HARTLEPOOL BOARD

AGENDA

Friday 6 November 2026, 9:00am to 10:30am

The BIS
13-17 Whitby Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7AD

Agenda Item		Lead	Item Decision
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interest		
3.	Minutes and Actions from the Last Meeting		
Pride in Place Matters			
4.	Pride in Place Update, by exception: • Open Call Launch and Progress *(Slides)* • Risk Register *(Verbal Update)* • Budget/Finance *(Slides)* • Submission of Monitoring Report *(Verbal Update)* • Impact Fund – Year 2 Projects *(Slides)*	Scott Campbell	For Information
5.	Board Name Options	Chair	For Decision
6.	Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership Quarter 2 Report *(Paper Attached)*	Iain Caldwell	For Discussion
7.	Hartlepool Creative and Cultural Partnership *(Presentation)*	Phil Douglas & Jess Tones	For Discussion
8.	Any Other Business	All	None

Date of Next Meeting:
Thursday 3 December 2026, 2:30pm to 4:00pm, Cleveland Fire Brigade HQ

Agenda Item 6

Hartlepool Opportunity Partnership (HOP)

Quarter 2 Update Report – October 2026

1. Progress and Key Developments

Core Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) Activity

Alongside the commission for Pride in Place, HOP has also continued to develop and strengthen its wider LIO functions across Hartlepool. Some of the key achievements in the last quarter include:

- Award of National Lottery funding to support the development of a strategic borough-wide volunteering programme with a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator, volunteer platform/s, and corporate volunteering/social value element.
- Active participation within the Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership (TVIP), contributing to regional work relating to support for victims and survivors of crime, rural infrastructure, and community health linked to NHS 10-year Plan.
- Establishment of the Hartlepool VCSE Leaders Network, bringing together sector and community leaders to identify strategic priorities, share learning and strengthen collaboration across the Borough.
- Launch of the HOP website; Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership (hopvcse.org). This provides access to information, resources, support and will develop more over the coming months as we consult with the wider VCSE.
- Continued provision of governance, financial planning, strategy, business planning, and volunteering support to local VCSE Organisations.
- Facilitated an increase in partnerships and collaborative working across the VCSE sector and with wider public and private sector stakeholders within Hartlepool.
- Partnership working with the Council's Jobs & Skills Service to build a holistic volunteering offer for the town and with the Diversity Network to support the development of their volunteer academy for young people in Hartlepool.
- Allocation of independent VCSE representatives to strategic boards, including Health & Wellbeing Board and Education & Community Safeguarding Sub-Group. HOP is in the process of allocating reps to Tobacco Group and DA Subgroups.
- Launch of the HOP Into Funding Portal, supported by investment from Thirteen Group. There have been 87 registered users and 219 funding searches undertaken since launch at the end of April.
- Increased community visibility with HOP and HCT undertaking regular outreach and engagement activity to speak to residents, community groups, VCSEs and social enterprises within Hartlepool.

Pride in Place Programme

HOP and Hartlepool Community Trust continue to work in partnership to deliver the Community Power element of the Pride in Place programme. Resident involvement activity is taking place across neighbourhoods, bringing together residents, community groups, volunteers, service users, local organisations and businesses to identify priorities, develop ideas and shape future opportunities. This work is helping to build a pipeline of residents interested in ongoing participation through Pride in Place, including involvement in co-design activity and resident-led decision making. The programme is already supporting the development of community ideas and projects, with conversations and workshops helping residents explore opportunities for Pride in Place.

New community groups are starting to form on the back of the resident engagement and conversations demonstrating growing levels of involvement. Two new resident groups have formed in the last quarter, and we are identifying residents keen to progress and be more involved with Pride in Place and other community-led activity within Hartlepool

Interest in the Pride in Place Open Call continues to grow, with several enquiries received each week from residents, community groups and organisations seeking advice and guidance to develop project ideas and funding proposals. This early support is helping applicants strengthen their ideas and encouraging greater community participation in the design and delivery of local projects for the £200k.

2. Performance Against Agreed Outputs

There has already been strong progress against the year one outputs which were approved in April by the Hartlepool Board. The tables below highlight the current performance which has been split to highlight delivery for both HOP as the LIO and the activities for Pride in Place:

LIO Performance:

Output Measure	**Year 1 Target**	**Q2 Position**
VCSE Organisations Engaged	100	Over 250 Groups Engaged
VCSEs Receiving Intensive Support	25	Over 150 VCSE Groups Supported
VCSEs Receiving Capacity Building Support, with improvements such as Governance	50	251 VCSE Groups
Engagement and Stakeholder Mapping Sessions Delivered	9	28 Sessions Delivered

Cross-Sector Network Meetings	8	21 Meetings Facilitated
Training and Capacity Building Workshops Delivered	9	18 Workshops Delivered
Individuals Upskilled Through Training & Workshops	50	121 Individuals Upskilled
Hartlepool VCSEs Supported to Submit Funding Applications	15	87 VCSE Groups
Establish a VCSE Leaders Network	1	4th Meeting in November
Develop Town-Wide Volunteering Strategy with a minimum of 50 new opportunities in 2026/27	50	Lottery Bid Awarded, Hartlepool Volunteer Network Established and recruiting for Volunteer Coordinator

Pride in Place Performance:

Output Measure	**Year 1 Target**	**Q2 Position**
Deliver borough-wide engagement, engaging at least 500 residents across Hartlepool	500	457 Residents
Establish a Neighbourhood Engagement Model for Hartlepool with at least 60 Unique Members	60	40 residents engaged and 13 currently on the Decision-Making Panel
Publish 12 Community Asset Ward Maps to inform priorities and decision-making of Board	12	Ongoing
Support the community to submit at least 10 co-designed proposals via the PiP Open Calls	10	First proposals being developed for current Open Call
Create at least 6 new community businesses through this investment from Pride in Place	6	Ongoing
Actively involve at least 150 unique residents through Forums, Workshops, Projects etc.	150	250 Residents
Individuals Involved in Board Advisory Groups	75	Over 100 Individuals Involved

3. Long-Term Outcomes

In addition, progress is also being made towards the longer-term outcomes and ambitions for the borough which were identified by the Hartlepool Board. This includes:

- Three community groups have been established or strengthened since April through engagement and community activation work, contributing to increased civic participation and community ownership.
- Community confidence and neighbourhood connectivity continue to grow through promotion and support of local community activities across the borough with longer-term solutions being developed through the Comms Subgroup.
- Community Wealth Building activity continues to be embedded through partnership activity and community development work with a future presentation to introduce this topic to the Hartlepool Board.
- The establishment of the VCSE Leaders Network is already helping to strengthen collaboration, sustainability, and strategic leadership across the VCSE sector within Hartlepool.

The foundations continue to be established for a community-led model of delivery that will support the Government requirement by year 3 of the Pride in Place Programme.

4. Governance Update

HOP has continued to strengthen its governance with the recruitment of additional Trustees through an open recruitment process, with opportunities promoted through social media, partner networks, and VCSE channels across Hartlepool. The aim is to further diversify representation and strengthen strategic capacity as the organisation grows and delivers its role as Hartlepool's Local Infrastructure Organisation.

HOP recruits Trustees through a clear, structured, and transparent process designed to ensure strong governance, accountability, and alignment with organisational values. The process begins with an initial conversation to explore interest, skills, and suitability, followed by an opportunity for prospective Trustees to meet other board members and gain an understanding of the organisation's work and responsibilities. Individuals wishing to proceed then submit a formal application, which is reviewed collectively to ensure an appropriate balance of skills, experience, and representation on HOP's Board.

5. Local Covenant Partnership

Hartlepool has been selected by Government as one of only 15 places nationally to participate in the three-year Local Covenant Partnerships Fund (LCPF) programme. This aims to strengthen relationships between public sector organisations, communities and the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, supporting new approaches to collaboration, participation, and shared decision-making. A key outcome of the programme will be the development of a local covenant, setting out shared commitments and ways of working between public bodies and the VCFSE sector to strengthen partnership working and improve outcomes for communities in Hartlepool.

Locality are leading the programme nationally and have organised a stakeholder workshop for partners in Hartlepool. This workshop will help shape the local approach and identify priorities for future development of the LCPF.

The initial workshop will take place on Wednesday 18 November, 9.30am to 1.30pm, at Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre, Kendal Road, Hartlepool. It will bring together representatives from the public, voluntary and community sectors to review findings from the initial surveys and research undertaken to date by Locality, and to explore opportunities to strengthen partnership working across Hartlepool.

Discussions will also explore the Government's four Civil Society Covenant themes:

- Partnership and Collaboration
- Recognition and Value
- Participation and Inclusion
- Transparency and Data

To register for the workshop, please use the following link:
Register for the Local Covenant Partnerships Fund Workshop

Please note that the LCPF remains in its development phase, and further updates will be provided when more information is available and next steps are confirmed by Locality.

6. Hartlepool Place Based Collaborative (HPBC)

The Hartlepool Place-Based Collaborative continues to develop as a mechanism for bringing together multiple programmes, partnerships, and organisations to create a more connected, place-based approach to improving outcomes across Hartlepool.

The collaborative recognises that Hartlepool already benefits from significant investment, expertise, community knowledge, and transformation activity across a range of programmes. Rather than creating new structures or strategies, HOP's role is to connect existing work, share intelligence and learning, reduce duplication, and identify opportunities for greater collaboration and collective action. A particular focus has been bringing together learning from several major placed-based initiatives including:

- Pride In Place
- Community Mental Health Transformation (CMHT)
- Rockpool
- JRF Sea Change
- Place-Based Health Expansion
- Neighbourhood and Community Health initiatives
- Substance Misuse and Multiple Disadvantage programmes

- Potential future alignment with Changing Futures

Through these conversations, the collaborative has identified common themes emerging across programmes, including the importance of relationship-based support, community-led approaches, neighbourhood working, prevention, early intervention and addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

Learning from programmes such as the CMHT, Pride in Place and the Place Based Expansion has highlighted the limitations of traditional models and reinforced the need for systems that work around people, communities, and places rather than organisational boundaries. This aligns closely with the ambitions emerging through place-based development and neighbourhood approaches. An important area of exploration for the collaborative is whether greater alignment can be achieved between programmes that support overlapping populations or address interconnected issues such as mental health, physical health, housing, employment, or poverty.

The Collaborative is increasingly acting as a shared space where partners can:

- Exchange insights and intelligence.
- Share learning and evidence from programme delivery.
- Identify duplication and gaps.
- Explore opportunities for joint working and aligned investment.
- Strengthen connections between statutory services, VCSEs and communities.
- Support the development of a coherent neighbourhood and place-based model.

The group's longer-term ambition is to support a more coordinated place-based system for Hartlepool, and it would like to formally develop as a sub-group of the Hartlepool Board, providing a mechanism for sharing learning, informing strategic priorities, and strengthening collaboration across all of the initiatives within the town.

7. Summary

HOP is demonstrating strong progress against both the funded Pride in Place activity and the wider objectives as the Local Infrastructure Organisation. Governance continues to be strengthened, with new trustees being recruited and leadership capacity increasing whilst resident participation continues to build momentum across Hartlepool.

Engagement across the VCSE sector continues to grow, with overachievement in support, training, and funding outcomes. Work is progressing to sustain HOP's core LIO functions through additional funding. Overall, delivery is progressing well against the outputs agreed by the Board and HOP is continuing to build the foundations for a community-led model of delivery for Hartlepool's Pride in Place Programme.