

# REPLACEMENT AGENDA

## FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA



**Monday 15 February 2021**

**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, Lindridge, Little, Marshall, Moore, Smith, Tennant, Thomas 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 25 February, 2021.
- 3.2 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership held on 13 November 2020.
- 3.3 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 7 September 2020.

### **4. PUBLIC QUESTION**

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

- 5.1 Council Plan 2021/22 - 2023/24 – Managing *Director*
- 5.2 Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2021/22 Statutory Budget and Council Tax Determination – *Director of Resources and Development*

#### **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.

# REPLACEMENT AGENDA

## 6. KEY DECISIONS

No items.

## 7. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 7.1 Allocation of the Community Pot – *Director of Adult and Community Based Services*
- 7.2 Community Wealth Fund Alliance – *Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services*
- 7.3 Kilmarnock Road Resource Centre – *Director of Resources and Development*
- 7.4 Community Governance Review – Elwick – *Chief Solicitor*
- 7.5 Community Governance Review – Greatham – *Chief Solicitor*

## 8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 8.1 Corporate Procurement Quarterly Report on Contracts – *Chief Solicitor*

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

For Information:

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

Monday 15 March, 2021 at 10.00 am



# **FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

25 JANUARY 2021

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, Jim Lindridge, Sue Little, Ann Marshall, Leisa Smith, John Tennant, Stephen Thomas and Mike Young.

Also Present: Councillors Bob Buchan, Tom Cassidy, Brenda Harrison, Helen Howson, Marjorie James, Ann Marshall, Amy Prince, Carl Richardson, Tony Richardson and Cameron Stokell.

Edwin Jeffries, Hartlepool Joint Trades Union Committee

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director  
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor  
Chris Little, Director of Resources and Development  
James Magog, Assistant Director, Finance  
Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services  
Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health  
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning  
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services  
David Cosgrove, Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

### **59. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **60. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Car Richardson declared a personal interest.

### **61. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2020**

Confirmed.

**62. Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 7 September 2020**

Received.

**63. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021/22 and 2022/23** *(Director of Resources and Development)*

**Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

**Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report was to enable Members to approve the MTFS proposals, including the 2021/22 recommended Council Tax level, to be referred to Council.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Director of Resources and Development presented an over view of his detailed report setting out the background to the current financial position, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's one year Spending Review for 2021/22 announced on 25 November 2020 and its impact on local government, and the proposals for the General Fund Budget for 2021/22.

The Director provided an update in relation to the 2021/22 Covid-19 grant and a letter sent by the Department of Health and Social Care to all Chief Executives and Directors of Adult Social Care regarding the use of this grant to help councils address Covid-19 pressures and support the care sector in 2021/22.

The government had announced a core spending power increase of 4.5% for all local government but an Institute of Financial Studies (IFS) analysis of Government figures shows that 87% (£1.918 billion) of the core funding increase will come from a Council Tax increase and the implementation of a Adult Social care precept to the referendum levels the government had set – 2% and 3% respectively.

For Hartlepool the Government's figure is a 4.1% cash-terms increase and an assumption that 80% of this increase will be funded from a Council Tax and the Adult Social Care precept. Hartlepool's figures are lower than the national figure owing to the lower ability to raise additional income from Council Tax and the Adult Social Care precept. The report went on to set out the detailed context of the government's announcement covering the Social Care grant 2021/22 and Adult Social Care precept, Council Tax Referendum limit 2020/21, New Homes Bonus (NHB) 2020/21 allocations, and Covid-19 Expenditure Pressures Grants.

The Director set out the options Members had to consider in relation to the proposals for Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept for 2021/22. These ranged from a 0% increase for both to the referendum limit for both – 2% and 3% respectively. The Director detailed the impact of the options, including the impact on use of the Budget Support Fund in 2021/22 and the amount therefore available to then support the 2022/23 budget, and the level of deficit deferred to 2022/23.

The Director highlighted that the Government had indicated that the Adult Social Care precept could be deferred for one year.

The Director set out his 'budget robustness' advice to Members. The Director stated that to ensure the Council was in the best financial position for 2021/22 and the ensuing financial years, his advice was to utilise the maximum precept increases the government had suggested. His advice was that any proposals to increase total Council Tax (including the Adult Social Care precept) by less than 3% would not in my professional opinion be robust. The report detailed the reasons for this advice, which included the reduction in future financial flexibility and the resources available to meet unexpected financial shocks. .

The remaining sections of the report, including the proposed Capital Budget for 2021/22 were outlined by the Director.

The Chair opened the debate by thanking the Director for his detailed report and advice, which was echoed by other Members. The Chair stated that Members had for some time been considering a 'pause' in the financial burden placed on local council tax payers and while this would be against the advice of the Director it would allow some breathing space for the hard-pressed community that had suffered significantly during the pandemic. The Chair therefore proposed a 0% increase in Council Tax and that a decision on implementing a 3% Adult Social Care Precept be deferred until 2021/22. This was seconded by Councillor Tennant.

There was general debate around the proposed 0% increase with all Members supporting the proposal.

There was detailed discussion around the proposal for the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme. The Director's report stated that for 2021/22 the Government is providing additional one off funding to help Councils meet the increased costs of providing LCTS and to also potentially provide additional one off support to LCTS households in 2021/22. The Council has already determined to maintain the 2021/22 LCTS scheme at 12%, which provides higher support than the other Tees Valley councils; currently 17.5% in one council and 20% in the other three.

Hartlepool has been allocated £1.869m of the national 2021/22 funding. Based on an assessment of the number of forecast eligible LCTS eligible

households it is estimated £0.872m needs to be allocated to offset the forecast 2021/22 Council Tax reduction to protect the budget.

After reflecting this commitment the balance of the grant is £0.997m. This amount could be carried forward to 2022/23 to offset the continuation of a higher number of LCTS households, as recovery to pre-Covid levels may be phased over a number of years. This would provide the most robust option for the Council's budget, but would not provide any additional support to LCTS households during 2021/22, which will be a particularly challenging year for low income households.

The report indicated that when account is taken of the one off resources carried forward from 2020/21 of £0.3m, the total available funding was £1.297m

It was proposed and seconded that £0.985m of these resources be utilised to support the budget deficit created by the proposal for a 0% Council Tax increase. There was concern expressed by some Members that this would mean that the poorest household in the town who had not had to face paying any Council Tax in the current year due to the allocation from the 2021/22 scheme, would now be asked to start paying again at a time when the government was proposing to remove the additional £20 per week Universal Credit uplift introduced to assist households during the pandemic.

There was also lengthy discussion around the bulky waste scheme proposal set out in the budget report. Some Members were concerned at the costs being proposed and suggested a reduction. It was agreed that the proposal and suggestions made by Members needed further consideration and the Chair agreed that the proposal be reconsidered by the Committee before the end of the financial year. This was supported by Members

Members also requested details of the expenditure on Covid-19 Grant monies from central government and a report on the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. Members also suggested that the Neighbourhood Investment Plan be discussed at a Members' Seminar and the Managing Director undertook to re-consult Members on their ward priorities which may have changed since the previous consultation that had developed the NIP.

The Chair moved the meeting to the recommendations set out in the report and the proposals made at the meeting.

In relation to the proposal for a 0% Council Tax increase in 2021/22 and the deferment of a decision on the implementation of an Adult Social Care Precept increase of 3% to 2022/23; -

Those for:

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

Those abstaining:  
None.

Those against:  
None.

The proposal was, therefore, carried unanimously.

In relation to the proposal to utilise £0.985m of the one-off government Council Tax Losses and Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant to support the 2021/22 budget deficit thereby maintaining the current LCTS scheme at 12% and providing no additional support for Local Council Tax Support in 2021/22: -

Those for:  
Councillors James Brewer, Paddy Brown, Jim Lindridge, Sue Little, Leisa Smith, John Tennant, and Mike Young.

Those abstaining:  
None.

Those against:  
Christopher Akers-Belcher, Ann Marshall and Stephen Thomas.

The proposal was, therefore carried.

The remaining recommendations in the report were agreed without dissent.

### **Decision**

1. The Committee noted the following:
  - (i) The Government have proposed a 2% core Council Tax referendum limit, plus a 3% Adult Social Care precept. Continuation of the Adult Social Care precept for a sixth year continues to shift part of the funding of these services onto Council Tax;
  - (ii) Government figures shown that 87% of the forecast 2021/22 national increase in Core Funding is predicated on all authorities implementing Council Tax increases in line with national Referendum Limits, including the Adult Social Care precept.
  - (iii) If Council Tax is not increased in line with national Council Tax limits the national Core Funding increase of 4.5% will not be achieved and core funding will only increase by 0.6%.
2. That the following proposals be referred to full Council for approval:

## Revenue Budget

- (i). That the robustness advice detailed in section 11 of the report be noted, including the advice in relation to the 2021/22 Council Tax increase and Adult Social Care precept.
- (ii). That Council approves a core Council Tax freeze, no increase in the Adult Social Care for 2021/22 and no additional support for Local Council Tax Support, which Council (17.09.20) approved to maintain at 12%, and approve that the resulting 2021/22 budget deficit of £5.197m is funded from:-
  - a. The use of £0.985m of Government Grant detailed in the MTFS report;
  - b. The use of £4.212m of the Budget Support Fund in 2021/22;
  - c. That it is noted this will result in a forecast 2022/23 deficit of £5.639m, including the deficit deferred from 2022/23, as detailed in the MTFS report);
  - d. That it is noted the above measures will leave an uncommitted Budget Support Fund balance to support the 2022/23 budget of £4.416m, which will help the Council manage the deficit deferred to 2022/23;
  - e. That it is noted the core Council Tax freeze for 2021/22 will reduce recurring resources by £0.854m as the 2021/22 Government Council Tax referendum limit is year specific;
  - f. That it is noted that the LCTS scheme of 12% continues to provide higher recurring support than the other Tees Valley councils, where one councils has a 17.5% scheme and three have 20% schemes.
- 3. That the proposal from the Neighbourhood Services Committee for an annual ward bulky waste pilot scheme (1 per ward) be deferred for further consideration by this Committee before the end of the financial year.

## 2021/22 Covid-19 Expenditure Pressures Grant

- 4. That Council notes it has been allocated £3.178m of one off funding to address continuing Covid pressures in 2021/22 and 2022/23, and approve use of this grant will be subject to separate reports to Finance and Policy Committee for consideration and approval.
- 5. That Council approval be given to that if any of the above grant is not needed to fund additional service and financial pressures it is used to replace use of the Budget Support Fund, which will put the Council in a better financial position to manage future financial challenges and risks, and will help mitigate the ongoing financial impact of Covid on the Council.



### Reserves

6. That Council approval be given to the establishment of a Budget Support Fund as detailed in the report and note the use of this reserve in 2021/22 will reflect recommendation to freeze the core Council Tax level and the Adult Social Care precept (as detailed in Revenue Budget recommendation above).

### Capital

7. That Council approval be given to the provision of a cash flow loan to the NMRN to the value of the TVCA funding allocated for the development of a new exhibition space of £5m and delegate authority to the Managing Director to complete the necessary legal agreement with the NMRN to secure repayment of the loan, either from the TVCA funding, or directly from the NMRN in the unlikely event the detailed business case does not comply with TVCA requirements.
8. That Council approval be given to the proposal to re-allocate Council funding previously allocated for the Town Hall, Borough Hall and Art Gallery projects towards the Borough Hall projects, as detailed in the report. To note officers will continue to seek to secure external funding for the Town Hall and Art Gallery projects.
9. That Council approval be given to the proposal that the uncommitted capital receipts of £0.680m (which are anticipated to be received early in 2021/22) are held in the earmarked Capital Funding Reserve as a capital contingency until contracts are awarded for the major approved capital projects, and the position on external funding is clearer. Details of any proposal to use this funding would be reported to Finance and Policy Committee for approval.
10. That Council approval be given to the business case capital schemes and note the indicative specific capital grant allocations detailed in Appendix D to the report, and in line with the policy adopted in previous years, delegate authority to the relevant Policy Committee to determine, in compliance with the relevant grant conditions, the allocation of the actual capital grants once these are known;
11. That a report on schemes to be funded from the approved Neighbourhood Investment Plan capital budget of £1m delayed owing to Covid-19 be submitted to Finance and Policy Committee before the end of the financial year following a Members Seminar.

## **64. Towns Fund- Hartlepool Town Investment Plan** (Director of Resources and Development)

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision tests (i) and (ii) apply. Forward Plan Reference No. RN07/20.

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report was to seek approval from the Finance and Policy Committee for the Hartlepool Town Investment Plan. The Town Investment Plan responds to the invitation from Government to develop proposals for a Town Deal of up to £25m.

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

The Managing Director reported that the Investment Plan had been recently considered in detail by the Regeneration Services Committee and a draft of the plan was set out as a confidential appendix which contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Members welcomed the proposed plan and congratulated all those involved in the Board that had led the development of the bid, particularly the Towns Deal Board Chair, Alby Pattison. Members questioned the due diligence that would be undertaken around the potential redevelopment of the Wesley Chapel and the Managing Director assured members this would form part of the work of the Board if the bid was approved.

The Chair added his thanks to the Towns Deal Board and its Chair, Alby Pattison for the excellent bid submitted.

The following recommendations were agreed without dissent.

### **Decision**

1. That the content of the Town Investment Plan included in the confidential appendix to the report be approved. The appendix contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
2. That the submission of the Town Investment Plan to the Government by the 29th January 2021 deadline be approved.

3. That public engagement strategy detailed in appendix 2 to the report be noted.

## 65. **Brownfield Housing Fund – Lynn Street Housing Development** *(Director of Resources and Development)*

### **Type of decision**

Key Decision test (i)) applies - Forward Plan Reference CE73/20.

### **Purpose of report**

The report updated the Committee on the submission of the Lynn Street development scheme to the Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) awarded to and administered by the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The report sets out scheme proposals, including costs and business case, and sought approval from the Finance and Policy Committee to refer the proposed prudential borrowing required to support the provision of new affordable homes to Council.

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

The Director of Resources and Development reported that in June 2020, the Government launched 'A New Deal for Britain' which is a key part of the Government's Covid 19 recovery strategy. The £400m Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) was aimed at bringing brownfield land into development to support the delivery of a greater number of new homes to meet local needs which would otherwise not be brought forward by the market. As part of this strategy, £19m was secured by The Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to support development of housing schemes on brownfield land over the next 5 years.

Tees Valley Local Authorities have submitted potential schemes and a shortlist of year 1 sites has been agreed. The Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) owned Lynn Street/Whitby Street scheme has been shortlisted for funding to deliver in year 1 following a robust appraisal process. BHF can support demolition, remediation, partial relocation and site preparation costs which currently render a brownfield site unviable. The timescales for delivery and target number of new homes have been set out by MHCLG and will be monitored by TVCA.

The Lynn and Whitby Street scheme is located in the heart of Hartlepool Town Centre in the Headland and Harbour Ward within the strategically important Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ). The scheme comprises three individual sites, linked geographically, with a total area of 1.33ha all owned by HBC. The sites are currently occupied by the Council depot (Lynn St), a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre (Whitby Street) and a derelict Grade II Listed Market Hotel. The overall scheme comprises the 3

sites and if approved, demolition and site remediation will occur funded by BHF to facilitate the development of 47 new build affordable homes.

Full details of the proposal and the projected time frames was set out within the report. The major concern was that the timescales associated with the BHF are such that they considerably limit the options of how the funding can be spent and which sites would be taken forward. At the present time only the Lynn Street scheme in Hartlepool met the criteria and was sufficiently advanced to be deliverable within the timescales.

Members welcomed the proposed scheme congratulating officers on bringing the scheme forward in the tight timescales set by the BHF. A Member questioned if all the housing proposed would include gardens and if it was possible to increase the number of bungalows from 7 in the proposals. The Managing Director indicated that she would confirm the issue of gardens after the meeting. The number of bungalows in the development was at the maximum that would still make the development financially viable. There were other forthcoming bungalow developments in the town.

A Member proposed that the meeting move into closed session to allow questions on the exempt appendices to the report, the Chair, therefore, sought a proposal to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

### **Decision**

That further consideration of the details contained within the confidential appendix to the report be undertaken in closed session.

## **66. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 67 – Brownfield Housing Fund – Lynn Street Housing Development – 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 (para 3), information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**67. Brownfield Housing Fund – Lynn Street Housing Development** *(Director of Resources and Development)*

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 (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**Type of decision**

Key Decision test (i)) applies - Forward Plan Reference CE73/20.

**Purpose of report**

The report updated the Committee on the submission of the Lynn Street development scheme to the Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) awarded to and administered by the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The report sets out scheme proposals, including costs and business case, and sought approval from the Finance and Policy Committee to refer the proposed prudential borrowing required to support the provision of new affordable homes to Council.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

Details are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

**Decision**

The meeting returned to open session to consider the recommendations set out in the report.

**The meeting returned to open session.**

**68. Brownfield Housing Fund – Lynn Street Housing Development** *(Director of Resources and Development)*

**Type of decision**

Key Decision test (i) applies - Forward Plan Reference CE73/20.

**Purpose of report**

The report updated the Committee on the submission of the Lynn Street development scheme to the Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) awarded to and administered by the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The report sets out scheme proposals, including costs and business case, and sought approval from the Finance and Policy Committee to refer the

proposed prudential borrowing required to support the provision of new affordable homes to Council.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The meeting returned to open session and the Chair put the recommendations within the report to the meeting.

The following recommendation was agreed without dissent.

**Decision**

1. That the proposals for the scheme at Lynn Street, Hartlepool and the associated application for the Brownfield Housing Fund administered by Tees Valley Combined Authority be noted.
2. That the scheme be referred to Council for approval of the required prudential borrowing of £4.744m to facilitate development of 47 affordable homes at Lynn Street, Hartlepool.
3. That the submission of a bid to Homes England for affordable homes funding be approved.

**69. Sale of Land at Seaton Lane** *(Director of Resources and Development)***Type of decision**

Key Decision - General Exception Notice Applied.

**Purpose of report**

To obtain a decision in relation to a request to purchase land.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Director of Resources and Development reported that in December 2018 the Committee approved the disposal of two parcels of land fronting Seaton Lane, one to the east and one to the west of the Golden Meadows housing estate. The land totalled approximately 3.71 acres (1.5 ha) and was considered suitable for residential development. In making the decision to sell the land, the Committee considered two offers for the land and accepted a proposal to receive a housing stock offer whereby properties constructed on the site would be transferred to the Council as affordable housing stock for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and a capital receipt to the General Fund when the land was transferred. This development is progressing and the Council is scheduled to receive three properties in December 2021 and the final two properties in December 2022.

The existing developer has approached the Council to acquire further land to extend the scale of their current development as shown on the submitted plan. The current proposal was based on the offer of housing stock, whereby properties would transfer to the Council in lieu of a cash payment for the land. Whilst yet to be identified, the stock would be from the existing estate currently under construction by the developer. Details of the proposed offer were set out in a confidential appendix to the report which contained 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).

The Director asked the Committee to indicate its preference for officers to pursue in relation to the proposal from the developer, whether to transfer the land, subject to the condition set out below, or not to progress with that option and to complete the necessary work to enable the whole site to be put up for sale at a later date.

Conditions of sale:

- Timescale for completion of development and a schedule confirming the agreed properties that will be transferred to the council;
- Confirmation of value and equivalent number of properties to be transferred;
- Arrangement for release of legal title in land to ensure the Council's financial position is protected, including the impact of the developer not being able to complete the site for whatever reasons;
- Actual sales price, net of section 106 contributions and any potential abnormal costs;
- Conditions precedent of purchase i.e. satisfactory planning permission is secured.

Members questioned how long the remaining issues with the developer would take to conclude and the Director stated that much would depend on the developer's response to the Council's stance and the conclusion of planning issues but there was a commitment from officers to conclude the matter as quickly as was feasible.

The following recommendation was agreed without dissent.

### **Decision**

1. That Option 1 as set out in the report be supported – agreement in principle to transfer the land to the current developer on the terms detailed in the confidential appendix 2 to the report which contained 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).

2. That authority be delegated to the Managing Director to complete the detail legal arrangements to protect the Council's financial position in consultation within the Chair of Finance and Policy Committee, the Director of Resources and Development and Chief Solicitor.

**70. Council Tax Base 2021/22** (*Director of Resources and Development*)

**Type of decision**

Non-Key Decision.

**Purpose of report**

The report sought member approval, as required by statutory regulations, of a calculated Council Tax Base for 2021/22 which would be used for Council Tax billing purposes.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Director of Resources and Development reported that the Council was required by law to calculate its Council Tax Base for the forthcoming year, and inform the major precepting authorities, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and Cleveland Fire Authority, and local precepting authorities (Parish Councils), before 31 January 2021. The Council Tax Base is expressed as the number of Band D equivalent properties. Appendices to the report set out the necessary statutory calculations together with those for each of the precepting parish councils.

The proposed Tax Base for the Council area for 2021/22 is 24,384. This was a reduction of 498 (2%) from the current base. This reduction reflected the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the relevant amount in the Council Tax Base calculation.

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council's Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings and statutory regulations, a recorded vote was taken.

Those for:

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

Those abstaining:

None.

Those against:

None.



**Decision**

1. That a Hartlepool BC Council Tax Base for 2021/22 of 24,384 be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. That a Council Tax Base for 2021/22 for Parishes who may levy a precept upon the Council's Collection Fund be approved, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report:

Brierton	13.2	Greatham	584.3
Claxton	13.6	Hart	328.6
Dalton Piercy	118.4	Headland	727.7
Elwick	803.9	Newton Bewley	28.9

**71. Tees Valley Freeport Bid Update** *(Managing Director)***Type of decision**

Non-Key decision.

**Purpose of report**

The report provided an introduction to the Tees Valley's approach to the Freeport's bidding process, the principles its bid would be based on, and the coalition of local partners required to make it a success.

The report sought Members approval to support the Tees Valley Freeport Bid which includes Tees Port and Hartlepool Port.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Managing Director reported that the proposed Tees Valley bid for Free Port Status would include Hartlepool Port in the bid. The bid would be based on our strengths in clean growth and build on our work in decarbonisation of the chemical and process, offshore, and energy sectors. It will harness the power of the Tees Valley's highly skilled workforce, the expertise of our University and technical institutions, and our established and emerging industrial clusters. The bid was being led by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) in partnership with the regions five local authorities, and PD Ports in its role as the Strategic Harbour authority.

The Managing Director thanked the Leader for his work in ensuring that Hartlepool was included in the bid. If the Council does not support this bid there was a risk that Hartlepool Port would not be considered as part of the proposal which would be detrimental to the local economy as businesses could relocate to Tees Port due to the incentives Freeport status provides businesses.

Members welcomed the bid and the inclusion of Hartlepool Port in the bid. Members sought assurance that there would be appropriate checks and

balances in place should the bid be successful for the future operation of the port. The Managing Director indicated that there would be such checks and balances and appropriate scrutiny through the Combined Authority. Members indicated that a presentation to a future Members Seminar would be welcomed to include an outline of the bid and the local benefits that could be derived from a 'freeport'.

The following recommendation was agreed without dissent.

**Decision**

That the Tees Valley Freeport bid be supported.

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

None.

Members commented on the recent programme of Members' Seminars which were proving to be very positive and enhanced Member decision making. The Managing Director thanked Members for the comments and indicated that the programme of monthly seminars would continue.

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 15 February 2021 at 10.00 am.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 am.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 2021**

## **SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

13 November 2020

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

### **Present:**

#### **Responsible Authority Members:**

Councillor: Councillor Shane Moore (In the Chair)  
Councillor John Tennant  
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services  
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services  
Michael Houghton, NHS Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees and  
Darlington CCG  
Pete Graham, Chair of Youth Offending Board  
Nick Jones, Cleveland Fire Authority  
Darren Redgwell, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation  
Company

#### **Other Members:**

Craig Blundred, Deputy Director of Public Health  
Joanne Hodgkinson, Safe in Tees Valley  
Angela Corner, Thirteen Group

#### **Also Present:**

Councillors Bob Buchan and Tony Richardson, Hartlepool Borough  
Council

John Lovatt was in attendance as substitute for Jill Harrison and Sarah  
Wilson was in attendance as substitute for Lisa Oldroyd, Police and  
Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

Mark Doherty, Cleveland Police

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

## **12. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Jill Harrison, Director of  
Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council,  
Superintendent Sharon Cooney, Cleveland Police and Lisa Oldroyd, Office  
of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

**13. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**14. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2020**

Confirmed.

**15. Force Control Room Update** *(Representative from Cleveland Police)***Issue(s) for consideration**

A representative from Cleveland Police, who was in attendance at the meeting, provided the Partnership with a detailed and comprehensive presentation in relation to a recent review of the Force Control Room Service. The presentation included an overview of the new structure, risk assessment and allocation information, demand based shift patterns, key demands, impact of Covid 19, details of new processes to enhance service delivery and streamline investigative processes, plans to introduce a LiveChat system, the role and functions of the vulnerability desk as well as measures introduced to reduce the number of abandoned calls.

In the discussion that followed, the Partnership commented on issues arising from the presentation. Clarification was provided in response to queries raised around the timescales for introducing joint operating procedures. The Chair welcomed the assurances provided around crime reporting follow up arrangements and support mechanisms in place to support victims of crime which should address the loss of confidence from the public in this regard. Statistical information was also provided in relation to typical calls received by the control room by number and by type.

**Decision**

That the contents of the presentation and comments of Partnership Members be noted.

**16. Community Safety Plan 2020-21** *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)***Purpose of report**

To present and seek approval from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership of the final draft of the Community Safety Plan 2020-21 (see **Appendix 1**).

To seek the Partnership's approval for an amendment to future Strategic Assessment periods.

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

The report provided the background to the development of the Community Safety Plan 2020-21 which included an overview of some of the recent activities to improve community safety in Hartlepool together with the key findings from the Strategic Assessment and public consultation.

The report set out the Partnership's strategic objective for 2020-21, key priorities, feedback from the consultation process as well as details of the performance monitoring regime. Subject to the Partnership's approval and, in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework, the Community Safety Plan would be considered by Full Council in December 2020.

Reference was made to the proposed future Strategic Assessment process and, in order to allow for new plans to be in place by April, it was proposed that future Strategic Assessments be brought forward and cover the period 1 October to 30 September, the background of which was set out in the report.

The following recommendations were agreed with no dissent.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the Community Safety Plan 2020/21 be approved.
- (ii) That the change to the period to be assessed for future Strategic Assessments to 1 October until 30 September each year be approved.

## **17. Safer Hartlepool Partnership Performance** *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)*

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an overview of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership performance for Quarters 1 and 2 - April to September 2020 (inclusive) against key indicators linked to the priorities outlined in the Community Safety Plan 2020/21.

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

The report provided an overview of the Partnership's performance during Quarters 1 and 2, as set out in an appendix to the report. Information as a comparator with performance in the previous year was also provided. In presenting the report, the Community Safety Team Leader highlighted

salient positive and negative data and responded to queries in relation to crime figures by type.

In response to clarification sought in relation to the increase in fly tipping reports to the Council's Contact Centre and the number of incidents which were in relation to side waste, the Community Safety Team Leader agreed to provide a breakdown to Partnership Members direct following the meeting.

It was noted that Quarter 2 data was awaited in relation to drug and alcohol and domestic abuse related incidents. Whilst it was noted that incidents of domestic violence had decreased in Quarter 2, concerns were raised in relation to the potential increase in such figures as a result of the current lockdown measures. Emphasis was placed upon the need for Partnership Members to proactively signpost victims and potential victims to the appropriate support services.

### **Decision**

- (i) That Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 performance figures and comments of Partnership Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.
- (ii) That a breakdown of figures be provided following the meeting in relation to fly tipping reported to the Council's Contact Centre to include the number of incidents in relation to side waste.

## **18. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 am.

CHAIR

# **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

7 September 2020

The meeting commenced at 10 a.m. 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 and Harrison (as substitute for Councillor Thomas)

Representatives of NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group – Dr Nick Timlin and Martin Short (as substitute for David Gallagher)

Acting Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council – Craig Blundred  
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

Representative of Healthwatch – Christopher Akers-Belcher (as substitute for Margaret Wrenn)

Other Members:

Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council – Denise McGuckin

Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council – Tony Hanson

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

Representative of Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust – Dominic Gardner

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

Representative of Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector – Nicola Haggan (as substitute for Tracy Woodall)

Representative of GP Federation – Fiona Adamson

Also in attendance: - Ann Baxter, Independent Chair, Teesside Safeguarding Adults Board.

Edwin Jeffries, Branch Secretary, UNISON Hartlepool.

Officers: Julia Bates, Deputy Director of Public Health  
Ian Holtby, Public Health Consultant  
Dean Langstaff, Public Health Intelligence Analyst  
Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

## 7. Apologies for Absence

Elected Members, Hartlepool Borough Council - Councillors Thomas and Ward

Representative of NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group – David Gallagher

Representative of Healthwatch – Margaret Wrenn

Representative of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust –Deepak Dwarakanath)

Representative of Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector – Tracy Woodall

## 8. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2020 were confirmed.

The minutes of the meeting of the Outbreak Control Engagement Working Group held on 27 July 2020 were approved and adopted.

## 9. Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19 and Strategic Business Plan 2020/21 *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Independent Chair of Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board)*

The Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board presented the Safeguarding Board's annual report for 2018/19 and the strategic business plan for 2020/21; both documents were appended to the report. The statutory requirements to produce the documentation was highlighted. It was noted that work is currently underway to finalise the Annual Report for 2019/20. The Chair advised that it had been a positive year and that colleagues had worked well collaboratively to meet the objectives of the business plan. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services joined the chair in updating the Board from a Borough perspective and stressed the importance and benefits of joint working with other partners.

Members welcomed the contents and structure of the annual report. Members discussed issues arising from the report including the Safe Place Scheme and safeguarding arrangements during the Covid pandemic. In response to concerns expressed regarding potential overlap in data categorisation,



assurances were provided that data was coded by specialist safeguarding professionals.

### **Decision**

The Board endorsed the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19 and the Strategic Business Plan 2020/21.

## **11. Better Care Fund Update** *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

The report provided the background to the Better Care Fund reporting arrangements and summarised the national conditions and performance measures. Performance reports were submitted to NHS England on a quarterly basis. The Quarter 4 return covering the period January-March 2020 had been submitted in July 2020 and had confirmed that all national conditions continued to be achieved. An analysis of performance data had also been provided which was summarised in the report. It was noted that performance was extremely positive with all indicators achieved at the year-end based on available data.

### **Decision**

The Board retrospectively approved the Hartlepool Better Care Fund Quarterly 4 return.

## **12. Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference - Refresh** *(Acting Director of Public Health and Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Further to minute 43 of the Board meeting held on 26 June 2020, a refreshed Terms of Reference for the Board was appended to the report. The document included an addendum relating to the Local Outbreak Control Engagement Working Group and a refresh to update factual inaccuracies.

The Acting Director of Public Health responded to clarification sought regarding Engagement with Stakeholders to reflect the NHS Reset Campaign emphasising importance of real engagement in moving forward. Assurances were sought in relation to ensuring that the Tees Esk and Wear Valley Trust (TEWV) was represented on the Engagement Working Group. Board Members recognised the importance of mental health and, whilst TEWV was already included as a potential co-optee on to the Working Group, it was agreed that they would be included as part of the core membership of the Working Group going forward. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group (as appended to the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference) to be amended accordingly.

The Tees Esk and Wear Valley Trust representative at the meeting reiterated the importance of mental health as a key issue and advised the Board that the Trust had recently made a presentation to the South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board which set out a forecast of the potential impacts of Covid on mental health. The Chair of the Board agreed a suggestion that it would be helpful for this Board to receive that presentation at the next meeting of the Board.

### Decision

That the refreshed Terms of Reference be approved, with the addition of TEWV as a core member of the Engagement Working Group.

## 13. **Coronavirus in Hartlepool - Update Presentation** (*Acting Director of Public Health*)

Further to minute 44 of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Board received an updated presentation by the Acting Director of Public Health on the ongoing coronavirus situation in Hartlepool at 6 September 2020. The following issues were addressed in the presentation:-

- Hartlepool and UK Covid 19 cases rate per 100,000 population
- Weekly Covid cases comparison between rate in England and Hartlepool
- Covid cases rolling averages
- Hartlepool and England Covid 19 related death rates per 100,000 population
- Geographical locations of Covid cases in Hartlepool

The Board expressed concerns at the Covid 19 rates which were higher than the England average and discussed issues arising from the presentation including the wearing of masks and enforcement issues. The Acting Director highlighted the challenges associated with enforcement. The Community Cohesion approach was discussed and it was highlighted that it was intended to work with communities through the Engagement Board.

The representative of the GP Federation updated Board Members on the support that was available in the Borough in terms of the following:-

- A specialist 'Hot Clinic' had been commissioned to the end of March 2021 to support coronavirus patients and reduce the pressure on GP surgeries.
- Part of a NHS pilot known as a 'Virtual Ward' which allows the monitoring of patients remotely. The importance of data sharing was highlighted to ensure that as many people as possible had the offer for remote support.
- From 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, part of NHS England pilot so anyone booked into a 'Hot Clinic' will be able to be tested on site. It was,

however, highlighted that this would not replace the testing referred to earlier in the meeting by the Acting Director.

The Chair of the Board expressed appreciation to the Acting Director for the presentation and thanked the Federation representative for the additional information conveyed to the Board.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the contents of the presentation.

## **14. Former Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Clinical Commissioning Group Annual Report 2019/20** *(Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery)*

The report set out an overview of the 2019/20 Annual Report of former Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Report highlights were detailed in the report and the salient issues were presented to the Board by the CCG representative.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the content of the Annual Report.

## **15. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health - 2019** *(Acting Director of Public Health)*

In accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012, an Annual Report had been written for 2019 which was presented to the Board by the Acting Director of Public Health. The theme of the 2019 Annual Report was 'Obesity Prevention and Physical Activity in Hartlepool'. The Annual Report was presented in an electronic format which could be accessed via a link included in the report to the Board.

Board Members commended the report and the innovative approach in which the report had been presented.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the report and its conclusions.

Meeting concluded at 11.20 a.m.

CHAIR

## Public questions for Finance and Policy Committee

Meeting Date: 15 February 2021

1.	From: Mr Darab Rezai
	To: Chair of Finance and Policy Committee.
	<p>Question</p> <p>Hartlepool is a beautiful seaside town, with so much potential. Our town has History and Heritage, a beautiful seafront and marina however that alone is not enough for our town to bring all generations into Hartlepool to benefit our community, residents and employment.</p> <p>The town is in desperate need of an iconic building with multiple uses to bring people from the town and out of town to improve the economy and employment. The prime location for this iconic building would be Jackson's Landing.</p> <p>The Hartlepool Borough Council has got plans to put a leisure centre on such a prime location, the leisure centre can be located anywhere accessible for the residents.</p> <p>My question is:</p> <p>"In 2017 the Council enacted their policy that they would no longer run any commercial operations that did not make a profit and subsequently Inspiration Garden Centre at Tanfield was closed. Can you confirm that the Council has a robust business case for the new £20m leisure facility proposed for the Waterfront to both make a profit and repay the prudential borrowing of £10 million, given the Council Tax payers of Hartlepool have had to bear the burden of losses in this area of the Council budget for years?"</p> <p>I also would like to be able to ask a supplementary question.</p>

# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15<sup>th</sup> February 2021



**Report of:** Managing Director

**Subject:** COUNCIL PLAN 2021/22 - 2023/24

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Budget and Policy Framework

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to agree the proposed Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 to go forward to Council for approval.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, work was underway to prepare a new Council Plan to cover the period 2020/21 to 2022/23. Following widespread consultation with the public, elected members, employees and partners, Finance and Policy agreed the vision and strategic priorities at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This was then due to go forward to Council for final approval on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Unfortunately, this meeting of Council could not take place and the decision was deferred as the Council focussed on its COVID-19 response.
- 3.2 Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the meeting of Full Council in March we do not have an adopted Council Plan in place. At Finance and Policy Committee in November 2020 it was noted that whilst we could take forward the Council Plan as agreed by Finance and Policy Committee to Council for adoption the challenges that we face as a Borough have changed from what we were facing earlier in the year when the proposed Council Plan 2020-23 was prepared. It was therefore agreed that the Corporate Management Team would review the proposed Council Plan 2020-23 and update it to reflect the impact of the pandemic on the Borough.

#### **4. COUNCIL PLAN 2021/22 – 2023/24**

- 4.1 Following Finance and Policy Committee in November the proposed Council Plan 2020-23 has been reviewed and a new Council Plan to cover the years 2021/22 – 2023/24 is now proposed. This new Council Plan, set out in appendix 1, establishes a clear vision for Hartlepool and identifies what the delivery of that vision will mean. This reflects what was identified through consultation with residents, elected members and our public, voluntary, community and private sector partners whilst also recognising the emerging and continually evolving challenges the Council faces from the pandemic.
- 4.2 It is recognised that how the Council delivers on the vision set out in the Council Plan will need to change and evolve throughout the lifetime of the Plan responding to emerging issues and opportunities. Activity to deliver the Council Plan will be captured in a range of delivery plans and regular performance reports will be brought to Finance and Policy Committee outlining the progress being made. These will be shared more widely with our community and partners. A set of key principles have been identified within the Council Plan which will guide and shape what we will do to deliver it.
- 4.3 The Committee is requested to agree the proposed Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 and forward it to Council for approval.

#### **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 If agreed by the Committee the Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 will be considered for agreement at Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

#### **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council needs appropriate planning and performance management arrangements in place in order to manage its key strategic risks. The Council's Strategic Risk Register captures the strategic risks facing the Council in the delivery of the Council Plan and its key responsibilities and forms the third strand of the Council's performance management framework. The Register will be reviewed and updated where necessary to reflect the priorities identified in the new Council Plan. Updates on the Strategic Risk Register will form part of the regular performance reports brought to Finance and Policy Committee.

#### **7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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

## **8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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

## **9. CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 The Council Plan has been informed by extensive consultation including a 4 week consultation exercise in September 2019, a further 5 week consultation starting in January 2020 and a wide ranging consultation over the summer of 2020. This consultation has included Elected Members through Members Seminars on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and through reports to individual Policy Committees in January and February 2020.

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

- 10.1 The new Council Plan will continue to work to reduce child and family poverty within Hartlepool and a Child and Family Poverty Impact Assessment has been developed and is included as Appendix 2.

## **11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 The new Council Plan sets out to respond to the needs of the diverse communities in Hartlepool and to build an inclusive Borough. An Equality Impact Assessment has been developed for the Plan and is included as Appendix 3.

## **12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 No implications.

## **13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 No implications.

## **14. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 Finance and Policy Committee is recommended to agree the Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 and forward to Council for agreement.



## 15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 Finance and Policy Committee have overall responsibility for Performance Management and are the responsible Committee the Council Plan in the Council's budget and policy framework.

## 16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Council Plan 2020-23 report to Finance and Policy Committee 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Council Plan 2020-23 report to Finance and Policy Committee 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan and Council Plan 2020-23 Update report to Finance and Policy Committee 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## 17. CONTACT OFFICER

- 17.1 Denise McGuckin  
Managing Director  
01429 523001  
[denise.mcguckin@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:denise.mcguckin@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Sign Off:-

Managing Director

☒

Director of Development and Resources

☒

Chief Solicitor

☒

## Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24

### 1. Our vision

	... where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives.	
... where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm.	<b>Hartlepool will be a place...</b>	... that is sustainable, clean, safe and green.
... of resilient and resourceful communities with opportunities for all.		... that has an inclusive and growing economy
		... with a Council that is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflects the diversity of its community.

### 2. What that will mean...

#### Where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives

- The appropriate conditions are in place to enable people to make healthier lifestyle choices including reducing obesity levels;
- Individuals are able to better manage long-term conditions and prevent ill health;
- There is increased participation in physical activity through access to fit for purpose leisure, sport and recreational facilities including parks and open spaces;
- There is improved mental, emotional and social wellbeing;
- There are reduced levels of smoking, substance and alcohol misuse in the community;
- Everyone is able to access connectivity, technology and develop skills to enhance their life and provide access to service and opportunities;
- Families and individuals have food security;
- Children in our care and leaving care are cared for, cared about and their life chances are improved;
- Those dying and their families can access high quality, good services ensuring that they can experience 'a good death';

- Everyone will be able to access mental health support where and when they need it, and will be able to navigate through the system easily;
- Individuals will be equipped to manage their condition or move towards individualised recovery on their own terms, surrounded by their families, carers and social networks, and supported in their local community;
- Everyone will contribute to and be participants in the communities that sustain them;
- Adults with care needs are supported to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible;
- There will be access to innovative and community led models of social care focusing on a strength based approach and enabling quality of life;
- The long term impact of COVID 19 on population health is being addressed.

### **Where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm**

- Fewer children experience harm through abuse, neglect and other adverse childhood experiences;
- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities have improved outcomes;
- Barriers to learning are removed for the most vulnerable children and young people;
- The educational landscape is inclusive to all;
- Individuals will be safeguarded in a way that supports them in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives;
- An outcomes approach in safeguarding is promoted that works for everyone;
- Public awareness will be raised so that professionals, other staff and communities as a whole can play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect;
- There will be integrated support for vulnerable households and those at risk of homelessness;
- There are more housing options available for vulnerable adults;
- Commissioned services are rated good or better by Ofsted or the Care Quality Commission.

### **Of resilient and resourceful communities with opportunities for all**

- All children benefit from good development and learning in their early years and achievement at key stages 1 to 5 is at or above national average;
- All schools and education providers are judged good or outstanding;
- More young people enter Higher Education and advanced apprenticeship pathways;
- There is reduced poverty, deprivation and inequality across the Borough;
- We have empowered and cohesive communities taking ownership of their own future;
- Education and other opportunities are available to address unemployment;

- People are involved in their local community rather than being socially isolated;
- Communities are well served with appropriate facilities;
- Children, young people and adults aspire to be whatever they want in life;
- There is a cross sector and coordinated programme of volunteering;
- We have a strong and diverse voluntary and community sector;
- Everyone can access creative and cultural opportunities to enhance their lives.

#### **That is sustainable, clean, safe and green**

- Resources are managed sustainably by reducing our consumption of energy and water;
- Initiatives are in place to tackle climate change;
- We are working with partners and residents to reduce the Borough's carbon emissions and move towards a low carbon economy;
- Sustainable development and transport principles are embedded in our Local Plan policies;
- We have high quality and affordable homes that meet the diverse needs of our residents;
- There is access to good quality, well maintained parks, streets and public spaces;
- We have cleaner neighbourhoods;
- There is reduced environmental crime;
- The potential of vacant buildings and land is maximised to meet the needs of the community and improve their appearance;
- Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour are reduced;
- There are reduced levels of violence including domestic abuse;
- We have a sustainable approach to waste management;
- Land and air quality is improved.

#### **That has an inclusive and growing economy**

- There are more and better paid jobs;
- We have a skilled, healthy, motivated and agile workforce;
- Strong partnerships continue to be fostered with the business sector;
- We have growing local businesses;
- There is increased public and private sector investment in the local economy;
- Connectivity across the Borough, region and nationally is improved;
- We have high quality visitor attractions and increased visitor numbers.
- High quality events and festivals for local and visiting population are delivered;
- There is increased interest in attracting developers to the Borough.

### **With a Council that is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflects the diversity of its community**

- We have strong and empowered leadership committed to delivering our vision;
- There is a reduced workspace requirement, with a flexible responsive workforce;
- Potential income sources are maximised;
- Our carbon footprint has reduced;
- Online access to services has increased;
- A customer focused service is delivered;
- We have a healthy, motivated, skilled and diverse workforce;
- The Borough has a positive reputation and improved media coverage.

### **3. How will we deliver our vision for Hartlepool?**

The Council Plan sets out our vision for Hartlepool. How we will get there and what we will do will be captured through a range of delivery plans. We recognise that our approach will need to change and evolve throughout the lifetime of the Plan in order to respond to emerging issues and opportunities.

We have identified a set of key principles which will guide and shape what we do to deliver this Council Plan:

- Leadership – we will fulfil our role as a community leader working to deliver a positive future for our Borough;
- Collaboration – we will work with our communities, the community and voluntary sector and our partners across the public and private sector to deliver on our vision for Hartlepool;
- Inclusivity – we will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and we will take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face;
- Openness and transparency – we will be clear about what we are doing and why;
- Commitment – we are committed to delivering our vision and will honour our commitments as a community leader, service provider and commissioner;
- Trust – we will work to develop and build on the trust between the Council, our communities and partners;
- Understanding – we will work to understand the needs, hopes and views of our residents, communities and partners through engagement, consultation and research.

We will share regular performance reports with the Finance and Policy Committee of the Council setting out the progress made in delivering the Council Plan and these will be shared more widely with our community and partners.

# POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1

Appendix 2

**1. Is this decision a Budget & Policy Framework or Key Decision? YES**

If YES please answer question 2 below

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

If YES please complete the matrix below.

GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Young working people aged 18 - 21	X			<p>The Council Plan will focus on ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there are more and better paid jobs;</li> <li>• barriers to learning are removed for the most vulnerable children and young people;</li> <li>• all children benefit from good development and learning;</li> <li>• more young people enter higher education and advanced apprenticeship pathways;</li> <li>• education and other opportunities are available to address unemployment;</li> <li>• Children, young people and adults aspire to be whatever they want in life.</li> </ul>
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness	X			<p>The Council Plan will focus on ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individuals are able to better manage long-term conditions and prevent ill health;</li> <li>• there is improved mental, emotional and social wellbeing;</li> <li>• Everyone will be able to access mental health support where and when they need it;</li> <li>• education and other opportunities are available to address unemployment;</li> <li>• Children, young people and adults aspire to be whatever they want in life;</li> <li>• There is a skilled, healthy, motivated and agile workforce in Hartlepool and within the Council.</li> </ul>
Those with low educational attainment	X			<p>The Council Plan will focus on ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there are more and better paid jobs;</li> </ul>

# POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1

Appendix 2

GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Those who are unemployed	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>education and other opportunities are available to address unemployment;</li> <li>Children, young people and adults aspire to be whatever they want in life.</li> </ul>
Those who are underemployed	X			
Children born into families in poverty	X			<p>The Council Plan will focus on ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families and individuals have food security;</li> <li>barriers to learning are removed for the most vulnerable children and young people;</li> <li>all children benefit from good development and learning;</li> <li>more young people enter higher education and advanced apprenticeship pathways;</li> <li>education and other opportunities are available to address unemployment;</li> <li>Children, young people and adults aspire to be whatever they want in life.</li> </ul>
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances	X			<p>The Council Plan will focus on ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families and individuals have food security;</li> <li>There will be integrated support for vulnerable households and those at risk of homelessness;</li> <li>We have high quality, affordable homes.</li> </ul>
Lone parents	X			<p>The Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.</p>
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds	X			<p>The Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.</p>

# POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1

Appendix 2

Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way? Yes, the Council Plan will focus on ensuring that there is reduced poverty, deprivation and inequality across the Borough.				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Children in Low Income Families (%)	X			<p>In delivering the Council Plan vision there should be a positive impact on all of the listed measures of poverty as people will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be enabled to make healthier lifestyle choices;</li> <li>• be better able to manage long-term conditions and prevent ill health;</li> <li>• have improved access to connectivity, technology and skills development in order to enhance their lives and provide access to services and opportunities;</li> <li>• have food security;</li> <li>• not face barriers to learning - for the most vulnerable children and young people;</li> <li>• be able to access integrated support for vulnerable adults and those at risk of homelessness;</li> <li>• benefit from good development and learning – all children;</li> <li>• have access to education and other opportunities to address unemployment;</li> <li>• have access to high quality and affordable homes;</li> <li>• have access to more and better paid jobs.</li> </ul>
Children in Working Households (%)	X			
Overall employment rate (%)	X			
Proportion of young people who are NEET	X			
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment	X			
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)	X			
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM	X			
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)	X			
Number of affordable homes built	X			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year	X			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6	X			
Overall impact of Policy / Decision				
POSITIVE IMPACT	X		ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE	
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE			STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE	
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE				



## Equality Impact Assessment Form

Department	Division	Section	Owner/Officer			
All – R&D Lead	CS	CS&P Team	Claire McLaren / Catherine Grimwood			
Service, policy, practice being reviewed/changed or planned	<b>Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24</b>					
Why are you making the change?	A new 3-year Council Plan being prepared as the previous plan has come to an end.					
<b>How might this impact (positively/negatively) on people who share protected characteristics?</b>						
The Council Plan will focus on ensuring that there is reduced poverty, deprivation and inequality across the Borough. Also, a key principle that will guide and shape the delivery of the Council Plan is that the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face. Overall, this Plan will have a positive impact on all people who share protected characteristics.						
<i>Please tick</i>		<b>POSITIVELY</b>	<b>NEGATIVELY</b>			
<b>Age</b>		<b>X</b>				
The Council Plan will focus on ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individuals are able to better manage long-term conditions and prevent ill health;</li> <li>• Children, young people and adults aspire to be whatever they want in life;</li> <li>• Adults with care needs are supported to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.</li> </ul>						
<b>Disability</b>		<b>X</b>				
The Council Plan will focus on ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individuals are able to better manage long-term conditions and prevent ill health;</li> <li>• There is improved mental, emotional and social wellbeing;</li> <li>• Children and young people with SEND have improved outcomes;</li> <li>• Everyone will be able to access mental health support where and when they need it;</li> <li>• Individuals will be equipped to manage their condition or move towards individualised recovery on their own terms;</li> <li>• Adults with care needs are supported to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible;</li> <li>• There are more housing options for vulnerable adults.</li> </ul>						
<b>Gender Re-assignment</b>		<b>X</b>				
No specific impact identified however the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.						
<b>Race</b>		<b>X</b>				
No specific impact identified however the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.						
<b>Religion</b>		<b>X</b>				
No specific impact identified however the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.						
<b>Gender</b>		<b>X</b>				
No specific impact identified however the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.						

## 5.1 Appendix 3

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		<b>X</b>	
No specific impact identified however the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.			
<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>		<b>X</b>	
No specific impact identified however the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.			
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>		<b>X</b>	
No specific impact identified however the Council will work to ensure equal access to services and opportunities and take positive action to remove the barriers that people may face.			
<b>Has there been consultation /is consultation planned with people who will be affected by this policy? How has this affected your decision making?</b>		<p>The Council Plan has been informed by extensive consultation including a 4 week consultation exercise in September 2019, a further 5 week consultation starting in January 2020 and a wide ranging consultation over the summer of 2020. This consultation has included Elected Members through Members Seminars on 27th November 2019, 29th January 2020 and 14th July 2020 and through reports to individual Policy Committees in January and February 2020.</p> <p>The findings and feedback on previous drafts of the Council Plan have informed the proposed Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24. This will be presented to Council in February 2021 for approval.</p>	
<b>As a result of your decision how can you mitigate negative/maximise positive outcomes and foster good relationships?</b>		<p>It is not anticipated that the proposals included in the Council Plan will have any negative outcomes for those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>A range of opportunities have been provided to feed into the development of the Council Plan and it is anticipated that this will maximise positive outcomes and foster good relations.</p>	
<b>Describe how you will address and monitor the impact</b>		<b>1. No Impact - No Major Change</b>	
Initial Assessment	26/01/21	Reviewed	00/00/00
Completed	00/00/00	Published	00/00/00

# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 February 2021



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

**Subject:** MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)  
2021/22 - STATUTORY BUDGET AND COUNCIL  
TAX DETERMINATION

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Budget and Policy Framework.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide details of the final 2021/22 Local Government Finance settlement announcement and to advise Members of the arrangements to finalise the 2021/22 technical budget calculations to be referred to Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with the Constitution the Finance and Policy Committee is required to develop budget and Council Tax proposals for the forthcoming year for consideration by Council. Detailed proposals for the 2021/22 budget were considered and approved by Council on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021, which included a Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept freeze.
- 3.3 In line with the procedures adopted in previous years this final technical report deals with process for the statutory Budget and Council Tax calculations arising from the decisions made by Council in January 2021 and the final 2021/22 Local Government Finance Settlement. The proposals in this report will be referred to Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- 3.4 The report to Council will also include the statutory 2021/22 Council Tax calculations which the Council is required to undertake to incorporate the Council Tax levels approved by 'precepting bodies', i.e. the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Fire Authority and Parish Councils. Individual 'precepting bodies' are responsible for setting their own Council Tax levels in accordance with the specific Government Council Tax referendum limits. Further information is provided in section 5.

#### **4. FINAL 2021/22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT AND IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL**

- 4.1 The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was issued on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Details were reported in the previous MTFS report, which advised Members that 87% of the Government's forecast increase in 2021/22 Spending Power is predicated on councils increasing Council Tax and implementing the Adult Social Care precept. Without these increases Spending Power for councils will only increase by 0.6%, which does not address the significant pressures facing councils in relation to Children's and Adults Social Care.
- 4.2 The final settlement was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and there have been no changes to the provisional settlement. This includes the Government confirming:
- a 2% core Council Tax Referendum Limit; and
  - a 3% Adult Social Care precept which can either be applied in 2021/22 or deferred to 2022/23.
- 4.3 As previously reported to Finance and Policy Committee and Council the approved budget strategy for 2021/22 is reliant on the use of the Budget Support Fund (£4.212m) and one off Government Grant funding (£0.985m). These measures defer a budget deficit from 2021/22 and the Council will need to develop a strategy to address a 2022/23 forecast deficit of £5.639m (including £4.047m deferred from 2021/22).

#### **5.0 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STATUTORY BUDGET CALCULATIONS**

- 5.1 The following issues are relevant to the 2021/22 budget and were addressed in previous reports to Finance and Policy Committee (25<sup>th</sup> January 2021) and Council (28<sup>th</sup> January 2021):-
- the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires local authorities to set a balanced budget;
  - the Local Government Act 2003 requires local authorities to consider the advice of their Section 151 Chief Finance Officer (the Director of Resources and Development) when making budget decisions. This advice must include details of the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. The minutes to the meetings referred to in paragraph 5.1 record the robustness advice given to Members.
  - the requirements of the Prudential Code in relation to the use of Prudential Borrowing.

- 5.2 The Local Government Act 1992 and relevant regulations also require the Council to approve the statutory Council Tax calculation incorporating the Council Tax levels set by individual precepting authorities i.e. the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Fire Authority and parish councils. This issue will be addressed in a report to Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- 5.3 Individual ‘precepting bodies’ are responsible for setting their own Council Tax levels in accordance with the specific Government Council Tax referendum principles applying and which meet their own budgetary requirements. The Government has set the following Council Tax referendum limits for 2021/22:

2021/22 Council Tax Referendum Limits set by the Government

Type of Authority	Government Council Tax Referendum Limits 2021/22
Police and Crime Commissioners	Band D increase of up to £15.00.
Fire and Rescue Authorities	Increases of up to 2% in Band D Council Tax.
Town and Parish councils	No referendum limits have been set and the Government intends to keep this matter under active review for future years.

- 5.4 The statutory Council Tax calculations are an administrative responsibility that the Council as the statutory ‘billing authority’ is required to undertake once the Council has set its own Council Tax level (which was approved on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021) and the individual precepting authorities have set their own Council Tax levels.

## 6. OTHER CONSIDERATION

### 6.1

Staff Considerations	No relevant issues
Consultation	No relevant issues
Child/Family Poverty Considerations	No relevant issues
Equality and Diversity Considerations	No relevant issues

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1 It recommended that Members:

- i) Note the final 2021/22 Local Government Finance settlement was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and there have been no changes to the provisional settlement and therefore there are no changes to the Budget and Council Tax proposals approved by Council on 28<sup>th</sup>

January 2021;

- ii) Note that the detailed 2021/22 statutory Council Tax calculations, incorporating the Council Tax levels set by individual precepting authorities i.e. the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Fire Authority and individual parish councils, will be referred to Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## 8. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To inform the Finance and Policy Committee of the arrangements for referring the 2021/22 technical Budget and Council Tax calculations to Council.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Finance and Policy Committee - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021/22 to 2022/23 – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021;
- Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021/22 to 2022/23 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021;

## 10. CONTACT OFFICER

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 Tel: 01429 523003

Sign Off:-

Managing Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Policy and Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chief Solicitor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 February 2021



**Report of:** Director of Adult and Community Based Services

**Subject:** ALLOCATION OF THE COMMUNITY POT

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non-key decision.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To seek agreement from the Finance and Policy Committee regarding the allocation of the Community Pot.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report to Finance and Policy Committee on 29 June 2020 regarding 'A Sustainable Solution to Food Poverty' identified that COVID19 had highlighted, and in some cases exacerbated, a range of issues associated with hardship which went beyond food poverty. Examples of areas where poverty was being experienced included fuel, clothing and digital inclusion.
- 3.2 The Finance and Policy Committee subsequently made a decision on 13 August 2020 to create a Community Pot to support the COVID19 recovery. The Community Pot was created utilising the balance of New Burdens funding, an element of the Family Poverty Reserve, an underspend on ward Member budgets and the uncommitted balance of the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for food and essential supplies giving a total of £225k.
- 3.3 The Finance and Policy Committee decision identified that £25k of the £225k would be used to support a programme of activities for young people, with the remaining £200k to be used to support community-led initiatives aimed at tackling the social and economic impact of COVID19.
- 3.4 The criteria for accessing funding from the Community Pot and the process for applications were then agreed by Finance and Policy Committee on 30 November 2020 and the process has now concluded.

#### 4. CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 Applications were required to meet the following criteria:
- Evidence of need based on community engagement.
  - Delivery of interventions that will address hardship arising from COVID19 that is impacting on communities in Hartlepool.
  - Provides 'additionality' rather than duplicating similar projects or replacing core funding for an ongoing scheme.
  - Clear impact and outcomes.
  - Delivery through a collaborative approach across the VCS.
  - Clear exit strategy demonstrating the longer term impact of one off resources.
- 4.2 VCS organisations were invited to apply for funding of £20k to £200k and applications were then considered by a panel comprised of the Council's Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services and Director of Public Health along with a representative from Hartlepool representing the VCS.

#### 5. APPLICATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY POT

- 5.1 A total of 18 applications were received requesting total funding of £1,047,200. Details of all applications received are provided in **Confidential Appendix 1. 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, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**
- 5.2 Each application was assessed by the panel against the agreed criteria and then discussed. For a number of applications that did not meet the criteria, the panel identified other potential funding sources that applicants may wish to explore, and proposed providing detailed feedback to those applicants offering further support where appropriate.
- 5.3 The majority of applications evidenced collaboration and partnership working between different VCS groups and a willingness to work alongside the Council and other statutory bodies which was very encouraging.

#### 6. OUTCOME

- 6.1 Following consideration of each application against the criteria, the panel unanimously agreed to recommend to Finance and Policy Committee that 5 of the applications were supported in full, and that a sixth application was part funded, with other funding routes being explored to meet the whole amount requested.



- 6.2 The applications recommended by the panel for approval are summarised in the table below:

App. No	Proposal	Funding Requested	Recommended Funding from Community Pot
3	Financial Advice and Support (including benefit appeals)	£60,700	£34,500
5	Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership	£36,500	£36,500
9	Get Connected – digital inclusion project	£40,900	£40,900
12	Community Led Inclusion Partnership	£48,800	£48,800
14	Supported Housing & Counselling for Homeless and Vulnerable	£15,000	£15,000
18	Accessible IT equipment and training	£24,300	£24,300

- 6.3 Further detail regarding VCS organisations involved in each of the proposals recommended for approval is contained in **Confidential Appendix 1**.
- 6.4 One of the proposals recommended for approval is for a smaller amount than the lower limit set for Community Pot applications. This proposal is match funded from another source and the total cost of the scheme is £30,000.
- 6.5 The proposals recommended for allocation fully commit the £200k that is available.

## 7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are risks associated with allocating one off funding in that it can build expectations and generate longer term demand. The Community Pot application process made clear that this is a one off resource to support sustainable solutions and applicants were required to provide evidence of an exit strategy.

## 8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Community Pot has been created as outlined in section 3.2 from one off funding sources. On this basis there are no ongoing financial considerations associated with the creation and distribution of the Community Pot. The Community Pot of £225k is linked to COVID19 recovery and will be available in 2020/21 only.

## **9. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The allocation of funding from the Community Pot will be done in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Any organisation accepting funding from the Community Pot will sign an agreement regarding the proper use of the funding and will commit to provide information regarding the outcomes achieved.

## **10. CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 The criteria and process for allocation of the Community Pot were discussed with representatives of the VCS. The Council's commitment to work with the VCS and support the sector to work collaboratively was welcomed.

## **11. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY**

- 11.1 The aim of the Community Pot to tackle the social and economic impacts of COVID19 supports the Council's commitment to tackle child and family poverty.

## **12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 Consideration of applications for the Community Pot took into account the needs of individuals and families experiencing hardship due to age, disability or other protected characteristics.

## **13. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no staffing considerations associated with this report.

## **14. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no asset management considerations associated with this report.

## **15. RECOMMENDATION**

- 14.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Policy Committee approve the allocation of funding from the Community Pot as set out in Section 6.

## 16. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 16.1 The Finance and Policy Committee made a commitment to create the Community Pot and to approve the allocation of funding that will support local communities through the COVID19 recovery.

## 17. CONTACT OFFICER

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Sign Off:-

Chief Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Finance and Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chief Solicitor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 February 2021



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)

**Subject:** COMMUNITY WEALTH FUND ALLIANCE

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key decision.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide members with information regarding the Community Wealth Fund Alliance and to seek support from members to sign up to the Community Wealth Fund Alliance alongside 290 other civil society, public and private sector organisations.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Community Wealth Fund Alliance (CWFA) is a group of over 290, mostly civil society organisations (including 15 local authorities) calling for the establishment of a Community Wealth Fund to invest in the most 'left behind' neighbourhoods across England. Research suggests that there is an urgent need for funding to improve social and civic infrastructure in these neighbourhoods and their connectivity to economic opportunities in the wider area. A Community Wealth Fund could provide this vital funding.

3.2 The Community Wealth Fund Alliance is calling on government to release dormant assets of up to £4 billion for the creation of a new independent endowment – 'The Community Wealth Fund'. This would provide long term investment putting left behind communities in charge of spend and enabling them to build on social capital and civic infrastructure that they need to 'level up' their areas to enable them to prosper.

3.3 The impact of COVID is likely to exacerbate the existing social and economic problems that left behind communities face so it will be vital as part of the recovery from this pandemic to focus on those communities.

- 3.4 Research shows that there are 225 wards across England that are most likely to be left behind. The wards were identified by overlaying the 10% most deprived on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and the 10% most lacking in social infrastructure according to a new index developed, the Community Needs Index (CNI), which looks at three factors.
- Social Infrastructure – the absence of key community, civic, educational and cultural assets in or near the area.
  - Connectedness – a lack of connectivity to key services, digital infrastructure, high rates of loneliness and isolation and a weak jobs market.
  - Active and engaged community – the absence of civic organisations and community participation as well as barriers to participation.
- 3.5 The funding principles will focus on being long term (10-15 years), Investment will be into hyper-local levels (communities of 3,000 – 10,000 residents), resident led decision making and appropriate support provided to build community confidence and capacity. The principles are based on learning from past and present initiatives and will help develop and deliver the infrastructure that is needed to improve these communities.

#### 4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Community Wealth Fund Alliance has identified that there are four left behind communities in Hartlepool; Jesmond, Headland and Harbour, De Bruce and Manor House. The Victoria ward has not been identified because of the assessment used identifying proximity and perceived access to services and the level of other activity in the ward. If the progression of the Community Wealth Alliance fund was successful it is proposed that all four wards would be awarded £2 million for a period of 10-15 years.
- 4.2 As the focus is on the least well catered for communities this means there may be a limit to the number of charities and voluntary organisations in the communities therefore a framework is proposed to ensure local people can plan, deploy funding and take action without bureaucratic barriers. The initial framework headings include:
- Plans
  - Accountable bodies
  - Community Boards
  - Mentors
  - National guidance
  - Local guidance
  - Support programme
  - Community Leadership Programme
  - Training and apprenticeships
- 4.3 There are significant developments locally to support Community Wealth Building opportunities and this will be continued and enhanced through

ongoing work with the Voluntary and Community Sector and other statutory organisations.

## **5. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This funding may not be available therefore any hopes for investment remain a risk. However if funds are secured and the Council is not signed up to the Alliance, then funds cannot be accessed for Hartlepool communities.
- 5.2 The Community Wealth Fund Alliance hope to create enough support nationally by organisational sign up especially in areas with identified left behind communities. If HBC decide not to sign up to this and there is progression of this fund then there is a risk that this may have an impact on reputation and relationship with communities and VCS.

## **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 No investment is required by HBC to progress with sign up to the Community Wealth Fund Alliance so there is no financial risk.

## **7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 Signing up to the alliance does not come with significant obligations however if it is agreed that HBC sign up, the legal department will oversee this.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Consultation has been conducted with Hartlepower regarding sign up to the Alliance based on their wider work across the sector. This was well supported.
- 8.2 Other VCS colleagues will be engaged should sign up be agreed, along with other statutory bodies who are 'anchor' organisations.

## **9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 Progression of community wealth building will have a significant impact on poverty and this has already been demonstrated in the work that has been done locally so far. Preston have led on nationally best practice regarding Community Wealth Building and identify impact on poverty as significant. This is particularly significant in light of the impact of the COVID pandemic on child and family poverty and the disproportionate impact in the most deprived communities.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 Impact on equality and diversity will be considered throughout the programme. It is hoped that there is an opportunity of prioritising those most in need and through the concept of community wealth building and 'levelling communities' there is an opportunity for there to be a significant impact on equality and diversity.

## **11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no staffing considerations associated with this report.

## **12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 No asset management considerations have been identified at this time.

## **13. RECOMMENDATION**

- 13.1 It is recommended that members note the proposals and consider signing up to the Community Wealth Fund Alliance either independently as an organisation or through a collaboration with the VCS.

## **14. CONTACT OFFICER**

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# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15<sup>th</sup> February 2021



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

**Subject:** KILMARNOCK ROAD RESOURCE CENTRE

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**1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY**

Non Key.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to offer Kilmarnock road Resource Centre for Community Asset Transfer on a lease basis.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council owns premises located on the corner of Kilmarnock Road and Owton Manor Lane currently known as Kilmarnock Road Children & Young People Family Resource Centre. The property extends to approximately 466 square metres internally and accommodation briefly comprises a main hall, children's nursery, meeting rooms, offices and a small external area and yard. It is shown hatched on the plan in **APPENDIX 2**.
- 3.2 The property was formerly let to Manor Residents Association as a community centre on a 20 year lease from November 2002 at £1 per annum. Following the dissolution of the Association in 2014, the premises were occupied by West View Advice and Resource Centre Ltd without direct involvement of the Council. The occupation was subsequently regularised on a short term basis by way of the grant of a licence to occupy. This has been renewed a number of times with the current occupier, Kilmarnock Road Children & Young People Family Resource Centre Ltd. The current licence runs until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 on a nil fee basis.
- 3.3 The premises are currently used for various purposes including a community café, pre-school nursery, youth club and playgroup. The centre provides a free advice service covering matters such as personal/family problems, debt/welfare benefits, back to work calculations, disability and preparation for Tribunals and Appeals. In 2017 the nursery received a "Good" Ofsted rating.
- 3.4 In view of the nature and use of the building and the recent history of it, it is proposed to offer the premises to let on a long term basis by way of a Community Asset Transfer. This is a recognised means of enabling not for



profit organisations to deliver their own solutions to local needs and demands for services. The full policy adopted by the Council is set out in the Community Asset Management Transfer document included in the Background Documents.

- 3.5 This process should ensure that the future of the premises as a community building hosting a range of services that help to meet the needs of residents in the area is assured through an open process that allows all interested parties to bid. It includes a requirement for prospective tenants to demonstrate their suitability in terms of their aims, governance and track record.
- 3.6 The Community Asset Transfer process includes a minimum 6 week marketing period during which tenders are invited for the opportunity. Interested parties are required to complete an assessment of their suitability and to provide written tenders which are then evaluated. Assuming an acceptable tender is received in this instance a lease will be granted which includes the requirements for community uses.
- 3.7 Alternatively the premises could be let on a commercial basis or sold but these courses of action would be much less likely to retain the community uses and services.

#### 4. PROPOSALS

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

#### 5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No implications.

#### 6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is currently responsible for repairs and maintenance however other outgoings are met by the occupier. There is currently no income from the property to the Council, however under a Community Asset Transfer arrangement all outgoings including repairs and maintenance will be met by the occupier.
- 6.2 The rental and capital values of the property are 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, (para 3) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).** Letting the building under a community asset transfer arrangement will mean that a potential rental income or sale value will be foregone but that services provided to the community should be maintained.

**7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 As noted above the current occupier is using the premises under a licence. The Chief Solicitor will be instructed to act for the Council in the grant of the proposed lease.

**8. CHILD/FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The property is currently used in part to provide advice services including matters relating to debt and welfare issues. Poverty Impact Assessment attached at **APPENDIX 1**.

**9. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The property is currently used for community services which may help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

**10 ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 The decision to adopt a commercial approach to asset management requires the Council to realise the full value of any properties or property rights that it disposes of.

However, in this instance it is proposed to carry out a Community Asset Transfer lease on terms which prioritise social objectives.

**11.1 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Consultation	No relevant issues
Equality and Diversity Considerations	No relevant issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant issues

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 Committee is recommended to approve offering the property to let on a Community Asset Transfer basis and to delegate selection of the successful bidder and approval of the detailed terms to the Director of Resources and Development.

**14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 Whilst the property could as an alternative be let commercially or sold it has been used as a community resource centre for many years and continues to be suitable and appropriately located for this type of use which supports non-financial objectives.

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

15.1 Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

Chris Little  
Director of Resources and Development  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel 01429 523003

Email [chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:chris.little@hartlepool.gov.uk)

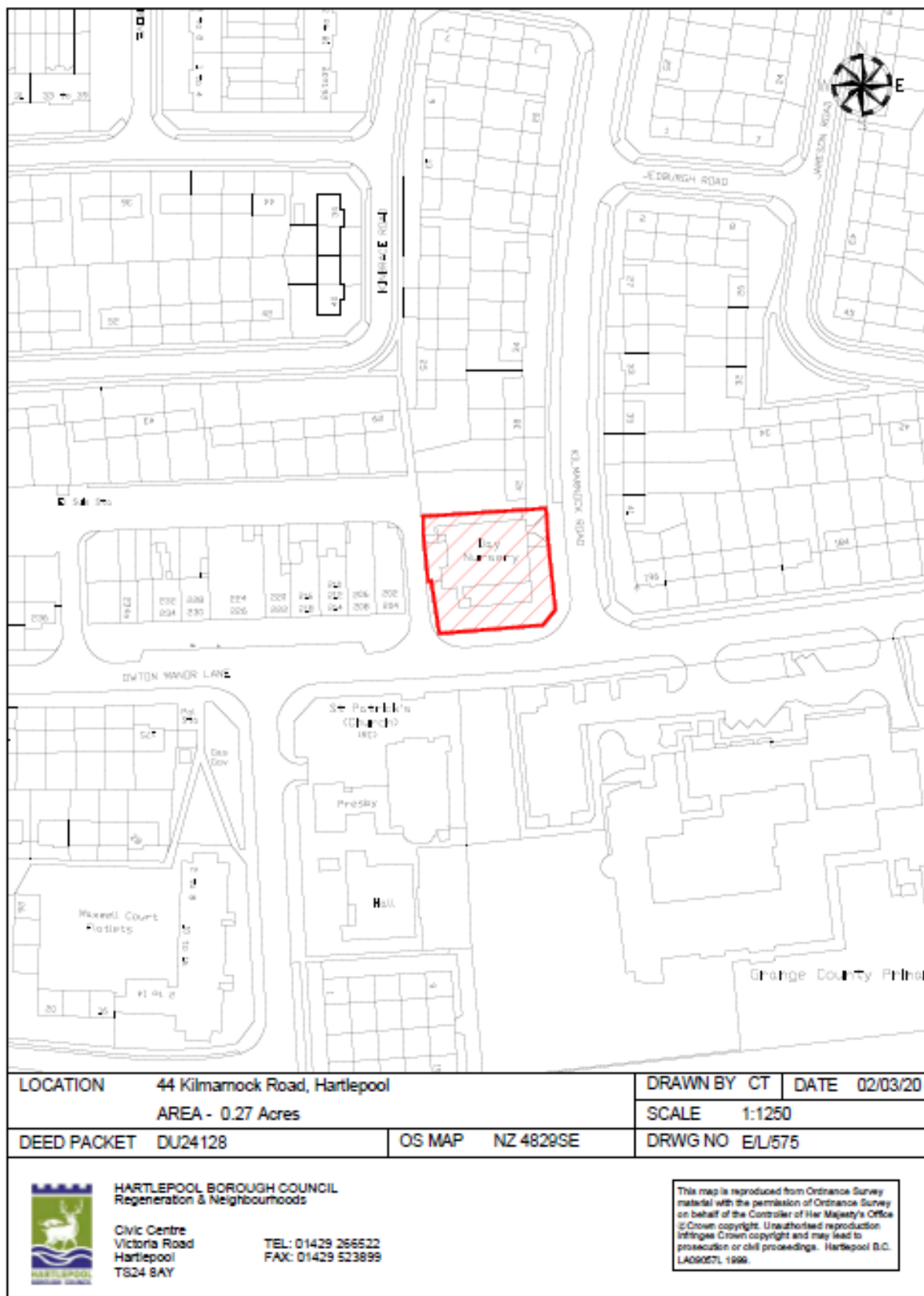
**POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM**

<b>1. Is this decision a Budget &amp; Policy Framework or Key Decision? NO</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? YES / NO</b>				
If YES please complete the matrix below				
GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Young working people aged 18 - 21	✓	x		
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>				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE

**POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM**

Overall impact of Policy / Decision			
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE		ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE	
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE	
<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			

## Plan



# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 February 2021



**Report of:** Chief Solicitor

**Subject:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - ELWICK

---

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents feedback from consultation with stakeholders in Elwick Parish and invites this committee to formulate a view upon the extent to which the proposals are implemented for consideration by Full Council.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A community governance review enables a principal council to review and put in place new arrangements and make changes to current community governance systems and structures, for example by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the review area.
- 2.2 The Government has emphasized that the aim of a review should be to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy, and result in more effective and convenient delivery of services.
- 2.3 All principal councils have a legal duty to carry out a community governance review if they receive a valid petition. For a petition to be valid it must be signed by 250 residents.
- 2.4 Upon receipt of valid petitions the Council must, as a matter of law undertake a community governance review and must do so in accordance with the statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The Department for Communities and Local Government (“DCLG”) has produced guidance for Principal Councils on undertaking community governance reviews and it has been duly considered in our proposed approach. The guidance highlights the legislative requirements that a review must have regard to, namely that it: - reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and is effective and convenient. Influencing factors that should also be considered are: - the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

- 2.6 On 6 February 2020 Hartlepool Borough Council received a valid petition from 281 residents proposing that the area of the existing parish, immediately to west of Close Beck Wynyard (see **Appendix 1**) be removed from Elwick Parish Council and that a stand-alone Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) be established in relation to that area. Ten numbered points were made in support of the petition (see **Appendix 2**).
- 2.7 Receipt of the petition was reported to Full Council on 19 March 2020 and the terms of reference (including timetable) were approved by Full Council on 20 October 2020.
- 2.8 There have been two periods of consultation (23/10/20 – 04/12/20 and - 18/12/20 - 29/02/21) and responses have been invited from all local government electors in the area under review, the parish council, local businesses and public and voluntary organisations (such as schools and health bodies). Letters were sent to all residents and the consultation was also publicised in the Hartlepool Mail and on the council's social media accounts.
- 2.9 Of the 745 consultation letters sent, 93 responses were returned (12.5% response). Of those responses 97.8% (91 people) have been supportive of the proposal. Only 2.2% (2 people) have objected to the proposal, both of whom point to the additional level of bureaucracy that an additional parish would create. These consultation responses must also be considered alongside the 281 residents of the area who had signed the original petition.
- 2.10 A consistent theme in the support for the proposals is that Wynyard has evolved into a community with a clearly identifiable and cohesive character that is separate and distinct from the rural nature of Elwick. The responses also point to benefits of decisions being made on a local level and that a newly formed parish will be best placed to make and implement those decisions.
- 2.11 The proposal has the support of the Wynyard Residents Association and Elwick Parish Council.
- 2.12 Members attention is drawn to the following issues from the guidance:
- The general rule that a parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is a size of a viable administrative unit of local government.
  - New or revised parish electoral arrangements come into force at ordinary parish elections, rather than parish by-elections, so they usually have to wait until the next scheduled parish elections. They can come into force sooner only if the terms of office of sitting parish councillors are cut so that earlier parish elections may be held for terms of office which depend on whether the parish is to return to its normal year of election.



- There is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had six to 12 councillors. The National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126 suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25.
- The 2006 local government white paper, Strong and prosperous communities, stated: We will make it clear that there will be a presumption in favour of the setting up of parish councils so that local authorities will be expected to grant communities' requests to set up new parish councils, except where there are good reasons not to, and that existing parish councils are not to be abolished against the wishes of local people. The Coalition Government's 2013 consultation paper on setting up new parish councils said: We believe that localism is best achieved when it is led by the local communities themselves. We see town and parish councils as playing a vital role in helping local people to make this happen.

### **3. PROPOSALS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The Committee is asked to formulate a view in relation to the below to assist Full Council in its consideration of the community governance review:-

i) Should the area in question be removed from Elwick Parish Council?

3.2 If 'yes' to (i) above:

ii) Should a stand-alone Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) be established in relation to that area?

iii) What should be the council size (number of councilors) in the new parish?

iv) What should be the council size (number of councilors) in the Elwick Parish?

The proposed Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) has 704 electors and Elwick Village has 491. The guidance would suggest that 7 councillors would be an appropriate number on each.

### **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 If a decision is made to remove the proposed area from the Parish Council there may be a small impact on the Council's budget in terms of a reduction in the concurrent functions payment made to the Parish Council for grass cutting services undertaken by the Parish Council. The payment amounts to £7,446 per annum and relates to services which can either be carried out by

Hartlepool Council or the Parish. This will need to be reviewed to reflect the reduced area and the saving will need to be allocated to meet the costs of the Council undertaking these services directly.

- 4.2 From the Parish Council's perspective the removal of the proposed area would reduce the properties paying the Council Tax precept levied by the Parish Council and they would need to address this reduction in income by reducing spending, or increasing the Council Tax precept they levy.

## **5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 It is a legal requirement under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake a community governance review in response to the receipt of a valid petition.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That this Committee formulates a view on the proposals, outlined in Section 3 above, as to the extent that the consultation proposals are implemented.
- 6.2 That the Committee's views be included within the Managing Director's business report to assist Full Council on 25 February 2021 in its consideration of the proposals.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Functions relating to the conduct of Community Governance Review under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 are reserved exclusively to Full Council. Views of this committee are invited to feed into the Managing Director's business report.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Guidance on community governance reviews -  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf)
- 8.2 Full Council - 19 March 2020 and 20 October 2020 (report and minutes)
- 8.3 Consultation responses are available should any member wish to review them.

## **9. CONTACT OFFICER**

- 9.1 Neil Wilson  
Assistant Chief Solicitor  
[Neil.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
TEL: 01429 284 383

Sign Off:-

Managing Director

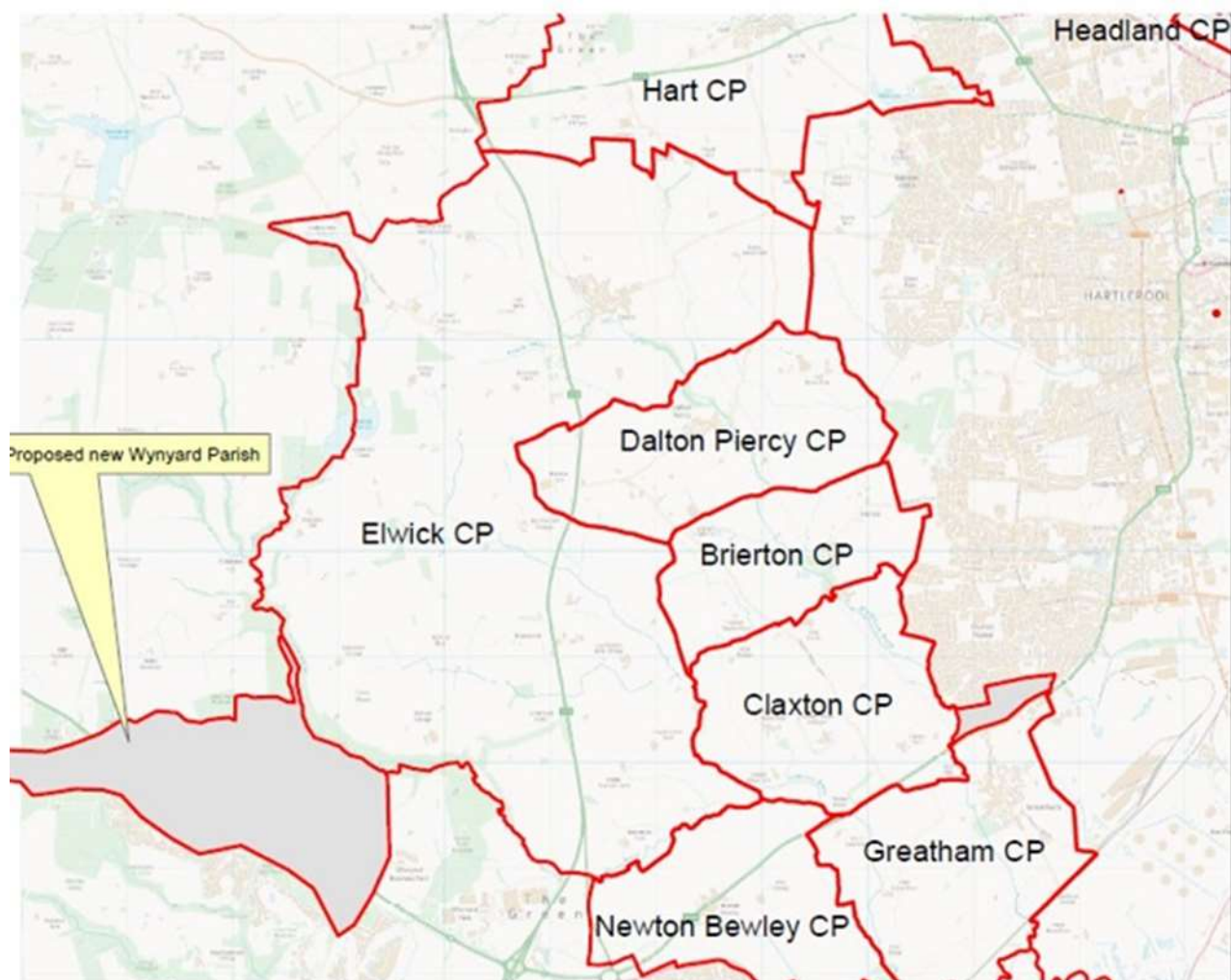


Director of Resources and Development



Chief Solicitor





Hartlepool Borough Council

Wynyard Residents Association

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

#### Request for a Local Community Governance Review

Please accept this as a formal request from Wynyard Residents Association, on behalf of Wynyard residents to conduct a Local Community Governance review as set out in "The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007". We would like to request that Wynyard be withdrawn from Elwick Parish Council and established as a Parish, with its own council for the following reasons;

- 1) Wynyard residents wish this change to take place
- 2) Wynyard is large enough to be a financially viable council in its own right
- 3) Wynyard has grown exponentially since its original inclusion in Elwick Parish Council.
- 4) Planning applications approved for dwellings, and enshrined within the Hartlepool Local Plan, will mean it will grow by a minimum further 60% in the next few years
- 5) Wynyard is not geographically linked with Elwick by footpaths, rights of way or roads – other than main roads that are not suitable for any form of transport other than a car and the distance of 9 miles cannot support a claim for these to be one community
- 6) Wynyard is not culturally in keeping with the rest of the Elwick Parish area or population
- 7) Wynyard would be a "cohesive community" as defined in "Communities and Local Government Guidance on community governance reviews" (March 2010) – at present Elwick Parish area cannot meet the criteria for this with Wynyard included in it
- 8) Elwick Parish Council has two well established residents' associations linked to it, from very different communities, with very different needs. It cannot effectively meet the needs of both
- 9) Wynyard differs from Elwick in that it has no community facilities or infrastructure – Elwick has both. This means that the current Parish council are trying to deal with two very different communities with totally different needs
- 10) Wynyard has been historically underrepresented on Elwick Parish Council and for many years was not represented at all. The residents of Wynyard feel disenfranchised by not having their own parish council that can exclusively focus on Wynyard issues



We have gathered a substantial number of elector names in support of this change from Wynyard residents residing in the Hartlepool Borough, see attached sheets. These have been gathered in less than four weeks and from less than 50% of the dwellings on the estate. We believe this shows substantial community support for this change and meets the requirements of a "Community Governance petition". We have discussed where the most reasonable boundary would be for a new council to effectively represent Wynyard and the consensus is that the Neighbourhood and Master Plan dividing line between Wynyard Neighbourhood and Master Plan boundary and the Western Parish's Plan boundary would be our preferred, and the most effective boundary. We strongly believe that a new Parish for Wynyard would support the creation of a "distinctive and recognisable community of place with its own identity" as mentioned in section 50 of the "Guidance on community governance reviews". We would be happy to supply any further information we can to aid any potential review.

Yours sincerely



Kit Lofthouse  
Wynyard Residents Association

# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 February 2021



**Report of:** Chief Solicitor

**Subject:** COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - GREATHAM

---

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents feedback from consultation with stakeholders in Greatham Parish and invites this committee to formulate a view upon the extent to which the proposals are implemented for consideration by Full Council.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A community governance review enables a principal council to review and put in place new arrangements and make changes to current community governance systems and structures, for example by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the review area.
- 2.2 The Government has emphasized that the aim of a review should be to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy, and result in more effective and convenient delivery of services.
- 2.3 All principal councils have a legal duty to carry out a community governance review if they receive a valid petition. For a petition to be valid it must be signed by 250 residents.
- 2.4 Upon receipt of valid petitions the Council must, as a matter of law undertake a community governance review and must do so in accordance with the statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The Department for Communities and Local Government (“DCLG”) has produced guidance for Principal Councils on undertaking community governance reviews and it has been duly considered in our proposed approach. The guidance highlights the legislative requirements that a review must have regard to, namely that it:- reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and is effective and convenient.

Influencing factors that should also be considered are:- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

- 2.6 On 05 March 2020 Hartlepool Borough Council received a valid petition from 257 residents proposing that the area of the existing parish, immediately to the north of Stockton Road (South Fens) (see appendix 1) be removed from Greatham Parish Council but without an alternative Parish Council being established.
- 2.7 Receipt of the petition was reported to Full Council on 19 March 2020 and the terms of reference (including timetable) were approved by Full Council on 20 October 2020.
- 2.8 There have been two periods of consultation (23/10/20 – 04/12/20 and - 18/12/20 - 29/02/21) and responses have been invited from all local government electors in the area under review, the parish council, local businesses and public and voluntary organisations (such as schools and health bodies). Letters were sent to all residents and the consultation was also publicised in the Hartlepool Mail and on the council's social media accounts.
- 2.9 Of the 925 consultation letters sent, 92 responses were returned (10% response). Of those responses 77% (71 people) supported the proposal, 19% (17 people) were against the proposal and 4% (4 people) expressed no opinion. These consultation responses must also be considered alongside the 257 residents of the area who had signed and supported the originating petition.
- 2.10 Of those who support the proposal a common theme is that the residents of Greatham Village and those of South Fens do not view themselves as being part of a single cohesive community. They point to the geographical differences, the clear dividing boundary (the A689) and that the distinct nature and appearance of the areas.
- 2.11 Of those who oppose the proposal it is a common theme that the status quo should be maintained, change is not necessary and that the two areas share a sense of togetherness.
- 2.12 Members attention is drawn to the following issues from the guidance:
- The general rule that a parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is a size of a viable administrative unit of local government.
  - New or revised parish electoral arrangements come into force at ordinary parish elections, rather than parish by-elections, so they usually have to wait until the next scheduled parish elections. They can come into force sooner only if the terms of office of sitting parish councillors are cut so that earlier parish elections may be held for terms



of office which depend on whether the parish is to return to its normal year of election.

- There is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had six to 12 councillors. The National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126 suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25.
- The 2006 local government white paper, Strong and prosperous communities, stated: We will make it clear that there will be a presumption in favour of the setting up of parish councils so that local authorities will be expected to grant communities' requests to set up new parish councils, except where there are good reasons not to, and that existing parish councils are not to be abolished against the wishes of local people. The Coalition Government's 2013 consultation paper on setting up new parish councils said: We believe that localism is best achieved when it is led by the local communities themselves. We see town and parish councils as playing a vital role in helping local people to make this happen.

### **3. PROPOSALS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The Committee is asked to formulate a view in relation to the below to assist Full Council in its consideration of the community governance review:-

i) Should the area in question be removed from Greatham Parish Council?

3.2 If 'yes' to (i) above:

ii) What should be the council size (number of councilors) in the Greatham Parish?

Greatham Village has 773 electors and the guidance would suggest that 7 councillors would remain an appropriate number.

### **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 If a decision is made to remove the proposed area from the Parish Council there may be a small impact on the Council's budget in terms of a reduction in the concurrent functions payment made to the parish council for grass cutting services undertaken by the parish council. The payment amounts to £1385 per annum and relates to services which can either be carried out by Hartlepool Council or the Parish. This will need to be reviewed to reflect the

reduced area and the saving will need to be allocated to meet the costs of the Council undertaking these services directly.

- 4.2 From the Parish Council's perspective the removal of the proposed area would reduce the properties paying the Council Tax precept levied by the Parish Council and they would need to address this reduction in income by reducing spending, or increasing the Council Tax precept they levy.

## **5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 It is a legal requirement under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake a community governance review in response to the receipt of a valid petition.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That this Committee formulates a view on the proposals, outlined in Section 3 above, as to the extent that the consultation proposals are implemented.
- 6.2 That the Committee's views be included within the Managing Director's business report to assist Full Council on 25 February 2021 in its consideration of the proposals.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Functions relating to the conduct of Community Governance Review under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 are reserved exclusively to Full Council. Views of this committee are invited to feed into the Managing Director's business report.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 Guidance on community governance reviews - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf)
- 8.2 Full Council - 19 March 2020 and 20 October 2020 (report and minutes)
- 8.3 Consultation responses are available should any member wish to review them.

## **9. CONTACT OFFICER**

- 9.1 Neil Wilson  
Assistant Chief Solicitor  
[Neil.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
TEL: 01429 284 383

Sign Off:-

Managing Director



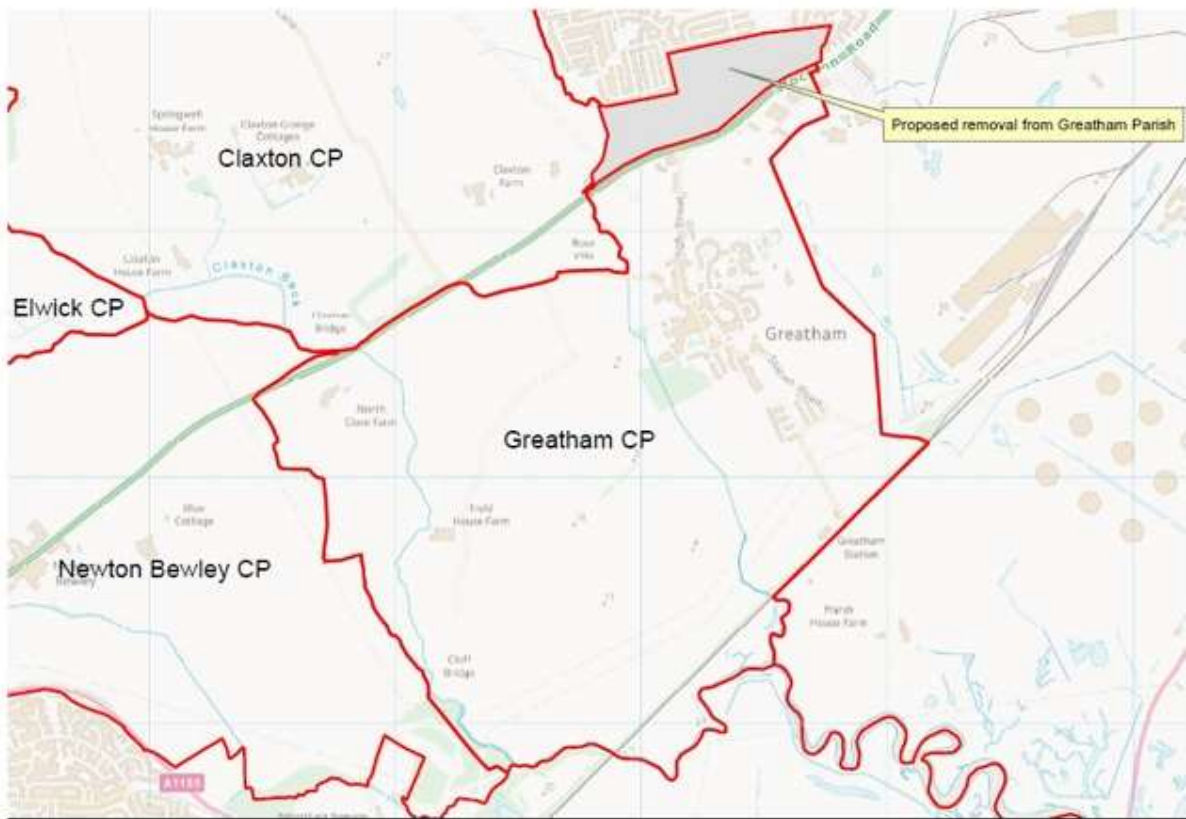
Director of Resources and Development



Chief Solicitor



## **7.5 Appendix 1**



# FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 February 2021



**Report of:** Chief Solicitor

**Subject:** CORPORATE PROCUREMENT QUARTERLY  
REPORT ON CONTRACTS

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To satisfy the requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with regard to the Finance & 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.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules require that the following information be presented to the Finance & Policy Committee on a quarterly basis:

Section of Contract Procedure Rules		Information to be reported
Introduction	Para 8 iii & Para 8 vi	Outcome of contract letting procedures
Part G	Para 12 v	

Introduction Part B	Para 8 iii Para 3 v	Basis of award decision if not lowest/highest price payable/receivable
Introduction	Para 8 vi	Contract Name & Reference Number
Part G	Para 12 v	
Introduction	Para 8 vi	Description of Goods/Services being procured
Part G	Para 12 v	
Introduction	Para 8 vi	Department/Service area procuring the goods/services
Part G	Para 12 v	
Introduction	Para 8 vi	Prices (separate to Bidders details to preserve commercial confidentiality)
Part G	Para 12 v	
Part G	Para 12 v	Details of Bidders

- 3.2 In addition to tender related information, details of exemptions granted to the Contract Procedure Rules are also reportable quarterly.

#### 4. INFORMATION FOR REVIEW

##### 4.1 Tender information

**Appendix A** details the required information for each procurement tender awarded since the last quarterly report.

##### 4.2 Exemption information

**Appendix B** provides details of the required information in relation to Contract Procedure Rules exemptions granted since the last Corporate Procurement Quarterly Report on Contracts.

##### 4.3 Commercial / Confidential information

**Appendix C** includes the commercial information in respect of the tenders received and any confidential information relating to Contract Procedure Rule exemptions or contract extensions.

**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, Appendix C.**

**5. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report is for information only. There are no risk implications attached to this report.

**6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 This report is for information only. There are no financial considerations attached to this report.

**7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 This report is for information only. There are no legal considerations attached to this report.

**8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 No consultation required. Report for information only.

**9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY**

- 9.1 This report is for information only. There are no child and family poverty implications attached to this report.

**10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 This report is for information only. There are no equality and diversity considerations attached to this report.

**11. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 This report is for information only. There are no Section 17 considerations attached to this report.

## **12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 This report is for information only. There are no staff considerations attached to this report.

## **13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 This report is for information only. There are no asset management considerations attached to this report.

## **14. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 That the Committee note and comment on the contents of the report,

## **15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.1 The Committee is required to review the information supplied to ensure that monitoring in the award of contracts is carried out and evidenced.

## **16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 There are no background papers.

## **17. CONTACT OFFICER**

- 17.1 Hayley Martin  
Chief Solicitor  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY  
Email [Hayley.martin@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:Hayley.martin@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01429 523002

Sign Off:-

Managing Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Resources and Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief Solicitor	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Tender Information

Date of Contract Award	Contract Name and Reference Number	Description of Goods / Services being procured	Duration of Contract (optional extensions in brackets)	Department / Service area procuring the goods / services	Details of Companies invited including location	Details of Bids received	Basis of award decision if not lowest/highest price payable / receivable	Outcome of contract letting procedures	Previous Provider / Location
11/12/20	Lead Consultant for the Design of a Leisure Facility DN 479576	Open 2 stage tender for the appointment of a lead consultant backed by a multi-disciplinary team to develop a full design programme for a leisure facility with swimming pools. 26 submissions received at stage 1. These were shortlisted to 6 for the second stage of the tender.	18 month plus a further 33 months	N & R Services	AHR London  Darton B3 Ltd Leeds  Faulkner Browns Newcastle  GT3 Architects Newcastle  Roberts Limbrick Ltd Gloucester  Ryder Architects Newcastle	AHR London  Darton B3 Ltd Leeds  Faulkner Browns Newcastle  GT3 Architects Newcastle  Roberts Limbrick Ltd Gloucester  Ryder Architects Newcastle	40% Price 60% Quality & Passing the Selection Questionnaire	GT3 Architects Newcastle	N/A
15/12/20	Roof Replacement at Community Hub South DN508183	5 companies were invited to price for the insulation of a replacement waterproofing roofing system at Community Hub South	2 months	N & R Services	Barclay Roofing Ltd Stockton  Dufell Roofing Co Ltd Darlington  John Flowers Ltd Washington  Hodgson Sayers Ltd Stanley	Barclay Roofing Ltd Stockton  Dufell Roofing Co Ltd Darlington  John Flowers Ltd Washington	100% Price and Passing Selection Questionnaire	Dufell Roofing Co Ltd Darlington	N/A

					O'Connor Roofing Services Hartlepool	Hodgson Sayers Ltd Stanley  O'Connor Roofing Services Hartlepool			
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## Procurements Exempted from Council Contract Procedure Rules

## Exemption Information

Dept.	Service Unit	Company Name	Company based at	Duration	Description	Approval
Resources & Development	Finance Shared Services	Bottomline Technologies Ltd	Reading	09.11.2020 – 08.11.2023	Due to Covid-19 and the need to be able to work from home there are operational advantages from a switch to Bottomline's PT-X service from Bottomline's Webseries to process direct debit collections	Request Approved by Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 09 11 20
Adults & Community based Services	Heritage & Countryside	Obitus	Sheffield	01.12.20 - TBC	To allow for the streaming of funeral live and make available afterwards, as a result of limited numbers of mourners being allowed to attend during the Covid pandemic	Request Approved by Jill Harrison, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 10 11 20
Adults & Community based Services	Community and Preventative Based Services	Medicotech Ltd	Milton Keynes	One Off Purchase	Due to Covid lockdown restrictions access to current MotorMed bikes is extremely limited. Proposal is to purchase two portable bikes for people to use in their own homes	Request Approved by Jill Harrison, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 13 11 20
Neighbourhoods & Regulatory Services	Place Management	Various Companies for the Sub-contract works that HBC will not undertake at 15 Church Street	N/A	23.11.20 – 30.06.21	As HBC must complete a full tender pricing exercise for the purpose of reporting to the funder within a tight timeframe. Therefore it is the intention of the in-house HBC Contractor to utilise the established local supply chain from the HBC Empty Homes project wherever possible for a portion of this tender,	Request Approved by Tony Hanson, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 17 11 20
Children's and Joint commissioning Services	Education	Stvdio Expert Ltd	Leamington Spa	01.12.20 - 01.12.21	Specialist knowledge required to repair and upgrade TV Studio equipment. Not industry standard equipment so company who installed it in 2010 approached.	Request Approved by Sally Robinson, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 18 11 20

Adults & Community based Services	Community and Preventative Based Services	Easier Inc	Waterlooville, Hampshire	14.12.20 – 28.02.2021	Human Learning Systems is a specific way of working and there are no other identified providers that could fulfil this work. References from other colleagues nationally identified Easier Inc as being hugely successful and their reputation spans internationally too in facilitation and support.	Request Approved by Jill Harrison, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 20 11 20
Adults & Community based Services	Community and Preventative Based Services	Just Heat – Hartlepool Meals on Wheels also (T/A Billie May's bistro)	Hartlepool	One Off Purchase	Just Heat (also trading as Billie May's Bistro) are a local company who started a 'meals on wheels' type service early this year. They were already planning to continue to provide a service to the people they currently support and have agreed to deliver freshly cooked Christmas dinners for 100 people on Christmas Day. Our current provider will not be operating on Christmas Day	Request Approved by Jill Harrison, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 01 12 20
Neighbourhoods & Regulatory Services	Community Safety Team	Wireless CCTV Ltd	Rochdale	One off Purchase	Funding for the Safer Street was delayed by government and the deliverables timeframe is now tight for CCTV – Dec 2020. Wireless CCTV Ltd is a registered supplier on Crown Commercial Framework.	Request Approved by Tony Hanson, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 01 12 20
Public Health	Joint Commissioning	Slainte Chugat Ltd	Maida Vale, London	18.12.2020 – 19.02.21	To implement mass community Covid testing which is a requirement from the government and needs to be implemented asap. This consultant is already providing services for HBC.	Request Approved by Sally Robinson, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 11 12 20
Children's and Joint commissioning Services	Childrens Commissioning	Portakabin	York	One off Purchase	Portakabin have already completed planning work and drawings for the new building at Catcote Academy. Due to delays impacted by Covid it is essential that surveys are conducted asap. Portakabin are familiar with the work following their involvement with the new Springwell school build.	Request Approved by Sally Robinson, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 11 12 20
Neighbourhoods & Regulatory Services	Community Safety Team	Vodafone	Newby, Berkshire	One off Purchase	Funding for the Safer Street was delayed by government and the deliverables timeframe is now tight for CCTV – Dec 2020. The Council	Request Approved by Tony Hanson, Chris

					intends to purchase Smart Wireless Camera Solution from Vodafone (data usage) and Vodafone's partnership sub- contractor iDefigo. Vodafone have already pre-submitted details of the fixed prices for this equipment under Lot 12 (Security and Surveillance Services)	Little & Hayley Martin on 21 12 20
Public Health	Joint Commissioning	Dr Ian Holtby	Redcar	10.08.20 – 30.03.21	Public Health Consultant urgently required for the outbreak control plans and technical advice	Request Approved by Sally Robinson, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 05 01 21
Adults & Community based Services	Joint Commissioning	Hartlepower	Hartlepool	One off Payment	A community development worker (CDW) is proposed to lead to engage with residents of the Victoria ward – to listen to people's concerns, experiences, aspirations & priorities and thereby to enable their involvement, influence and control in responding to whatever emerges from community engagement. The total cost for a community development worker is £25k. The Ballinger Trust have indicated they can contribute £15K. Therefore the contribution from Hartlepool Borough Council will be £10k.	Request Approved by Sally Robinson, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 08 01 21
Adults & Community based Services	Community and Preventative Based Services	Just Heat – Hartlepool Meals on Wheels also (T/A Billie May's bistro)	Hartlepool	18 01 21 – End of Lockdown	Just Heat (also trading as Billie May's Bistro) are a local company who started a 'meals They provided for us freshly cooked and delivered meals to 100 people identified by us on Xmas Day and New Year's Eve. This was a really success initiative welcomed by the people who received the meals. Our proposal is that Just Heat would deliver up to 4 meals a week to a maximum of 50 people identified as CEV and vulnerable who would benefit from this service. They would receive a 2 course meal, chosen by themselves from a menu. One of the meals would include a roast dinner delivered on Friday that can be microwaved over the weekend.	Request Approved by Jill Harrison, Chris Little & Hayley Martin on 15 01 21

**Extension Information**

Dept.	Service Unit	Company Name	Company based at	Duration	Description	Approval