide home to school travel assistance is limited to the child attending their nearest suitable school. The Council has no obligation to make arrangements to transport non-entitled children to school.

Over recent years, the practice within the Council has been that home to school transport is arranged for entitled pupils, and any spare seats on buses are then made available to non-entitled students for a charge, under a concessionary seat arrangement. Concessionary seats are not always available, are not guaranteed and may be removed if an eligible child makes application.

The Director referred to the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) came into force in January 2020 and meant that where a fare was being charged for travel and there were more than 22 seated passengers, the vehicle would need to be wheelchair accessible as well as meeting more general accessibility requirements. Not all the buses used for school transport met these regulations and new vehicles had been procured but these had been delayed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. At the meeting, the

Director updated the Committee indicating that the new vehicles would now be delivered in late October.

A letter was sent to all parents and carers who have previously accessed or requested concessionary travel arrangements on 16 July 2020. This letter gave parents and carers advanced notice that the Council was uncertain as to whether there would be an opportunity to offer concessionary travel for the 2020/21 academic year due the potential need for social distancing on school transport, the anticipated increase in the number pupils of eligible for travel assistance arising from the impact of COVID 19 and PSVAR issues. The current position is that it is likely the Council will be able to provide some concessionary travel permits on the home to school buses, although indications are that capacity will be lower than in previous years. The report went onto outline the numbers of children affected and the situation in the general market around home to school transport.

The Council had been in discussion with The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College to seek to work together to resolve the challenges posed by the current situation for parents and pupils. The school had undertaken a survey of parents and received 169 expressions of interest for school transport; this number is significantly greater than the number of non-eligible pupils issued with a concessionary travel permit in the 2019/20 academic year (107).

At the meeting, the Director reported that the Council had been informed that it was eligible for the recently announced exemptions to PSVAR, and such an exemption would be applied for as a matter of urgency. In light of this, the Director proposed that the Committee approve the proposal that the Council re-commences charging for concessionary travel permits, to the available capacity, as the Council was eligible for an exemption and an application had been submitted.

Members commented on the provisions of the Education Act 1996 and disagreed with the acceptable walking distances for school children and considered that a local review be undertaken to develop a policy more appropriate to Hartlepool. A Member also commented that they did not support school children having to pay to go to school and the Council should look to providing subsidised school transport or free bus passes for all school children. The lack of consultation on the reported proposals was also criticised with the suggestion that full consultation should be undertaken before the committee reached a decision.

Members discussed the different approach taken by different schools in the town noting that Dyke House School provided school buses for all their pupils at their own cost. The issue of children attending schools within a cluster model was also discussed, particularly the impact on school children from Seaton Carew who through the cluster model approach led to them attending Dyke House School when the closest secondary school was Manor School. The Director commented that many parents when choosing

a school for their children did not always consider the impact of that decision on transport.

Members discussed the issues around the choices of schools in providing transport for pupils and the financial consideration around those decisions. There was concern that widening the provision of school transport would shift the costs from schools to the Council which would then be another budget pressure. The meeting also discussed the potential of support from the Tees Valley Combined Authority particularly through the Tees Flex Service.

Recommendation 1 in the report was agreed by the Committee without dissent. In relation to the amended recommendation 2 “that the Committee approves the proposal that the Council re-commences charging for concessionary travel permits, to the available capacity, as the Council is eligible for an exemption from the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) and such an application had been submitted”, in accordance with Rule 8 of the Council’s Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken.

Those for:

Councillors James Brewer, Paddy Brown, Brenda Harrison, Jim Lindridge, Sue Little, Ann Marshall, Leisa Smith, John Tennant, and Mike Young.

Those abstaining:

None.

Those against:

Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher.

### **Decision**

1. That the contents of this report as requested by the meeting of council on 30 July 2020 be noted.
2. That the Committee approves the proposal that the Council re-commences charging for concessionary travel permits, to the available capacity, as the Council is eligible for an exemption from the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) and such an application had been submitted

## **22. Proposed Appointment of an Assistant Coroner (*Chief Solicitor*)**

### **Type of decision**

Non-key decision.

### **Purpose of report**

To seek agreement to the proposed appointment of an Assistant Coroner by Middlesbrough Council (as the Relevant Authority) for the Teesside and Hartlepool Coroner Service area.

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

The Deputy Chief Solicitor reported that as a direct result of the lockdown, inquest hearings have had to be suspended and, therefore, there is now a backlog of inquests waiting to be heard. As the country enters its recovery phase, the Senior Coroner has indicated the necessity of addressing this backlog.

The Chief Coroner suggests that most Coronial Services require four to six Assistant Coroners. The Tees and Hartlepool Coroner Service currently has only two active Assistant Coroners. The Senior Coroner for the Tees and Hartlepool Service has identified, therefore, the need to appoint at least one additional Assistant to deal with the extra work and to ensure resilience for the Service.

Where the coroner area consists of more than one local authority, the relevant authority (formerly known as the lead authority) must consult the other authorities. Middlesbrough BC have, therefore, written to Redcar and Cleveland Council, and Stockton and ourselves to request their support for the appointment of an additional Assistant Coroner. The Chief Coroner must then also consent to the appointment of all coroners, as must the Lord Chancellor.

Ordinarily it would be necessary to hold an open competition for an Assistant Coroner, however, the Chief Coroner has recently made provision for local authorities to appoint Assistant Coroners without the need for an open competition (Chief Coroner's guidance 26.03.20). This decision has been made to assist Coroner's Services deal with all of the extra work that the Covid-19 pandemic has, understandably, brought. It is proposed to utilise this guidance to directly appoint the appointment of a local solicitor and Assistant Coroner due to his experience and familiarity with the role.

The cost of the coroner's service is shared between the four authorities and should Hartlepool approve the appointment, 'our' share of the current cost would be in the region of £3000 per annum.

The following decision was agreed without dissent.

### **Decision**

That Hartlepool confirms its agreement with the proposal that Middlesbrough Borough Council is to appoint an additional Assistant Coroner for the Teesside and Hartlepool Coroner Service area.

## **23. Provision of Accommodation for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping During COVID-19 Response** *(Director, Children and Joint Commissioning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Finance and Policy Committee with further information regarding the provision of accommodation for those who were homeless and rough sleeping during the COVID19 response, as requested at the meeting of Finance and Policy Committee on 29 June 2020.

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

The Director, Children and Joint Commissioning Services reported on the arrangements put in place following the Minister for Local Government and Homelessness, Luke Hall, MP. wrote on 26 March 2020 to all local authority Chief Executives announcing the appointment of Dame Louise Casey to lead the Government's response to COVID-19 and rough sleeping to help make sure that everyone was brought in off the streets to protect their health and stop wider transmission of the virus.

Following the Ministerial announcement, an approach was made to Families First North East, an organisation that was in the process of developing supported accommodation for young adults at Melbourne Hotel. At that time, the accommodation was vacant and could be mobilised to provide accommodation, staffing and support within 24-48 hours.

The report set out the details of the arrangements made with the Melbourne Hotel, the service provided and the numbers of people supported both at Melbourne Hotel and by the Housing Advice Team.

The cost of the provision of temporary supported accommodation at the Melbourne Hotel was £57,613. The vast majority of this cost arose from the provision of 24 hour staffing arrangements which enabled those referred to receive an appropriate level of support and guidance and the service to receive referrals on evenings and weekends to immediately respond to those found to be homeless or rough sleeping. All costs have been covered from Government grant funding provided to the Council specifically to cover costs associated with the COVID19 response. As detailed in the MTFs report elsewhere on the agenda the Government Covid19 grant covers all expenditure incurred by the Council responding to the pandemic. There are no ongoing costs associated with provision at the Melbourne Hotel.

Members sought details of the length of stay of the various individuals and the family group accommodated at Melbourne Hotel. The Director undertook to supply these details to Members.

Members questioned the numbers of homeless referred to in the report as previous reports indicated that the figures were much lower. The Director stated that many of those counted may not have presented as 'immediately' homeless but may have had tenancies at risk of termination for example. There were 'sweeps' undertaken with Cornerstone to identify and offer assistance to anyone rough sleeping. There were, however, a number of people that 'presented' during the day as being on the streets begging but had accommodation to go to at night.

A Member questioned whether Cornerstone or the Home Group could not have been in a position to offer accommodation to those that had presented as homeless. The costs of those accommodated at the Melbourne Hotel were very high. There were also some people who were refused by the Melbourne Hotel and were sent to other bed and breakfast provision. The Director stated that officers did work closely with the two organisations referred to but the accommodation provided was additional capacity to meet the urgent need created by the Government's requirement to 'home' all homeless people within such a tight timescale.

A Member also referred to some of the anti-social behaviour complaints that had arisen from neighbours of the Melbourne Hotel during this period and the poor response they were given by the Community Safety Team. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods stated she would follow up on those comments with the Councillor after the meeting.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

## **24. Provision of Food during the COVID19 Response** (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

### **Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Finance and Policy Committee with further information regarding the provision of food during the COVID19 response, as requested at the meeting of Finance and Policy Committee on 29 June 2020.

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

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that in the early stages of the Council's COVID19 response, access to food household

essentials was a significant challenge with shortages in supermarkets and organisations experiencing difficulties accessing goods through established supply chains, such as providers of school meals. Local Authorities were directed to establishing ‘shielding hubs’ to support those covered by the shielding guidance, and it was also recognised that there were people who did not fall under this guidance who would require substantial support to access food, household essentials and medication.

Hartlepool Support Hub was established at very short notice in the early weeks of the COVID19 response in order to support the local population, including those who were shielding. As well as providing access to food, the Support Hub has enabled people to access advice and information, emotional support and befriending services, prescriptions, continence products, hearing aid batteries, pet food, newspapers, books and much more. The report set out in detail the provision of Emergency Food Parcels, Weekly Food Boxes, Hot Food Deliveries, and the National Food Box Scheme. The report also included some of the very positive feedback received by the hub from those people and families supported.

The Director stated that the support from the Hub would continue and officers were still working with people who may still have some residual needs despite the lockdown restrictions being eased. The Director also highlighted that all the costs associated with the support given through the Hub had been met by the grant from Government for the Covid-19 response.

Members welcomed the report and the extra detail it provided and congratulated all involved in the Support Hub for the excellent support they had provided during the Covid-19 emergency. The Director thanked Members for the comments and would share them with the staff in the Hub and those involved in the provision of the wider response to the Covid-19 emergency. Many staff had adapted to new and very different roles very quickly and with great enthusiasm and should be commended for their hard work during this period. Members also commented on the excellent work of the local foodbanks during this period and also recently by Councillors Smith and Little in the preparation and distribution of food parcels as part of the summer holiday hunger scheme.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

## **25. Corporate Procurement Quarterly Report on Contracts** *(Director of Finance and Policy)*

### **Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To satisfy the requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with regard to the Finance and Policy Committee:

- Receiving and examining quarterly reports on the outcome of contract letting procedures including those where the lowest/highest price is not payable/receivable.
- Receiving and examining reports on any exemptions granted in respect of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

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

A report outlining the Council's procurement activity since the previous quarterly report was submitted highlighting the delay caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. Details of the individual contracts were set out in appendices to the report. One appendix to the report contained exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

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

None.

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on 21 September 2020 commencing at 10.00 am.

The meeting concluded at 12.52 pm.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 26 AUGUST 2020**

# SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

10 January 2020

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

**Present:**

**Responsible Authority Members:**

Councillor: Shane Moore (In the Chair)  
Michael Houghton, NHS Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees and  
Darlington CCG  
Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

**Other Members:**

Barry Coppinger, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for  
Cleveland  
Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning  
Services  
Joanne Hodgkinson, Safe in Tees Valley  
Angela Corner, Thirteen Group

**Also Present:**

John Lovatt was in attendance as substitute for Jill Harrison and Ian  
Armstrong was in attendance as substitute for John Graham

Sue Schofield, Education Manager, Show Racism the Red Card

**Officers:**

Rachel Parker, Community Safety Team Leader  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## 39. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Hartlepool Borough Council, Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council, Peter Graham, Chair of Youth Offending Board, John Graham, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company and Ann Powell, Cleveland Area National Probation Service .

**40. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**41. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2019**

Confirmed.

**42. Show Racism the Red Card Presentation** *(Representative from Show Racism the Red Card)***Issue(s) for consideration**

A representative from Show Racism the Red Card, who was in attendance at the meeting, provided the Partnership with a presentation in relation to the aims of the charity which was to educate young people about the causes and consequences of racism, help young people to play an active role as citizens in an increasingly multi-cultural society and to enable young people to develop good relationships and respect the differences between people regardless of their ethnicity, faith, culture or nationality. The presentation included an overview of partnership working arrangements, details of young people's education workshops, adult workshops, workshop outcomes together with workshop statistics. It was noted that since 1 April 2019 education workshop's had been delivered in two Hartlepool Primary Schools.

In the discussion that followed a Member expressed disappointment in terms of the low take-up in Hartlepool schools, feedback of which was queried. The Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services advised of the potential reasons that correspondence may not reach Head Teachers and agreed to distribute information on behalf of the charity to Hartlepool schools.

Partnership Members welcomed the work of the charity and the benefits as a result. The Police and Crime Commissioner spoke in support of the initiative and shared with the Partnership the positive experiences of classroom sessions he had observed and highlighted the excellent partnership working with football clubs in delivering anti-racism sessions in schools and was keen to see this continue. The representative commented on a recent anti-racism and hate crime event that had taken place in Middlesbrough with a school foundation trust where four schools had participated. The benefits of holding an event of this type in Hartlepool were highlighted to which the Police and Crime Commissioner expressed his support.

The Chair referred to recent negative press in Hartlepool around issues of this type and suggested that a Members' Seminar be held to raise awareness in this regard.

**Decision**

- (i) That the contents of the presentation and comments of Partnership Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.
- (ii) That the Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services share information with Hartlepool schools in relation to anti-racism workshops available to schools.
- (iii) That a Members’ Seminar be arranged in relation to anti-racism.

### 43. **Neighbourhood Safety Group Update** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

**Purpose of report**

To provide the Safer Hartlepool Partnership with an update from the Neighbourhood Safety Group.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided background information regarding the purpose of the Neighbourhood Safety Group. The Group received updates from the Hartlepool Community Safety Team in terms of performance, workforce development and communications and had an action plan covering a number of work streams as set out in the report.

Members were provided with an update on the work of the Community Safety Team over the last 12 months which included details of changes to Neighbourhood Policing, staffing changes within the Community Safety Team, days of action at Oxford Road, Operation Sentinel, Elizabeth Way Shopping Parade Operation, Operation Grantham and Operation Roadrunner. Details of key engagement and enforcement activity for the period June to November 2019 was provided as well as additional activities and publicity campaigns.

The recently appointed representative from Thirteen Group expressed her interest in providing representation on the Neighbourhood Safety Group which the Assistant Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods agreed to share with the Chair of the Group.

**Decision**

- (i) That the work of the Hartlepool Community Safety Team be noted.
- (ii) That the interest of Thirteen Group to be represented on the Neighbourhood Safety Group be conveyed to the Chair of the Group.

**44. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

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

**45. Any Other Business – Partnership Conference**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland advised that the team were currently in the process of organising a Partnership Conference on 14 February in relation to serious violence and how they may secure additional resources.

**Decision**

That the information given be noted.

**46. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Chair reported that the next meeting would be held on Friday 20 March 2020 at 10.00 am.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm.

CHAIR

# **SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

20 March 2020

**Due to exceptional circumstances in relation to the COVID 19 global pandemic, it had been agreed that the meeting be cancelled pending receipt of the national guidance/legislation.**

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

26 June 2020

The meeting commenced at 12.30 pm and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present:

Councillor Moore, Leader of Council (In the Chair)

Prescribed Members:

Elected Members, Hartlepool Borough Council – Councillors Buchan, Thomas and Ward

Representatives of NHS Tees Valley CCG – Dr Nick Timlin and Michael Houghton (as substitute for David Gallagher)

Deputy Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council – Craig Blundred (as substitute for Dr Pat Riordan)

Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services, Hartlepool Borough Council – Sally Robinson

Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council, Jill Harrison

Representatives of Healthwatch – Christopher Akers-Belcher as substitute for Margaret Wrenn

Other Members:

Chief Executive, Hartlepool Borough Council – Gill Alexander

Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Hartlepool Borough Council – Denise McGuckin

Assistant Director of Joint Commissioning, Hartlepool Borough Council – Danielle Swainston

Representative of Cleveland Police – Chief Inspector Matthew Reeves as substitute for Superintendent Sharon Cooney

Representative of Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust – Sean Mayo as substitute for Dominic Gardner

Representative of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust – Hilton Heslop as substitute for Deepak Dwarakanath

Representative of Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector – Tracy Woodall

Representative of Hartlepool and Stockton Health GP Federation – Fiona Adamson

Also in attendance:-  
Councillor Brenda Harrison

Officers: Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Amanda Whitaker and Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair welcomed all attendees and the Board observed a one minute silence in memory of those lost during the COVID-19 pandemic and in memory of Rub Marshall who had been the Healthwatch Representative on the Board since its formation.

#### **40. Apologies for Absence**

Dr Pat Riordon – Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Mr David Gallagher – NHS Tees Valley CCG  
Mrs Margaret Wrenn – Healthwatch  
Mr Deepak Dwarakanath – North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust

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

Councillor Thomas – as an employee of Healthwatch.  
Councillor Ward – as a holistic practitioner at Alice House Hospice.  
Christopher Akers Belcher – as Chief Executive, Health Watch

#### **42. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2020 were confirmed.

#### **43. Presentation – Local Outbreak Engagement Board – Review of Terms of Reference and Membership of Health and Wellbeing Board – *Director of Public Health***

The Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services provided the Board with a detailed and comprehensive presentation in relation to the requirement to create a Local Outbreak Engagement Board, which included a need to review the Health and Wellbeing's Terms of Reference and membership to undertake the functions of engaging stakeholders and the wider community in the ongoing response to preventing and containing local outbreaks of Covid-19 and in tackling the wider physical and mental health impacts of the virus. Details of background information was provided as well as the role and function of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board and the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in terms of Covid-19. The Board was requested to consider the following options:-

- Option 1 – Health and Wellbeing Board absorb the Engagement Board responsibilities into its own Terms of Reference and extend its membership

- Option 2 – Health and Wellbeing Board create a working group to undertake the responsibilities of the Engagement Board
- Option 3 – A separate Engagement Board be created

In the debate that followed, Board Members went on to consider the options as well as the following questions:-

- Which option provides local area best mechanism to deliver the purpose of the Engagement Board to provide political ownership and public facing engagement and communication for the outbreak response?
- What changes are needed to the Terms of Reference and what additional responsibilities should be included linked to Covid-19 response and recovery?
- How should revised Terms of Reference be approved. Delegation to Chair?

A representative from Healthwatch spoke in support of option 2 and highlighted the commitment of Healthwatch to provide support and participate on the Working Group. A number of Board Members expressed support for option 2 outlining the benefits as a result. A Member whilst expressing support for Option 2, placed emphasis upon the importance of governance arrangements in terms of transparency and inclusivity and sought assurances in this regard.

In relation to comments raised in relation to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the Chair requested that a copy of the refresh document be provided to Healthwatch as well as all interested parties including members of the public.

With regard to membership of the Working Group, in addition to the interest from Healthwatch further expressions of interest were received from the following:-

Councillor Steve Thomas as Local Mental Health Champion  
 Councillor Brenda Harrison as Looked After Children Champion  
 NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group  
 Hartlepool and Stockton Health GP Federation  
 Cleveland Police  
 The Voluntary and Community Sector

### **Decision**

(i) That the contents of the presentation and comments of Board Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.

(ii) The Board supported Option 2 (creation of a Working Group) as the best mechanism to deliver the purpose of the Engagement Board to provide political ownership and public facing engagement and communication for the outbreak response.

(iii) That the Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board be refreshed to update any factual inaccuracies and an addendum added to reflect the creation of the role and responsibilities of the Working Group.

(iv) That membership of the Working Group include:-

One representative from the below:-

- Healthwatch
- Hartlepool and Stockton Health GP Federation
- NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group
- Cleveland Police
- Voluntary and Community Sector

The following Council Member Champions:-

- Councillor Steve Thomas (Local Mental Health Champion)
- Councillor Brenda Harrison (Looked After Children Champion)

(v) That the JSNA refresh document be widely circulated to include Healthwatch as well as all interested parties and members of the public.

#### **44. Coronavirus Update – Presentation/Joint Report -** *Director of Public Health/ Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services/Direct of Adult and Community Based Services*

The Deputy Director of Public Health presented a report, supported by a detailed presentation, which provided a comprehensive update of data on the progress of the Coronavirus disease in Hartlepool and priorities for moving forward. Statistical information provided included weekly totals of Covid-19 cases recorded, cumulative totals, Hartlepool's case rate per 100,000 as well as death rates in Hartlepool as a comparator with the national picture.

In the discussion that followed, Board Members debated issues arising from the presentation and the Deputy Director of Public Health provided clarification in response to queries raised. A number of concerns were raised around the impact for Hartlepool in terms of the national proposals to relax restrictions given the latest data presented that Hartlepool was in the highest 15% in the country for Covid 19 death rates per 100,000 population. Reference was made to the level of health inequalities in Hartlepool and the increased risk and vulnerability of such communities in the town as a result of pandemics of this type. Further views were expressed around the impact of easing lockdown restrictions in Hartlepool and the need to focus on the Hartlepool picture as opposed to the national position was reiterated.

#### **Decision**

That the update and comments of Board Members be noted.

## 45. **Coronavirus – Hartlepool Outbreak Control Arrangements – Covering Report** – *Director of Public Health*

The report set out the background to the Council's and key local partners role in preventing and controlling local outbreaks in line with the Government's Test and Trace service which was a central part of the Covid-19 recovery strategy and the Government's request that individual Covid-19 Outbreak Plans be developed by all Councils by the end of June 2020. Board Members views were sought on the draft Outbreak Control Plan for Hartlepool, attached at Appendix 1, which would inform the final version of the Plan to be produced by the end of June.

Board Members debated issues arising from the report. In relation to issues raised around the need to strengthen links and engagement with NHS partners, it was suggested that arrangements be made for the Council's Deputy Director of Public Health to meet with the representative from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to progress this following the meeting.

Reference was made to the challenges around the accuracy and effectiveness of the national test and trace system and the importance of significant local data gathering processes to ensure control of local outbreaks. In terms of going forward, emphasis was placed upon the need to establish links with the Working Group, as agreed under the previous agenda item, to identify vulnerable groups with underlying health conditions, health inequalities as well as access to information and treatment. The Deputy Director of Public Health provided clarification in response to issues raised in relation to the challenges around the data gathering process and provided assurances that work was ongoing regarding the prevention agenda indicating that the work with care homes and schools would expand into community settings as part of the outbreak control plan arrangements.

The importance of providing regular and timely communications to the public and the need to explore health inequalities and data by community/ward was highlighted. Support from Healthwatch was expressed in terms of ensuring effective communications with the public. The Deputy Director of Public Health agreed to consider the communications strategy element within the Outbreak Control Plan.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the draft Outbreak Control Plan be supported.
- (ii) That the comments of Board Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.

Meeting concluded at 1.40 pm.

CHAIR

# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020



**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services

**Subject:** COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2020-2021

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## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Part of the Budget and Policy Framework. To consider and comment on the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Safety Plan 2020-2021 (see **Appendix 1**)

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have a statutory responsibility to develop and implement a Community Safety Strategy setting out how it intends to address crime and disorder, substance misuse, and re-offending issues.

2.2 CSP's are made up of representatives from the six 'responsible authorities'. These are the Local Authority, Police, Fire Brigade, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company and Clinical Commissioning Group. CSP's have a number of statutory duties which include:

- Producing a **Community Safety Strategy** that details how the CSP will tackle the crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending priorities in its local area;
- Producing an annual partnership **strategic assessment** to help identify and better understand local community safety priorities;
- **Consulting** with local residents and organisations on community safety priorities.

2.3 A report was scheduled to be presented at the SHP meeting in March 2020 proposing that a development day be held to provide all members of the Partnership with the opportunity to discuss the findings of the annual strategic assessment, proposed priorities for the SHP going forward and the with

current and future Partnership arrangements to inform and deliver the Community Safety Plan for 2020-23.

- 2.4 However, due to the coronavirus outbreak, the March meeting of the SHP was cancelled and the ability to hold a development day lost.
- 2.5 In light of the above, the 2019 Safer Hartlepool Partnership Strategic Assessment was instead circulated to Partnership members for their comment / agreement on the findings and proposed priorities contained within the document.

### **3. DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2020-2021**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the attached draft Community Safety Plan covers just one year – 2020-21, and that further and additional work be undertaken before the production of a three year plan for 2021-2024.
- 3.2 The Community Safety Plan 2020-21 provides an overview of some of the recent activities undertaken to improve community safety in Hartlepool, and key findings from the Partnership’s Strategic Assessment and public consultation as outlined above. The Partnership’s proposed strategic objective and key priorities it will take forward over the next year are detailed below.
- 3.3 The proposed strategic objective for 2020-21 is: -

“To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to  
live, work and visit”

- 3.4 The key priorities for the Partnership in 2020/21 are: -
- Drugs and Alcohol
  - Anti-social Behaviour
  - Domestic Violence

### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Subject to approval by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the draft Community Safety Plan will be subject to an eight week consultation period with the consultation exercise comprising of the following:
- An online consultation survey – with links published on the Safer Hartlepool Partnership website, Hartlepool Borough Council website, Hartlepool Borough Council Facebook page and Hartlepool Borough Council Twitter page. The use of local media mechanisms including but not limited to Hartlepool Mail.

- Targeted emails will be sent to a wide range of public, private, community and voluntary sector representatives and groups containing a link to the online consultation survey.
- Presentation of the draft Plan to the Council’s Audit & Governance and Finance and Policy Committees.

4.2 It is anticipated that the final Plan will be presented to the Partnership in November 2020, and subject to the approval by the Partnership will be considered by the Council’s Finance and Policy Committee prior to being referred for adoption by full Council in December 2020.

## 5. DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

5.1 Delivery of the Community Safety Plan will be via existing agencies, organisations and partnerships and, where necessary, the development of new working groups shall be monitored by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

## 6. SECTION 17 CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Failure to develop a Community Safety Plan would undermine the Safer Hartlepool Partnership’s ability to fulfil its statutory responsibilities to set out a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder, combating substance misuse and reduction in re-offending in Hartlepool.

## 7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is required to produce a Community Safety Plan to set out how it intends to address crime and disorder, substance misuse, and re-offending issues.

## 8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 The annual strategic assessment and consultation process will ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are considered when formulating and implementing the Community Safety Plan 2020-2021.

## 9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

9.1

Risk Implications	No relevant issues
Financial Considerations	No relevant issues
Child/Family Poverty Considerations	No relevant issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant issues
Asset Management Considerations	No relevant issues

## **10. RECOMMENDATION**

- 10.1 As part of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership consultation process it is recommended that the Finance and Policy Committee consider and comment upon the draft SHP Community Safety Plan 2020-2021.

## **11. CONTACT OFFICER**

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# Safer Hartlepool Partnership



## Community Safety Plan

2020 - 2021

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## 1. FOREWORD



As Chair, I am pleased to present the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan for 2020 – 2021 on behalf of The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP).

The Partnership Plan brings together our aims, ambitions and priorities for the next year. We will work in Partnership to tackle the issues which impact on, and matter to local people.

During the lifetime of the previous Community Safety Plan introduced in 2017, there have been a number of key community safety achievements, not least the launch of an integrated Hartlepool Community Safety Team in March 2018.

Created in response to requests from residents for a more joined-up service, the team brings together staff from Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade who are all based together in the Police Station on Avenue Road. During 2020, the work of this team will be strengthened by the Chief Constable of Cleveland Police's commitment to neighbourhood policing which will see an increase in dedicated resources to gather intelligence, prevent crime and problem solve in our local communities.

The Community Safety Plan 2020 – 2021 reflects the outcomes of the 2019 SHP Strategic Assessment. In utilising this data and information, it has enabled the SHP to identify the priority areas to be focussed on for the next year. This will enable us to deliver a holistic approach, with a greater emphasis on prevention and reducing harm.

The SHP has faced new challenges in recent years including, most recently, the onset of COVID-19 which has had a huge impact on all aspects of life in the town. There has been a significant change in issues that are presented to partners to address, whilst also tackling substantial resource pressures. Important matters such as organised crime, serious violence, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and responding to those members of our communities with specific vulnerabilities understandably take priority.

The SHP will continue to look at new and innovative ways of working collaboratively to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending, and most importantly, improving the quality of life for the people who live and work in and visit Hartlepool.

**Councillor Shane Moore**

**Chair, Safer Hartlepool Partnership**



## 2. INTRODUCTION

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) brings together a number of agencies and organisations concerned with tackling crime and disorder in Hartlepool. As defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Partnership comprises members from each of the “responsible authorities”; Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service (Cleveland), Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company and Hartlepool and Stockton Clinical Commissioning Group. In addition, a range of other stakeholders from the public and voluntary sectors are also represented and include Thirteen Group, Safe In Tees Valley and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

Our key role is to understand the kind of community safety issues Hartlepool is experiencing; decide which of these are the most important to deal with; and then decide what actions we can take collectively, adding value to the day-to-day work undertaken by our individual agencies and organisations.

We detail these actions in our Community Safety Plan. To help us do that we undertake a Strategic Assessment which analyses a range of detailed information that exists about crime, disorder, substance misuse, re-offending and other community matters that are affecting Hartlepool.

The outcomes of the assessment form recommendations about how to keep the Community Safety Plan priorities relevant.

In producing our plan we are also mindful of the pledges of the Police and Crime Commissioner in his Police and Crime Plan and the requirement to 'have regard' to the priorities established by this plan.

The community safety landscape continues to evolve and partners continue to face challenges in having to adapt the way services and initiatives are delivered. Since the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, legislative changes have amended our focus, and also the statutory partners we work with, but the principles of working together remain at the heart of tackling crime and disorder.



### 3. LOCAL CONTEXT

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



**Population**

Hartlepool's population has increased slightly over the past 5 years due, in part, to increasing migration levels.

This has led to Hartlepool's population becoming more diverse, with increasing numbers of BAME and white non-British residents.

Almost 1 in 5 of the population are aged 65+; whilst almost 1 in 4 are aged 18 or under.



**Unemployment**

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

The unemployment rate of young people aged 18-24 years remains above the national average.

Hartlepool has high rates of people incapable of work due to disability and ill health.



**Deprivation**

Hartlepool has pockets of high deprivation where communities experience multiple issues: higher unemployment, lower incomes, child poverty, ill health, low attainment, poorer housing conditions and higher crime rates.

Hartlepool is the 25th most deprived local authority area out of 326 local authorities.

Inequality within Hartlepool is getting worse, with the gap between the most deprived and least deprived parts of the town widening since 2015.



**Health & Wellbeing**

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

Alcohol related hospital admissions in Hartlepool are significantly worse than the regional and national rate.

The rate of drug-related deaths in Hartlepool is significantly higher than the regional rate and more than double the national rate.

Hospital admission rates for violence are the third highest in the north east region.



**Housing**

Over half of the properties in Hartlepool are within the lowest 'Band A' Council Tax bracket.



**Geography**

Community safety problems are not evenly spread and tend to be concentrated in geographic hotspots, particularly in the most deprived wards in Hartlepool.



#### 4. SUMMARY OF THE 2019/20 PLAN

During the final year of the Community Safety Plan 2017 – 2020 we have continued to focus our priorities on ensuring Hartlepool is a safe place for residents, workers and visitors by undertaking activity to address the issues that are likely to have most effect on people during their day to day lives.

##### Reduce crime and repeat victimisation

- Provided home and personal crime prevention advice, target hardening and emotional support to more than 500 victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Held regular “drop in” sessions in the Community Hubs and schools to offer property marking.
- Delivered targeted crime prevention campaigns and communicated key messages through a variety of media.
- Hosted a Serious Violence Summit to explore how agencies can work together to tackle serious violence.
- Developed a Victim Care Pathway for victims of Modern Day Slavery

##### Reduce the harmed caused by alcohol and drug misuse

- Developed a new integrated model for drug and alcohol services.
- Secured 18 premise closure orders for residential properties concerned in the supply of illegal drugs

##### Create confident, cohesive and safe communities

- Delivered early intervention, diversionary, educational and positive activities through the deployment of the Target Youth Outreach Team, achieving more than 1,600 contacts with young people identified as at risk of exploitation and / or becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour.
- Co-ordinated multi-agency “Days of Action” to target anti-social behaviour and environmental issues in hotspot locations
- Carried out targeted operations to address illegal and dangerous parking at schools, identify and seize nuisance off-road vehicles, respond to complaints of aggressive begging.
- Delivered the annual Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Day (ASBAD) which highlights the consequences of anti-social behaviour and provides young people with the knowledge and understanding of the roles of support and Community Safety focused agencies working in Hartlepool.

##### Reduce offending and re-offending

- Supported the implementation of the Cleveland Divert scheme which engages with adults at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System for low-level

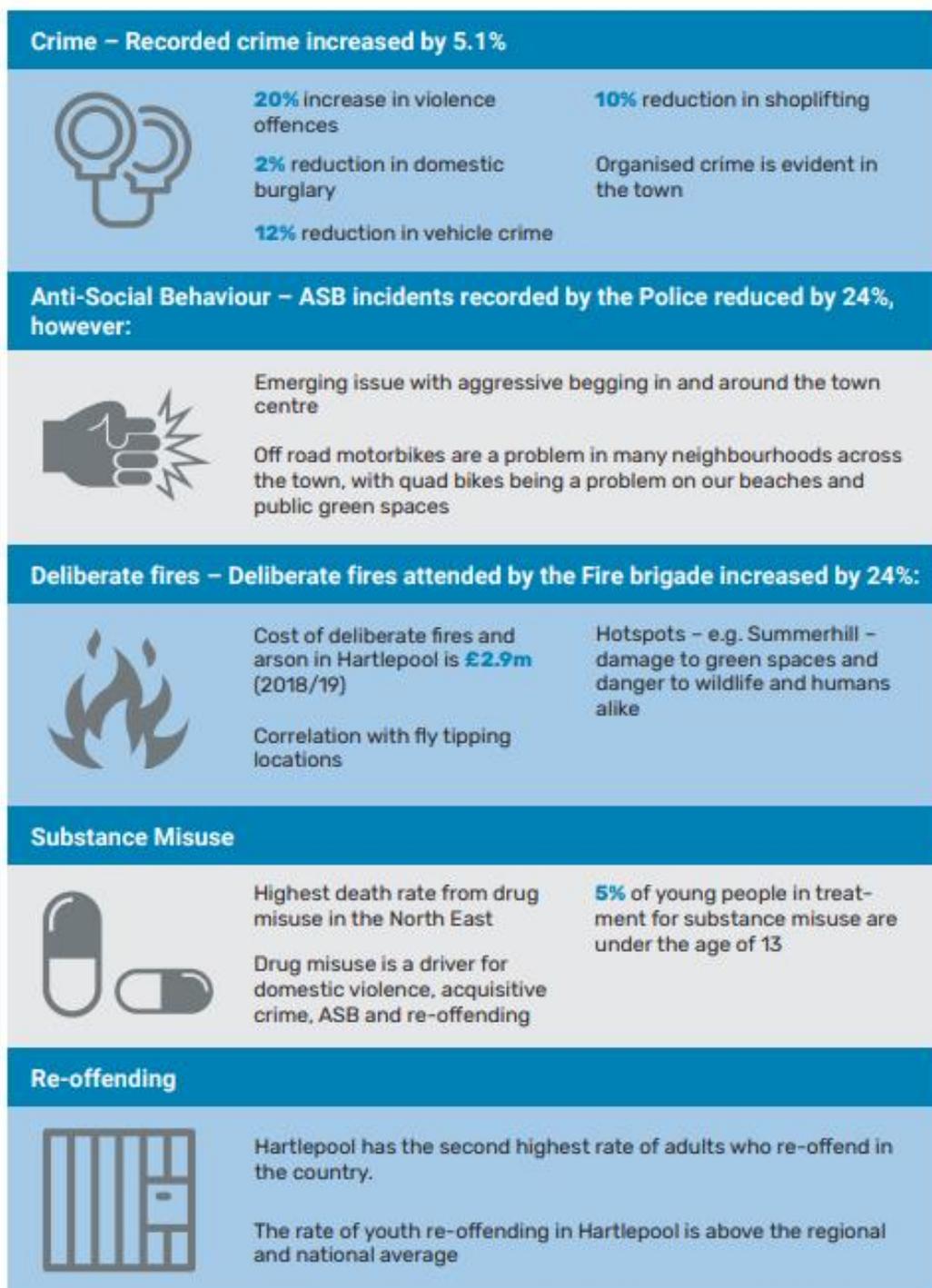
offences and offers eligible offenders the opportunity to engage with services as an alternative to prosecution.



## 5. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2019

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The Partnership conducts an annual assessment of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in Hartlepool to identify and address the community safety issues that impact upon and really matter to the local community. Key findings from the 2019 assessment are outlined below.



## 6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has a statutory obligation to engage and consult with the communities of Hartlepool about community safety priorities.

The annual Community Safety Survey is designed to assist the Partnership to:

- Gain a wider understanding of public perception of crime and anti-social behaviour in the local area;
- Understand what makes people feel safe and unsafe; and
- Understand which issues cause most concern

Analysis of the results of the survey conducted in February 2020 highlighted that although many residents perceive crime and anti-social behaviour to be a problem in their area, more than half of respondents said they had not been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months.

When asked about feelings of safety, most respondents said they feel safe being outside during the day and after dark. Those who said they felt unsafe stated this was due to poor street lighting, lack of police, suspicious people hanging around and people dealing drugs.

The survey findings also revealed that serious violence, organised crime and “county lines” drug dealing are issues which cause concern in our communities amongst the community and should be included as priorities in the Community Safety Plan.

The annual Face the Public event scheduled to take place on 16th March 2020, was cancelled due to safety concerns relating to COVID-19.

In addition to the Partnerships’ consultation with the public, and in fulfilling the requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Council’s Audit and Governance Committee, conducted an investigation into anti-social behaviour in Hartlepool during 2019 under its statutory crime and disorder scrutiny responsibilities.

A town wide public survey was conducted to seek residents’ opinions and experiences of ASB. The response rate was good with almost 400 surveys completed. More than two thirds of respondents stated that they had experienced ASB in the preceding six months.

The survey results further identified that the main issues of ASB experienced by respondents included rubbish / littering, groups hanging around in the street / public places, rude / abusive behaviour by young people, begging and vehicle nuisance (off-road bikes).



## 6. CONTINUED...



In addition to the survey, an extensive consultation and engagement exercise was conducted, with an open invitation extended to individuals and groups. Drop in sessions were held in a number of locations including the Community Hubs and Sheltered accommodation complexes.

A series of workshops were attended by representatives from resident's groups and associations, representatives from minority communities of interest or heritage, young people who attend various youth clubs across the town and representatives from the Hartlepool Taxi trade.

Several interviews were also conducted with individual residents who had experienced and reported anti-social behaviour.

Common issues of concern were identified across all of these groups and included drug and alcohol abuse and drug dealing, deliberate fires and fly-tipping, noise nuisance and littering and a lack of police visibility in neighbourhoods.

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## 7. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2020/21

The new strategic objective for the Partnership in 2020/21 is: -

**To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit**

## 8. PRIORITIES 2020/21

As with any town, Hartlepool faces many challenges and must work within an environment of conflicting demands and limited resources.

The Partnership recognises that there are many issues that impact on the lives of some, or all, of Hartlepool's residents and continued efforts will be made by all Partnership members to address these in a focussed and effective manner.

Issues such as hate crime, violence (particularly serious violence) and exploitation are significant in both the local and national context and the Partnership recognises the need to work both individually and collectively to address them.

However, the Partnership also recognises the benefits of identifying those issues that have the greatest impact on the town and the need to target resources and efforts to deal with them effectively and efficiently.

To do this, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership will focus activity on three key priority areas – each of which contributes towards a wide range of community concerns. The three key priority areas for 2020/21 are: -

### Drugs and Alcohol

Through targeted partnership working, focussed efforts will be made to reduce both the demand for, and the supply of, illegal drugs in Hartlepool.

The Partnership will also work together to reduce the negative social, personal and health consequences caused by the misuse of alcohol in the town.

### Anti-social Behaviour

The Partnership will look to reduce anti-social behaviour in Hartlepool.

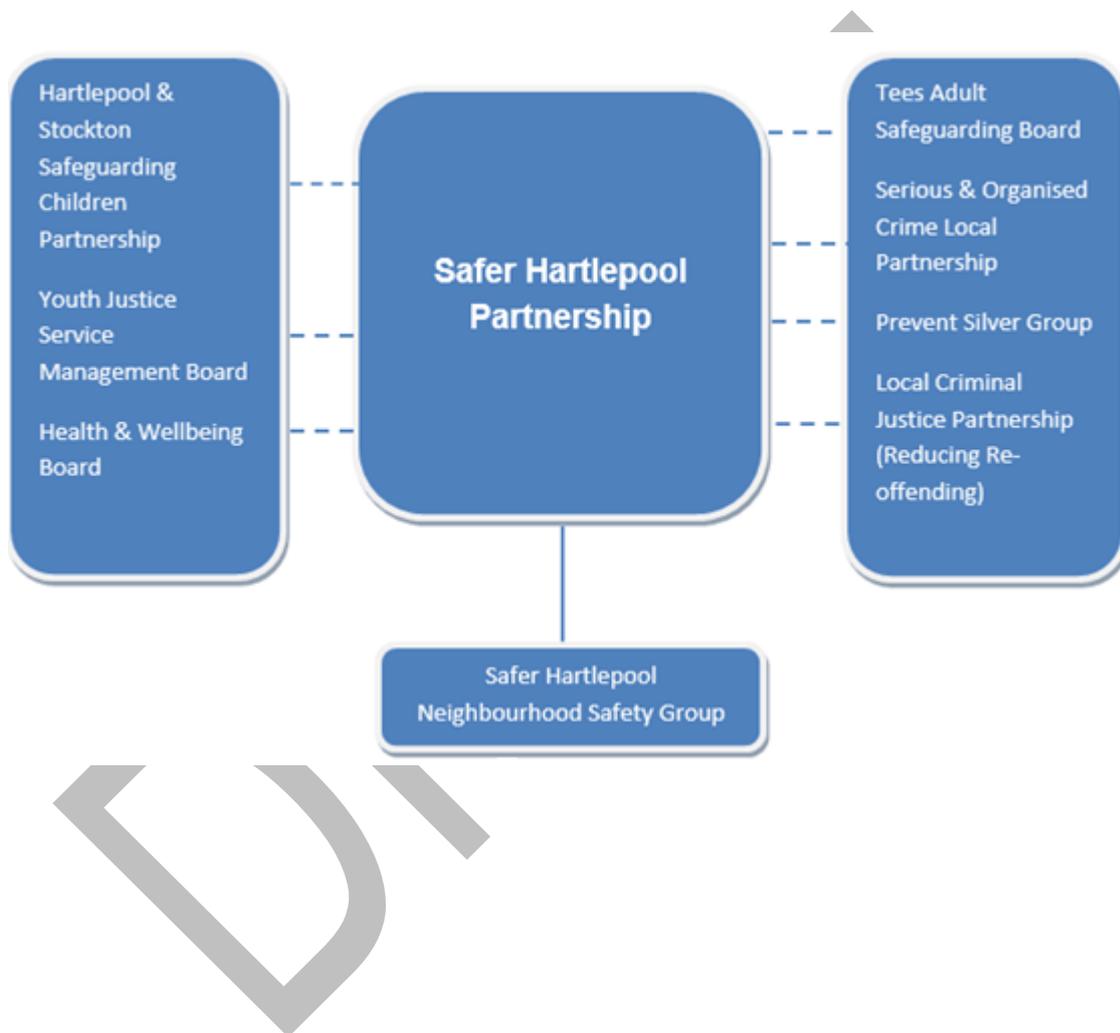
### Domestic violence and abuse

The Partnership will work together to raise awareness, prevent abuse, protect and support victims, challenge and prosecute perpetrators of domestic abuse.



## 9. DELIVERING THE PLAN

The Partnership will draw on available resources to ensure delivery of the plan through the effective use of existing organisations, agencies and groups and the establishment of new ones where required.





## 10. MONITORING PERFORMANCE

Performance will be measured using targeted performance indicators that will be periodically reported back to, and monitored by, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

Performance indicators will be developed as part of the establishment of the delivery structure and will include both qualitative and quantitative indicators where appropriate.

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For further information contact:  
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# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

21st September 2020



**Report of:** Director of Resources and Development

**Subject:** NORTHGATE HOUSE LEASE EXTENSION

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision (test (i)) Forward Plan Reference No. RN04/20.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the extension of the lease to the current tenant of Northgate House.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Northgate House, (formerly known as Bryan Hanson House) has been let to Northgate Information Solutions UK since March 2014. The property is shown hatched at **APPENDIX 2**. The lease is due to expire in March 2021 but it has provisionally been agreed to extend the existing lease on the terms set out in **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 3 This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (paragraph 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

3.2 Northgate Information Solutions UK (“Northgate”) have been the Council’s IT provider since 2003 (although originally under the name of SX3). The 2014 letting of the property was agreed at the same time as the existing IT contract, and the proposed lease extension will end contemporaneously with the IT contract (which was itself extended in 2019).

3.3 Northgate deliver contracts for other clients from this property and have carried out various internal improvements and alterations at the start of the lease and completed further refurbishment in late 2019. As a major PLC, Northgate represent an excellent covenant as a tenant and are a significant employer in the town and particularly within the Innovation and Skills Quarter area.

- 3.4 As one indicator of current office rental values and demand in the area, the adjoining property, TEC House (a similar though smaller 3 storey office building extending to approximately 6,426 square feet (597 square metres)), is currently vacant and to let and has been for some time, albeit at a higher asking rent.

#### 4. PROPOSALS

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

#### 5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Extending the lease as set out in **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 3 This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (paragraph 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)** reduces the risk of the building being empty and unlet.
- 5.2 The extension of the lease at the same rent as the original amount still represents market rental value at present and is considered likely to do so for the next few years. Were the property to fall vacant at the end of the current term it is considered there would be a significant void period and difficulty in re-letting at a similar rental level. These risks have been exacerbated by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the decision of many businesses to reduce their use of office space.

#### 6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed lease extension will ensure continued rental income from the property.

#### 7. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The decision to take a commercial approach means that the Council should obtain full market value for any property it disposes of or leases out.

#### 8. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Legal Considerations	No relevant issues
Consultation	No relevant issues
Child/Family Poverty Considerations	See <b>Appendix 1</b>
Equality and Diversity Considerations	No relevant issues

Section 17 of The Crime And Disorder Act 1998 Considerations	No relevant issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant issues

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Committee is recommended to approve the extension of the lease as set out in **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 3 This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (paragraph 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

## 10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The terms of the lease extension are considered to reflect fully the market rental value of the property. The lease extension also ensures that the building is let to a high quality tenant until at least the end of September 2023. This not only ensures the rental income is received and empty costs avoided but helps to retain high quality employment in the town.

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 There are no background papers for this report.

## 12. CONTACT OFFICERS

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 Victoria Road  
 Hartlepool  
 TS24 8AY  
 Email: [chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk)

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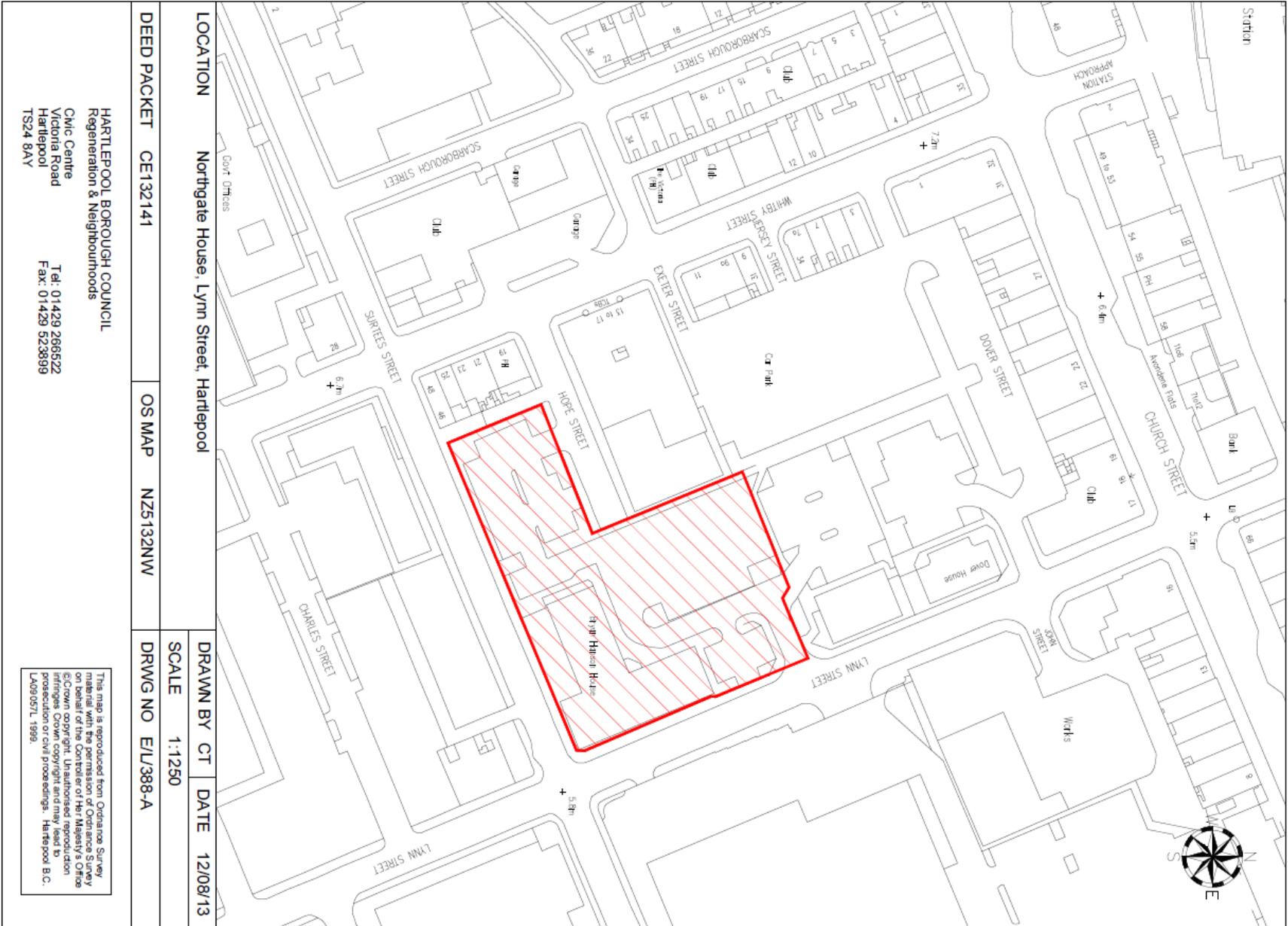
**POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM**

<b>1. Is this decision a Budget &amp; Policy Framework or Key Decision? YES</b>				
If YES please answer question 2 below				
<b>2. Will there be an impact of the decision requested in respect of Child and Family Poverty? NO</b>				
If YES please complete the matrix below				
<b>GROUP</b>	<b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>NEGATIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>	<b>REASON &amp; EVIDENCE</b>
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				
<b>Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?</b>				
<b>Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)</b>	<b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>NEGATIVE IMPACT</b>	<b>NO IMPACT</b>	<b>REASON &amp; EVIDENCE</b>

**POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM**

<b>Overall impact of Policy / Decision</b>			
<b>NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE</b>		<b>ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE</b>	
<b>ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE</b>		<b>STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE</b>	
<b>Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.</b>			
<b>Economic</b>			
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			
<b>Education</b>			
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)			
<b>Housing</b>			
Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims			
Number of affordable homes built			
<b>Health</b>			
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			

# 5.1 APPENDIX 2



<b>LOCATION</b>	Northgate House, Lynn Street, Hartlepool		
	<b>DEED PACKET</b>	CE132141	<b>OS MAP</b>
			NZ5132NW
<b>SCALE</b>	1:1250	<b>DATE</b>	12/08/13
<b>DRWG NO</b>	E/L/388-A		

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