

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Monday 15 November 2021

at 10.00 am

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

A limited number of members of the public will be able to attend the meeting with spaces being available on a first come, first served basis. Those wishing to attend the meeting should phone (01429) 523568 or (01429) 523019 by midday on Friday 12 November and name and address details will be taken for NHS Test and Trace purposes.

You should not attend the meeting if you are required to self-isolate or are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms such as (a high temperature, new and persistent cough, or a loss of/change in sense of taste or smell), even if these symptoms are mild. If you, or anyone you live with, have one or more of these symptoms you should follow the NHS guidance on testing.

MEMBERS: FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillors Brash, Brown, Fleming, Harrison, Lindridge, Little, Moore, D Nicholson, Prince, Stokell 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 15 October 2021.
- 3.2 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership held on 19 July 2021.
- 3.3 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 26 July 2021.

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.

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS

No items.

5. KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 5.2 Household Support Fund – *Director of Children and Joint Commissioning Services and Director of Resources and Development*
- 5.3 Hartlepool Town Masterplan – *Director of Resources and Development*

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

No items.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Hartlepool Power Stations Off-Site Emergency Response Plan – *Chief Emergency Planning Manager*
- 7.2 Council Plan 2021-2024 – Progress Update – *Managing Director*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

For Information:

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

Monday 13 December, 2021 at 10.00 am
Monday 17 January, 2022 at 10.00 am
Monday 14 February, 2022 at 10.00 am
Monday 14 March, 2022 at 10.00 am



FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

15 OCTOBER 2021

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

Present:

Councillor Shane Moore (In the Chair)

Councillors: Tim Fleming, Brenda Harrison, Jim Lindridge, Sue Little,
David Nicholson, Amy Prince and Cameron Stokell.

Also Present: Councillor Pamela Hargreaves as substitute for Councillor
Jonathan Brash in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Councillors Moss Boddy, Ben Clayton and Tom Feeney.

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor
Chris Little, Director of Resources and Development
Claire McLaren, Assistant Director, Corporate Services
Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based
Services
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
Steve Hilton, Communications and Marketing Team
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

34. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Jonathan Brash, Paddy Brown and Mike Young.

35. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sue Little declared a personal interest in Minute No.

36. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2021

Councillor Hargreaves stated that a question she had asked the Chair in relation to what budgetary measures that had been put in place last municipal year when the proposal to freeze the increase in Council Tax had

been put forward had not been recorded. The Leader's response of 'no measures had been put in place' had also not been recorded.

The Leader stated the he recalled indicating that there had been the acknowledgement that the measure was to defer that consideration until the process that had now commenced in developing the budget for 2022/23.

Subject to the comments above, the minutes were received.

37. Strategic Financial Management Report - as at 31st August 2021 *(Director of Resources and Development)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to inform Members of:

- i) 2021/22 Forecast General Fund Outturn;
- ii) Corporate Income Collection Performance; and
- iii) 2021/22 Capital Programme Monitoring.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Resources and Development provided the Committee with a detailed first quarter strategic financial management report for the current financial year. The Director highlighted that the report updated Members on the final figure for Covid-19 financial support from the government which had been £3.178m for Hartlepool. Details of the commitments made on expenditure of this support were detailed in the report.

The Director highlighted to the meeting that the report, when prepared, had not taken into account increases in energy prices and the further recent additional increases. Both gas and electricity were purchased through NEPO (North East Procurement Organisation) and information received this week raised the concern that energy price would rises would have a significant effect in 2021/22 and 2022/23 though the Director indicated it is anticipated a significant element would only be a one-off 'blip'. At this time, the Director stated that it would be appropriate to fund the price increase in 2021/22 and 2022/23 as a one-off issue though it was likely they could account for all the remaining Covid-19 grant funding.

The Director also highlighted that the report showed that the collection rates for both Council Tax and Business rates were slightly behind where officers would have anticipated pre-covid.

Decision

That the report be noted.

38. Update on Developing Sustainable Solutions to Food Poverty *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To update the Committee regarding work that had been undertaken with 'The Bread and Butter Thing' to develop a sustainable solution to food poverty, linked to the developing role of Community Hubs.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services outlined the background to the development of the solution with 'The Bread and Butter Thing' to tackle the food poverty problem in the town which had been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The response identified issues relating to longer term food poverty, particularly among the working poor and the over 65s, which needed a sustainable solution that did not create a dependency.

Following agreement by Finance and Policy Committee in August 2020, a procurement exercise was completed based on a subscription model that was utilised successfully in other areas of the country and the contract was awarded to 'The Bread and Butter Thing'. The report outlined how the model worked and its applications in both Manchester and locally in Darlington.

The key to the success of the model had been the delivery of the service through Community Hubs and the report provided some statistics on the numbers of people assisted and the food distributed. The service commenced at Community Hub Central and has now expanded to five locations over five days per week, this includes Community Hub Central, Community Hub South, Burbank House, St Hilda's Church and West View Advice and Resource Centre. The Chair questioned the location of the Headland location and the Assistant Director indicated that she would clarify this for Members after the meeting.

The report highlighted that feedback had been overwhelmingly positive and people were impressed with what they were getting for the contribution they were making. People were also positive that this was supporting a reduction in food waste.

The Assistant Director stated that the service had moved to being entirely self-sustaining one year after the initial £125,000 funding from the Council. There was a review of the service being undertaken to look at its hours of

operation and the types of additional products and services it may be able to provide.

The Chair and the Members of the Committee welcomed the report and the operation of the 'The Bread and Butter Thing' in Hartlepool but expressed their great concern that while unemployment was rising significantly following the pandemic, the greater number of users of this service were working people. All Members also paid tribute to all those involved in delivering the scheme.

Members discussed at some length their concerns at the need for such a service and the 'additionality' that could be provided around the service to provide further advice and resources to those people using 'The Bread and Butter Thing'. Members sought assurance that the scheme was reaching the right and sufficient people to make a difference. The Assistant Director stated that there had been no specific promotion of the service, much was done through word of mouth. Many were already receiving some kind of support elsewhere through the system and were signposted to 'The Bread and Butter Thing' as another means of support. The Assistant Director indicated that she would share some statistics with Members after the meeting on those using the scheme.

The operation of the scheme through the Community Hubs was welcomed and the Assistant Director encouraged Members to visit the Community Hubs to see the numbers of services available.

Decision

That the report be noted.

39. Community Pot Update (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported on the background to the implementation of community pot of £225,000 to support a programme of activities for young people and community-led initiatives aimed at tackling the social and economic impact of COVID19. Allocations from the Community Pot were agreed on 15 February 2021 and were outlined in the report together with a brief summary of the projects and the outcomes achieved.

Members welcomed the report and the outcomes achieved but there were concerns at the sustainability of the work the community pot had funded and whether an expectation had been created that would not be met once the funding was exhausted. The Assistant Director stated that this had been one of the key considerations at the outset of the fund and much time had been spent in ensuring that the funding built the infrastructure around the schemes to ensure their longer term viability and that they were not duplication of existing community support. The Assistant Director indicated that a further update report could show how that had been achieved and how they linked together.

Members noted the update on the Hartlepool Financial Inclusion Partnership (FIP) which included work towards the development of a Credit Union. The development of a credit union for the town was seen as huge positive by Members who indicate their support for the proposal.

Decision

That the report be noted and that a further update be provided highlighting some of the outcomes of the schemes supported by the Community Pot.

40. Corporate Complaints Monitoring Report for 2020/21 (Assistant Director, Corporate Services)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to inform Committee of the 2020/21 outturn position in relation to corporate complaints and those considered by the Local Government Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Corporate Services reported on the number of complaints received by the Council along with the final outcome of those complaints in 2020/21. The number of corporate complaints received was 7, down from 25 the previous year, with 3 being upheld or partially upheld. This gave a percentage of 42% upheld or partially upheld, up from 36% in the previous year. It was believed the reduction in the number of complaints was due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic but the position would be monitored closely over this year.

The LGSCO Annual Review 2021 Letter set out the annual statistics on complaints made to the LGSCO about Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) for the year ending 31 March 2021. The data showed both the complaints and the enquiries that the LGSCO had recorded along with any decisions

they have made. In summary, during 2020/21 the LGSCO received 16 complaints or enquiries about HBC, which was a reduction of 7 on the previous year. Of these, only 4 complaints progressed to detailed investigation by the LGSCO; 1 not being upheld and 3 were upheld.

The Assistant Director also referred to the updating of the Complaints, Comments and Compliments Policy which was available on the Council website.

Members noted the report and were keen to understand the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic that would be reflected during this year; some had expected complaints to increase rather than decrease. Members also expressed a wish to have a report on the compliments received by the Council for the work undertaken by staff. Members asked if compliments were fed back through to staff where appropriate. The Assistant Director indicated that such a report could be provided. The Managing Director stated that all compliments were fed through to Directors and that they communicated those to the staff involved.

Decision

That the report be noted and that a further report be submitted outlining the numbers of compliments received by departments.

41. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2024/25 *(Director of Resources and Development)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purposes of the report was to provide details of proposed savings to be referred to individual Policy Committees; and to review income across the Authority.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Resources and Development presented his detailed report to Members outlining the background to the current financial position the Council faced. At the meeting on 13th September 2021 an updated MTFS report detailed the forecast budget deficits for the next three years, including the impact of reducing the total deficit from £11.435m to £7.523m by increasing Council Tax up to the level of the forecast national Referendum Limit, including the 3% deferred Adult Social Care precept. Members considered the issues detailed in the report and made detailed recommendation to Council, which were considered and approved on 30 September 2021. A savings plan now needed to be developed to deliver total savings of £7.523m. The majority of this deficit was front loaded in

2022/23. To support the plan it was recommended that reserves were used to phase the deficit over the next three years.

The Director outlined the three phases of the savings programme for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. Achieving the savings plan will be challenging and will need to be managed carefully to ensure planned savings are delivered and reliance on reserves is phased out – as this was not sustainable.

The Director stated there were still a number of uncertainties that could affect the picture further. The outcome of the spending review by central government was expected in late October and it was not clear yet as to whether this would include the full funding of the 1.25% increase in National Insurance. The final settlement for 2022/23 would, if past years were an indication, not be received until mid-December placing further pressure on the budget development and decision making.

In terms of the proposed savings outlined in the exempt section of the report (This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order 2006) namely: - Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual and Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual) the Director stated that they only represented 65% of the total three year deficit of £7.523m. If some of these proposals were not supported by Members this percentage would reduce and alternative savings would have to be identified. This would be particularly challenging for 2022/23.

In relation to potential capital budget savings, the Director stated that work was ongoing to manage the impact of inflation and materials price rises across the construction industry. This would involve achieving capital receipts from the sale of the Councils remaining assets.

In view of the very serious financial position facing the Council all opportunities to achieve recurring revenue saving need to be considered and the Council could potentially make Prudential Borrowing loan repayment savings to help towards reducing the overall recurring revenue deficit. Two areas where such borrowing had not yet been committed were the Neighbourhood Investment Plan and the Wingfield Castle/Dam Board project. Details of the two proposals was set out in the report for Members consideration.

The report also addressed a review of fees and charges income for the authority. One area of significant concern highlighted by the Director was Residential Care fees (including self-funders) which will be impacted by the changes announced by the Government on 7th September 2021. These changes cap the level of contribution individuals will make to their care costs and this may reduce this income, which should be replaced with additional grant funding from October 2023. A detailed assessment will be

undertaken once more information is provided on how these national changes will be implemented.

Current fees and charges had been reviewed to determine if additional income can be generated by increasing charges by more than 2%, whilst ensuring services remained accessible. This review had not identified any specific areas where income could be increased. There were additional income streams that could be considered and the appendix to the report set out considerations around the implementation of a charge for the collection of Garden Waste and increasing Allotment charges to make the service self-funding.

In opening the debate the Chair indicated that those savings specific to Policy Committee's would be referred there for those Members to consider and pass comments back to this Committee. The Managing Director clarified that this Committee had to have oversight of the proposed savings in accordance with the constitution and would also be the body that recommended the eventual savings to Council. Policy Committees may also have their own suggestions.

Some Members were concerned that not all Members would be able to attend and raise their concerns at the Policy Committee meetings. The Chair indicated that he had allowed Councillors who were not Members of the meeting to attend and voice their concerns and would hope that all other policy committee chairs would do the same.

Members expressed their deep concerns and reluctance to consider the proposed savings set out in the exempt section of the report but understood the financial situation the Council was in. Members did feel there needed to be better communication with the public on the level of funding cuts from central government and that it was those funding cuts that had led to the current situation. The Chair indicated his thanks to officers for the work that had gone into producing the proposals set out in the report. He knew that it hadn't been easy and that Directors were as deeply concerned at the proposed savings as elected Members. Members supported the Chair's comments.

The Chair indicated that he would be working with the Communications Team on the public messages around the savings proposed and welcomed Members input. Members expressed a wish to hear the MP's views on the financial position and the savings the Council was having to make.

The meeting moved into closed session to consider the savings proposals set out in the exempt appendix to the report.

Decision

The Committee's decisions are set out in the Exempt section of the minutes.

42. 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 43 – Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2024/25 – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely paragraph 1, information relating to any individual, and paragraph 2, information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

43. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2024/25 *(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 1 and 2)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework.

Purpose of report

The purposes of the report was to provide details of proposed savings to be referred to individual Policy Committees; and to review income across the Authority.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Committee considered the detailed budget proposals set out in the exempt section of the report. This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order 2006) namely: - Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual and Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. An outline of the Committee's comments are set out in the Exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

The Committee's decisions are set out in the Exempt section of the minutes.

44. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 15 November 2021 commencing at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 1.12 pm.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 28 OCTOBER 2021

SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

19 July 2021

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

Present:

Responsible Authority Members:

Councillor: Councillor Shane Moore (In the Chair)
Councillor Cameron Stokell
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services
Nick Jones, Cleveland Fire Authority

Other Members:

Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health
Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Also Present: Mark Haworth was in attendance as substitute for Sharon Cooney, Cleveland Police

Officers: Phil Hepburn, Community Safety Operations Manager
Rachel Parker, Community Safety Team Leader
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council, Angela Corner, Thirteen Group and Superintendent Sharon Cooney, Cleveland Police. Retrospective apologies were also submitted on behalf of Christopher Guttridge, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2021

Confirmed.

4. Appointment of Vice-Chair

In relation to the appointment of Vice-Chair, clarification was sought in terms of expressions of interest in relation to the Vice-Chair position for this ensuing year and whether the current Vice-Chair, Superintendent Sharon Cooney, wished to continue in this role. The Police Representative agreed to confirm following the meeting.

5. Cleveland Youth Commission – Verbal Update from Leaders Unlocked

Issue(s) for consideration

The Chair advised that given the representative from Leader's Unlocked was not yet in attendance at the meeting this item would be considered later in the meeting.

Decision

That this item be considered later in the meeting.

6. Domestic Abuse *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the developments both nationally and locally in relation to domestic abuse.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services presented the report which provided background information in relation to the new legislation and provisions within the Domestic Abuse Act which included a duty upon local authorities to review their strategies and undertake an assessment of need. The Partnership was referred to timelines for review of the Strategy, key headlines from the needs assessment in terms of local data and context as well as details of the funding and commissioning arrangements as set out in the report.

The Partnership was advised that the current contract with Harbour ended on 31 March 2022. A commissioning process needed to be undertaken to develop a service specification taking into account the findings from the needs assessment and priorities within the new Strategy.

In the discussion that followed, the Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services and the representative from Cleveland Police responded to issues raised arising from the report. Clarification was provided in relation to the challenges around future funding arrangements and the measures in place to reduce domestic abuse. In response to a query raised it was reported that levels of domestic violence in Hartlepool were comparable with neighbouring authorities.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report and implications of the Domestic Abuse Act for the local area be noted.
- (ii) That the timetable for the development of the Hartlepool Domestic Abuse Strategy be noted.

7. Draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024 *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)*

Purpose of report

To consider and agree a draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24.

Issue(s) for consideration

The draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24, attached at Appendix 1 provided an overview of some of the recent activities undertaken to improve community safety in Hartlepool and key findings from the Partnership's 2020 Strategic Assessment and public consultation. It was proposed that the strategic objective "To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit" and key priorities from the 2020-21 plan, as set out in the report be retained in the 2021-24 plan.

The draft plan would be subject to an eight week consultation, details of which were provided. It was anticipated that the final plan would be presented to the Partnership in December 2021 and, subject to approval by the Partnership, the plan would be considered by the Council's Finance and Policy Committee prior to being adopted by Council in December 2021.

With regard to methods of consultation, the Chair requested that consultation on the draft Community Safety Plan should be included in the next edition of Hartbeat.

In relation to concerns raised by a member of the public around speeding traffic on Park Road and Grange Road, it was suggested that the detail of these concerns be reported direct to the police representative in attendance following the meeting.

Decision

- (i) That the draft Community Safety Plan be agreed prior to the commencement of an eight week consultation period.
- (ii) That consultation on the draft Community Safety Plan be included in the next edition of Hartbeat.

8. Prevent Update *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)***Purpose of report**

To update the Partnership on the local delivery of Prevent and key changes to the Channel Duty Guidance.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the statutory responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism by ensuring the Prevent Duty was embedded within partner organisations. A self assessment of Prevent delivery in Hartlepool against the Home Office Peer Review guidance had been undertaken which included an amendment to the Prevent Operational Group Terms of Reference, details of which were appended to the report.

In addition, local authorities were now required to complete an annual assurance statement to enable local Channel implementation to be documented assured and for progress to be recorded. The Council's annual assurance statement had been completed by the Channel Chair and Deputy Chair in April 2021 and was attached at Appendix 3.

Decision

That the contents of the report be noted.

9. 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 3 and 4 – October 2020 to March 2021 (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 3 and 4, 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 Assistant Director, Regulatory Services highlighted salient positive and negative data and responded to queries in relation to crime figures by type.

In response to the Chair's comments in relation to an increase in fly tipping and a request that future reports should separate fly tipping and side waste, the Assistant Director advised that work had already commenced in terms of the reporting criteria on Firm Step, the Council's new reporting platform. An update in relation to Operation Endeavour was also provided in response to a query raised.

The Chair took the opportunity to place on record his thanks to the Public Health Team in terms of successfully supporting individuals involved in drug and alcohol through the treatment process.

Decision

That the contents of the report and comments of Members be noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, the Chair advised that given there was no representation from Leader's Unlocked (Cleveland Youth Commission Update), this item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Partnership (Minute 5 refers).

10. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

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

11. Any Other Business – Verbal Update – Neighbourhood Policing

The Partnership was provided with an update in relation to the positive contributions of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in terms of the work of the Community Safety Team. Inspector Mark Haworth, who was in attendance at the meeting, was pleased to report an increase in Neighbourhood Police Officers which had assisted in delivery of current priorities as well as more targeted work in the community. Progress to date included problem solving being rolled out in every district, establishment of working groups, introduction of digital work, additional training for officers, utilising dedicated drones to assist with tackling anti-social behaviour and deliberate fires. Up to 15 dedicated officers had also been deployed to assist with the night time economy issues, theft from motor vehicles, drug dealing and organised criminality. The benefits and success of Operation Endeavour was also highlighted.

It was noted that a more detailed presentation in this regard would be provided to the next meeting of the Partnership.

Decision

That the information given be noted and a more detailed presentation be provided to the next meeting of the Partnership.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 20 September at 10.00 am.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 am.

CHAIR

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

26 July 2021

The meeting commenced at 10 am in the Borough Hall, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Moore, Leader of Council (In the Chair)

Prescribed Members:

Elected Members, Hartlepool Borough Council – Councillors Cook, Howson, and Tiplady

Representatives of NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group
– Dr Nick Timlin and David Gallagher

Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council – Craig Blundred

Representatives of Healthwatch – Christopher Akers-Belcher and Margaret Wrenn

Other Members:

Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council – Denise McGuckin

Representative of Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust – Shaun Mayo (as substitute for Brent Kilmurray)

Representative of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust –Deepak Dwarakanath

Representative of GP Federation – Fiona Adamson

Observer – Statutory Scrutiny Representative, Hartlepool Borough Council – Councillor Feeney

Also in attendance:-

ICS Director of Governance and Partnerships, Dan Jackson,
Healthwatch representatives - Stephen Thomas and Zoe Sherry

Hartlepool Borough Council Officers:

Louise Allen, Head of Service (SEND)

Kelly Armstrong, Strategic Children Commissioner

Hannah Goodman, Covid Champion Co-ordinator

Rachael Graham, Team Leader Covid Engagement & Recovery

Leigh Keeble, Head of Community Hubs and Wellbeing

Gemma Ptak, Asst Director, Preventative & Community Based Services,

Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

1. Apologies for Absence

Representative of Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust – Brent Kilmurray
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
Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council – Tony Hanson
Assistant Director of Joint Commissioning, Hartlepool Borough Council – Daniel Swainston
Representative of the NHS England – Dr Tim Butler

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2021 were confirmed

4. ICS Update

The Board received a detailed presentation by the Director of Governance and Partnerships which included the following:-

- Key purposes of ICSs
- Place and System working
- Interdependence of ICS
- Scale of ICS
- National ICS development timeline
- Overview of Health and Care Bill
- Key elements of an ICS
- Role, Functions and Composition of the Integrated Care Board
- ICS statutory duties
- Role of Integrated Care Partnership
- ICP Engagement Events
- Key stakeholders in ICS

Board members debated issues arising from the presentation. The Director of Governance and Partnerships acknowledged issues raised including concerns regarding the 'ambitious' timeline, maintenance of existing relationships and patient involvement. In response to concerns expressed by an elected member, the Director gave assurance that the ICS related to the management reorganisation and would not impact front line services.

Decision

The presentation was noted.

5. Covid Update

The Director of Public Health provided an updated presentation on the ongoing coronavirus position in Hartlepool. The presentation focussed on the following:-

- Hartlepool and UK Covid 19 case rates per 100,000 population
- Weekly Covid cases as a comparator with the England average
- Hartlepool and England Covid 19 related death rates per 100,000 population
- Percentage 1st and 2nd dose Covid vaccinated population by age for Hartlepool in comparison to England.

The Board was advised that the Government had announced enhanced support for the Borough – along with the whole of the North East region. The detail of the support package was still being worked on but would include assistance to roll out more localised vaccine delivery.

In the discussion that followed, the Director of Public Health responded to issues raised arising from the presentation. The representatives of the GP Federation and North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust, also provided further covid updates. It was noted that it was intended that the Local Authority would promote myth-busting messages in Hartbeat to reassure young women in particular that Covid-19 vaccines were safe and did not affect fertility or breast-feeding. The North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust representative advised that his colleagues would support those messages.

Decision

The presentation was noted.

6. Update on Care Quality Commission (CQC) Action Plan *(Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust)*

A briefing document had been circulated with agenda documentation which provided an update on some of the significant steps taken since an unannounced Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection on some adult inpatient wards in January. Following the inspection, correspondence had been received from the CQC relating to concerns about risk management processes. The briefing note also summarised some of the work which had been done as part of the action plan, which is overseen and reviewed by an external quality assurance board including representatives from NHS England and Improvement, commissioners and the CQC. It was concluded that the Trust was well underway developing Our Journey to Change, the new strategic direction, which had been launched.

Shaun Mayo, Head of Service (MHSOP), expanded on issues addressed in the briefing document in terms of an update on the CQC inspections, actions taken and future direction and longer term actions.

Decision

The update was noted.

7. Covid Champion Update

The Board received a comprehensive update by the Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services, which detailed the infrastructure for the Engagement Team, its priorities and the role of the COVID champions. Board members were advised of the effective working with testing, tracking and vaccination programmes and the long term implications of COVID and community engagement.

Decision

The presentation was noted.

8. Update - Reviewed Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) Priorities and Development of a 'Place Based' Plan *(Director of Public Health)*

Following consideration of an update on the outcome of Working Groups / Partner sessions, the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on the 9th March 2020 had approved the following:

- The reviewed priorities (as set out in the report);
- That, rather than starting something completely new, a plan to widen the work currently being undertaken by the Council's Children's Services Department (focusing actions on 85 streets in the Victoria Ward) should be developed. Emphasis to be placed on the importance of achieving clear outcomes in the identified areas; and
- The establishment of a Partnership Group of senior leaders to oversee the implementation of 'Hartlepool 85 Streets'.

An extract from the minutes of the meeting was appended to the report.

The Board was advised that the development of the 'place based' plan had not progressed as far, or at the pace, intended. The co-ordination of the Covid-19 response requiring the focusing of resources across all Health and Wellbeing Board partners.

Decision

The Board noted the update.

9. Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference - Review *(Director of Public Health)*

The report sought consideration of the Board with regard to the incorporation of the role and responsibilities of the Outbreak Control Engagement Working Group in to the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

Board members discussed a request from Hartlepower for an increase in the number of VCS representatives on the Board (as non-prescribed / non-voting members) to two. The benefit of the sector being represented on the Board was recognised. However, in order for it to meet its full potential, emphasis was placed on the importance of a communication strategy to ensure that information is effectively shared by the VCS H&WB representatives across the full VCS sector.

Board Members considered approval request for the development of a Communications / Engagement Strategy for the Board (as referenced in the Board's Terms of Reference).

Decision

The Board

- i) Approved a request from Hartlepower for an increase in the number of VCS representatives on the Board (as non-prescribed / non-voting members) to two.
- ii) Approved the refreshed Terms of Reference (as provided in Appendix A); and
- iii) Approved the development of a draft Communication and Engagement Strategy for consideration at the next Board meeting

10. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) *(Director of Public Health)*

Following extensions to the statutory publication deadline for the revised PNA, the Board was updated on its responsibilities, and required actions, in relation to the operation and revision of Hartlepool's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2018. The report sought approval for the revised timetable, process and continuation of delegations required to facilitate the completion the required revision of the PNA and revised Statement of Intent to been published on the Hartlepool Borough Council website. The report also sought ratification of Supplementary Statements issued during 2020/21.

Decision

The Board noted and ratified the Supplementary Statements detailed in Appendix B.

In relation to the revision of the PNA, the Board:-

- i) Acknowledged the content of the report including the outline plan and timetable towards the review of the PNA of the Hartlepool HWB, commencing immediately.
- ii) Delegated authority to the Director of Public Health (DPH), in conjunction with the Chair of the Board, for approval of the draft PNA 2021 for release to formal 60 day consultation.
- iii) Approved the continued delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health (DPH), in conjunction with the Chair of the Board, for elements of the maintenance and use of the PNA, and for the DPH to approve, as required:
 - Publication of minor errata/ service updates as on-going notifications that fall short of formal Supplementary Statements to the PNA (for example changes of ownership, minor relocations of pharmacies, minor adjustments to opening hours and service contracts that do not impact on need);
 - Any response on behalf of the Hartlepool HWB to NHS England (42 day) consultation on applications to provide new or amended pharmaceutical services, based on the PNA; and
 - Any initial determination with respect to the potential for either a Supplementary Statement or need for full review. Publication of Supplementary Statements to be ratified by the HWB at suitable periodic intervals (e.g. annually) as required.
- iv) In accordance with the NHS Pharmaceutical Services regulations, now that the HWB is in the course of making its revised assessment for 2021, the HWB will monitor any changes to availability for pharmaceutical services in its area in the intervening period. The HWB will publish a Supplementary Statement on any changes (to availability) where (if) it is satisfied that immediate modification of its pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (2018) is essential in order to prevent significant detriment to the provision of pharmaceutical services in the town.
- v) Agenda items related to consultation, review, maintenance (including Supplementary Statements) and future publication of the Hartlepool PNA be received as required at future Board meetings.

vi) Approved the:

- Revised Statement of Intent to be published on the Hartlepool Borough Council website (as detailed in Section 4.3 of the report); and
- Timetable for the revision and publication of the PNA (as detailed in Appendix C).

11. SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Improvement Plan Progress *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

The report set out progress on the local area's SEND Improvement Plan. Background information was presented in the report. It was highlighted that a review meeting with DfE and NHS England had been held in February with Local Authority, CCG, schools and parent representatives. The meeting had reviewed progress against the SEND Accelerated Progress Plan. The Board was advised that DfE had felt that the area had made significant progress and that formal monitoring was no longer needed and there was no further need for an Accelerated Progress Plan. The letter received from the DfE was appended to the report.

The report set out 2020/2021 progress in terms of Quality of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), Governance, Understanding Needs/Joint Commissioning, Access to advice, guidance and support and Workforce Development. In addition to this work which was being undertaken, there were two reviews taking place as set out in the report. As previously reported to the Board, a peer review had been planned for April 2020 however due to the pandemic this has not been possible. The SEND Strategic Group had agreed an area review would be beneficial in the New Year (2022) once the above pieces of work had been completed.

It was noted that sub regional work is being carried out to review the Dynamic risk register. This register highlights children and young people that may be at risk of hospital admission due to Autism and/ or complex disabilities and undertakes CETR (Care Education and Treatment Review) to ensure the appropriate provision in the community is available. A project officer has been recruited and is employed by Stockton on behalf of the Tees Valley. Officers in Hartlepool are taking part in this piece of work.

Decision

The Board noted the progress in relation to support for children with SEND and reflected on their duties for children under the Children and Families Act 2014 to ensure that children with SEND are supported as appropriate.

12. Healthwatch Hartlepool Annual Report *(Healthwatch Hartlepool CIO)*

A copy of Healthwatch Hartlepool's published Annual Report for 2019 – 20 had been circulated. Board Members were reminded that Healthwatch Hartlepool had to publish an Annual Report by 30th June as a requirement under the Health & Social Care Act 2012. The Chief Executive, Healthwatch Hartlepool, thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the report and highlighted the salient issues included in the report. Steve Thomas provided further details in relation to loneliness and isolation work and Zoe Sherry addressed the Board in her role as Chair of the Mental Health Forum and Healthwatch lead for mental health.

Board Members debated issues arising from the report.

Decision

The Board noted the Healthwatch Hartlepool Annual Report 2019 – 2020

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

Board members were advised that performance reports were routinely submitted to NHS England on a quarterly basis however reporting had been suspended over the past year due to COVID19 and a single year end return had been required which followed a different format to previous returns. The year end return for 2020/21 had been submitted in May 2021 and had confirmed that all national conditions continued to be achieved, as well as confirming that BCF contributions were in line with national guidance. The 2020/21 return had required local systems to record their views regarding a number of statements and the responses provided for Hartlepool were set out in the report.

Decision

The report was noted.

14. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers Urgent

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

15. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers Urgent

A Board Member brought to the attention of the Board proposals for the permanent closure of the medical practice within Hartfields. The Board was advised of the concern of residents and the assistance of the Board was requested by the elected member.

The Chief Executive, Healthwatch Hartlepool, advised that he was not aware of any statutory consultation on the proposals and suggested that a letter be sent on behalf of the Board to the Clinical Commissioning Group to determine if there are any plans, whether there would be consultation and inviting involvement of Healthwatch as a statutory consultee. The Chief Officer, Clinical Commissioning Group, clarified there was a procedure to be followed with regard to proposals for closure of a medical practice and he would pick this up following the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 12.15 p.m.

CHAIR

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 November 2021



Report of: Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key decision - CJCS 110/21

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To present the revised 'Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-24' which includes comments received during the consultation process.
- 2.2 To advise members of the results of the consultation process.
- 2.3 To propose that the strategy is approved in order that actions outlined in the strategy can begin.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 required council's across the country to prepare and implement a clear strategy for homelessness reduction and rough sleeping. Hartlepool has historically included homelessness and rough sleeping within the council's approved Housing Strategy however advice from then Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is that this does not adequately address the strategy for homelessness and rough sleeping and a stand-alone strategy is required.
- 3.2 At the committee meeting of the 13 September 2021 a draft 'Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy' was presented for consideration. In addition the strategy was opened up for public for consultation.

4. CONSULTATION PROCESS AND RESPONSES

- 4.1 The draft strategy was circulated across multiple networks including The Homelessness Prevention Partnership. Private and social landlords, professionals from support agencies and the public were asked to comment on the strategy either via return email, by contacting the Head of Service directly or by using the interactive consultation weblink that was created.
- 4.2 In total 38 responses were received. This included 15 members of the Homelessness Prevention Partnership, 13 directly to the Head of Service and 10 via the web link. Responses were received from social landlords, mental health, police, housing advice agencies, specialist support providers and council staff / departments.
- 4.4 Two adults who had experienced homelessness shared their stories in order to help shape future services.
- 4.5 In summary, all responses that were received agreed with the key proposed objectives which were:
- Prevent and relieve homelessness
 - End rough sleeping
 - Provide temporary accommodation, support people to move on and increase housing options
 - Support complex adults.
- 4.6 A number of suggestions for additions/ action were proposed including:
- Clearer descriptions of what council services are already in place to alleviate homelessness and rough sleeping
 - Explanations of how and when temporary accommodation is used (including Bed and Breakfast)
 - Clarification of how homeless young people are supported
 - An understanding on licensing and landlord accreditation as a means to tackle homelessness
 - Assurances around sufficiency of provision for victims of domestic abuse
 - Work with the most complex service users needed further attention by the very nature of their presenting needs (mental and physical ill-health, substance misuse, financial hardship etc).
- 4.7 All comments received have been considered and included within the proposed revision attached at **Appendix A**.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific financial considerations for this report.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to prepare and implement a clear strategy for homelessness reduction.

7. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The majority of people who present as homeless are individuals however any family with children who are identified as homeless are supported by the team as a matter of urgency.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Vulnerable groups have been identified within the draft strategy and the team will continue to work to support those identified as homeless.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

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

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

11. RECOMMENDATION

- 11.1 Members are asked to approve the attached homelessness reduction and rough sleeping strategy.

12. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 12.1 To ensure that those individuals and families that become homeless are supported to find appropriate accommodation.
- 12.2 To ensure that the council fulfils its statutory duties.

13. CONTACT OFFICER

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Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning, Civic Centre, 01429 523732, Danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk



HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION AND ROUGH

SLEEPING STRATEGY

2021 – 2024

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1. Introduction

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 required council's across the country to prepare and implement a clear strategy for homelessness reduction. Hartlepool Borough Council's approach to homelessness is one of partnership with a shared commitment to reducing, preventing and tackling homelessness through a multi-agency approach. The Homelessness Prevention Partnership was established in 2019 with a focus on the premise that wherever possible homelessness should be prevented rather than alleviated and that together effective solutions can be found.

This strategy sets out the local context and how together we will tackle homelessness. It has due regard for the approved Council Plan, the Economic Growth Strategy, the Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy, the Child and Family Poverty Strategy, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Plan (which includes community safety and domestic abuse) and the Housing Strategy 2019-2024.

Across all key strategic plans Hartlepool Council is clear: we have a duty to protect vulnerable residents through effective and targeted intervention, create an environment which fosters opportunity and prosperity, promotes equality and develops strong and healthy communities. Specifically the council has due regard to:

1.1 Protect the most vulnerable through targeted intervention including:

- People who are subject to or at risk of harm
- People who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- People who are financially excluded
- People whose circumstances make them vulnerable.

1.2 The Housing Strategy 2019-2024

The Housing Strategy is a strategic document that sets out the framework for how we will work with our partners and residents to grow, improve, support and deliver our housing offer. Our ambition is to offer more housing choice by developing new homes and improving and regenerating our existing homes and communities. We are strongly committed to supporting our most vulnerable residents to access and maintain appropriate and good quality housing to meet their needs.

2. National Policy and Context

Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping is a key priority for the government and The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 significantly reformed homelessness legislation by placing duties on local authorities to intervene at an earlier stage to prevent homelessness. It also requires housing authorities to provide homelessness services to all those affected, not just those who are vulnerable and in priority need. It includes a new prevention and relief duty. The government has committed to halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-rough-sleeping-strategy>

2.1 The definition of homelessness

The definition of homelessness remains unchanged as defined in the Housing Act 1996. In summary, someone is considered to be homeless if they do not have a legal right to occupy

accommodation, or if their accommodation is unsuitable to live in. This can cover a wide range of circumstances, including, but not restricted to, the following:

- having no accommodation at all
- having accommodation that is not reasonable to live in, even in the short-term (e.g. because of violence or health reasons)
- having a legal right to accommodation that they cannot access (e.g. if they have been evicted illegally)
- living in accommodation they have no legal right to occupy (e.g. living in a squat or staying with friends temporarily)

Local councils have a legal duty to provide advice and assistance to anyone that requires it; in addition there is a duty to provide advice and assistance to people who are legally defined as homeless or threatened with homelessness. However, not everyone who falls within the legal definition necessarily qualifies for temporary accommodation.

2.2 Making Every Contact Count (2016)

Making Every Contact Count is a joint approach to prevent homelessness, which recognises that intervening earlier to prevent homelessness is key to its ambitions on social justice, particularly in terms of supporting the most disadvantaged individuals and families by tackling many of the underlying problems that, if left unchecked, can contribute to homelessness. The aim of this objective is a simple one: “to make sure every contact local agencies make with vulnerable people and families really count”. We must be clear, for many people becoming homeless is not the beginning of their problems; it comes at the end of a long line of crises, interactions with public and voluntary agencies and missed opportunities, which must be changed.

2.3 Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation

Nationally homelessness services are facing unprecedented pressures, with demand for both permanent and temporary accommodation often exceeding supply. For most Local Authority’s bed and breakfast (B&B) placements are regarded as the “last resort” in terms of placements for interim accommodation and are made in cases of emergency where no other suitable accommodation is available at the time to meet the needs of the person or family, for example, when accommodation is needed outside of office hours or during weekends. Specifically, 16 and 17 year olds should not be in B&B and if they are this should not be longer than 6 weeks.

2.4 ‘No second night out’ and ‘Everyone In’

The government’s ‘No Second Night Out’ specifically relates to rough sleepers and urges councils to ensure rough sleepers are identified and helped off the streets immediately. It includes ensuring they have a place of safety where their needs can be assessed and they can get help. Since the COVID-19 pandemic this has been extended through ‘Everyone In’ with funding support from government to ensure all rough sleepers are temporarily accommodated for the duration of the pandemic acknowledging that they are amongst the most vulnerable people. Locally we have seen a steady number of single (male) adults in need of temporary accommodation and support with problems with family/ friends, offending behaviours and substance misuse being the drivers behind their homelessness.

2.5 Housing First

Housing First is an approach to end long term homelessness for people with complex needs. It has been developed specifically to meet the needs of the most challenging client groups who have previously been unable to access or sustain housing. It works on the simple

premise that securing safe and stable accommodation first provides the necessary foundation to enable the steps towards improved recovery.

3. The Local context

Hartlepool is a small coastal town with a population of c93,700 people. c57,500 residents are aged 16 – 64 years, 18,198 are aged over 65 years and 17,995 are 0-15 years. According to the mid 2019 census data there are 44,250 dwellings. 36 of our LSOAs fall within the top 10% most deprived nationally compared to 29 across the Tees Valley region. Our homeless relief duty rate is recorded in 2019 as 4.6 per 1000 and is lower than the 7.1 per 1000 average for the Tees Valley region. [

https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/InstantAtlas/Tees_Valley_Data_Insights/atlas.html]

Hartlepool has a Housing Strategy and Advice Team that undertakes all functions associated with rough sleeping and homelessness. Our working knowledge and service user experience tells us that most people that experience homelessness can be supported successfully to secure alternative suitable accommodation and support where appropriate. However for a minority of people, homelessness is a by-product of a complex interplay of problems often outside of the individuals' control that can include (but are not limited to) poverty, physical and mental ill health and substance misuse.

3.1 Key facts

In 2020-21 the government amended housing legislation to prevent people being made homeless through eviction during the pandemic. This has therefore impacted on the general advice and relief duties for the 20-21 financial year. Tables 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 indicate the numbers of general housing and homelessness enquiries received and recorded by the Housing Advice Team and the number of those that resulted in a 'relief' duty and accommodation.

Table 3.1.1

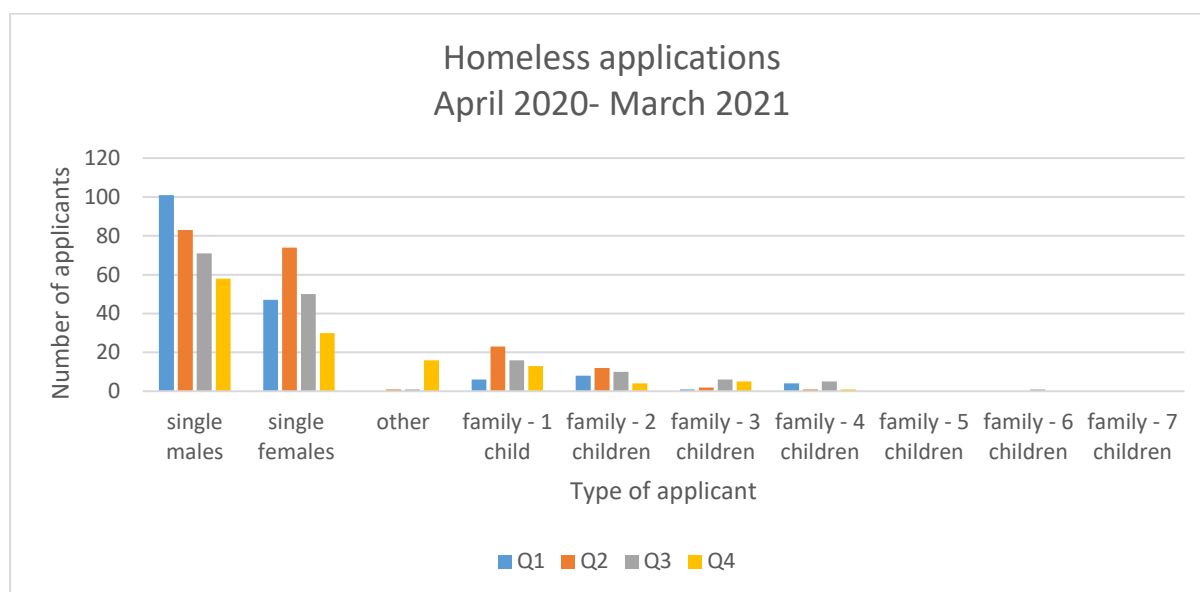
General advice – housing and homelessness	
2020-21	619
2019-20	956
2018-19	851

Table 3.1.2

Relief and accommodation duty accepted		
	Relief duty accepted	Accommodation accepted
2020-21	243	172
2019-20	268	184
2018-19	181	125

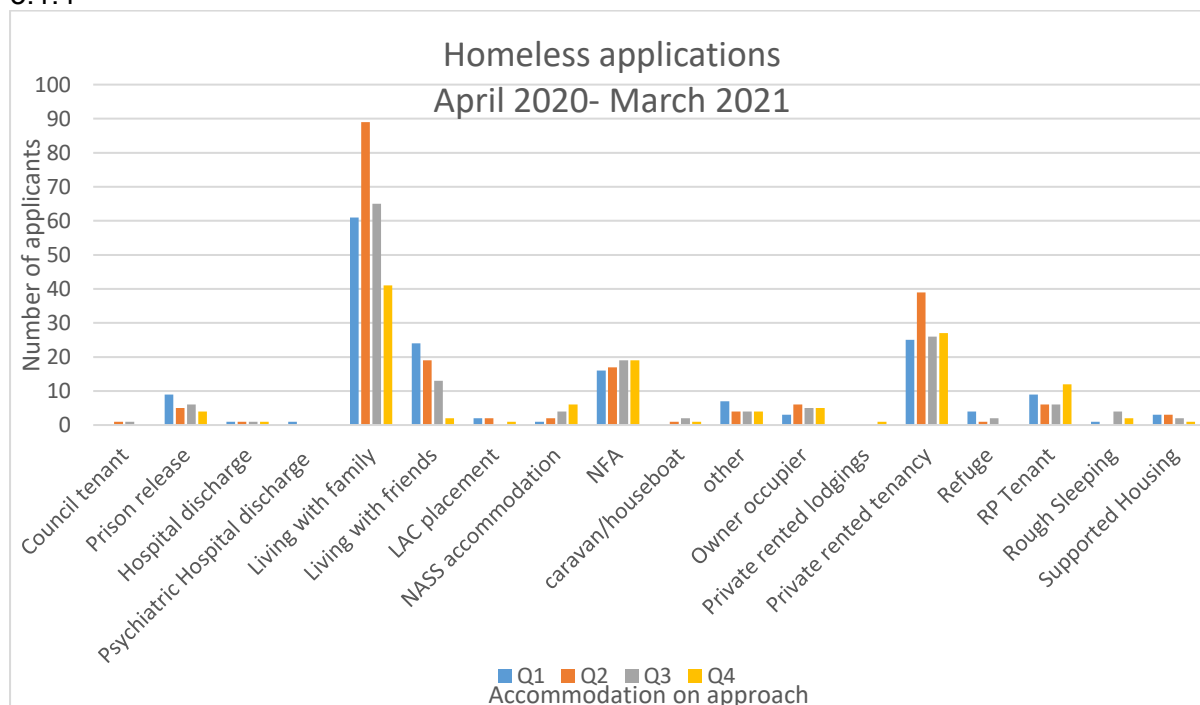
Typically single people make the largest number of homeless applications – usually more men than women. Table 3.1.3 below shows the quarterly trend over the past year and confirms that only small numbers of cases in Hartlepool involved families with dependent children. This confirms our need for one bedroom accommodation as this is by far in greatest demand. Single people tend to be in the 18 – 54 years age bracket with more than half of them being 18-34 years of age.

Table 3.1.3



Reasons for homelessness are detailed in 3.1.4 below and indicate that family no longer willing or able to accommodate is by far the biggest reason for referral for homelessness support. The end of a private rented tenancy, domestic abuse and relationship breakdown are the next greatest reported reason for homelessness.

3.1.4



4. Supporting vulnerable people and preventing homelessness

Most people that experience homelessness are supported successfully into alternative accommodation and do not require any further support. However some people have greater needs and require different levels of support in order to prevent and alleviate homelessness. These people require a multi-agency partnership approach, tailored to their needs to ensure they do not fall through the net and that their vulnerabilities are not further increased.

4.1 Young people and care leavers

Children's Social Care has a duty to assess all homeless 16/17 year olds to establish whether they have care and support needs and if so, they have the right to become looked after and be provided with a care placement. Most often young people do not want to become looked after and therefore opt for more independent options eg supported accommodation. Whatever choice a young person makes, social care and the housing advice teams ensure they have appropriate accommodation and support to meet their specific needs.

4.2 Victims of Domestic Abuse

The new Domestic Abuse Act places additional duties on local authorities including the requirement to establish a multi-agency Local Partnership Board (LPB). The Act includes a duty to:

- Assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support
- Develop and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
- Give effect to strategies by making commissioning / de-commissioning decisions
- Meet the support needs of victims and their children.

A new Partnership Board is in place and work to develop a local strategy and plan is currently underway.

4.3 Former members of the armed forces

Members of Her Majesty's regular naval, military and air forces are generally provided with accommodation by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), but are required to leave this accommodation when they are discharged from the service. Prior to leaving the service, the armed forces provide housing information and advice to service personnel. The Tees Valley Allocations Policy gives an additional priority to those who are serving, or who have served with the armed forces ensuring that any homeless needs are met.

4.4 Migrants and refugees

Hartlepool has an asylum community supported by the government's commissioned provider 'Mears'. Mears provides all necessary support and accommodation to asylum seekers and there is no legal responsibility on the council. Should they be awarded Leave to Remain by the government then a notification procedure is in place to ensure that their transition to refugee status includes support from the council to access suitable accommodation that meets their family needs. With only 28 days notice to leave their asylum accommodation, the turn around can be difficult and it is not unusual for refugees to be housed in the private rented sector as this is often the quickest way in which they can secure a home.

4.5 Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking and Those with No Recourse to Public Funds

Local authorities have a duty under section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to notify the Home Office about a potential victim of trafficking or modern slavery. Hartlepool is an active member of the Cleveland Anti Slavery Network and has a victim care pathway in place. This includes making a referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) subject to consent. Our experience of such cases is limited however across both Children's and Adults departments we are fully aware of our responsibilities and duties should a situation occur.

4.6 People with an offending history

There are a number of agencies, both statutory and voluntary, dealing with ex-offenders. Many ex-offenders experience homelessness or are threatened with homelessness. There is a need for prisoners and ex-offenders to be aware of their housing rights, both in respect of maintaining their accommodation where appropriate on sentence and accessing accommodation on their release. The prison service has a Duty to Refer ensuring that the housing advice team is fully briefed on potential homeless applications from ex-offenders in advance of their release into the community.

4.7 Service users with multiple and complex needs

A small number of adults have significant and complex needs including problems with their mental and physical health. These adults require intensive support from a range of service providers to ensure they are supported into suitable accommodation and helped to sustain it. The costs associated with not supporting such adults with a 'team around' approach far exceed those associated with providing a multi-agency response and in many cases help prevent death.

5. What have we got in place and what else do we need?

Hartlepool Council has access to a range of accommodation and support options for service users experiencing homelessness and our response is tailored to an individual's assessed needs. This includes accommodation and support for young people as well as adults. In some cases this is commissioned and in other cases providers deliver supported exempt accommodation and claim appropriate subsidy costs for their services. Appendix 1 shows the current (November 2021) position.

5.1 Working in partnership

Preventing and alleviating homelessness and rough sleeping is everyone's business. The key to sustained success requires partnership support. We work collaboratively with a number of internal and external partner agencies. This includes for example:

- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly MHCLG)
- Internal council partnerships: Strategic Housing Management and the HRA / Private Sector Housing and Enforcement Public Protection / Community Safety and ASB team / Special Needs Housing / Planning Department
- The Homeless Prevention Partnership
- The Rough Sleeper Action Group
- Tees Valley Lettings Partnership

- North East Regional Homelessness Forum
- The VCS.

5.2 What do we know is missing and needs to be developed?

Hartlepool continues to deliver an effective homelessness service however the town is seeing rough sleeping more than in previous years. Everyone In has enabled us to establish further temporary accommodation and support options and this needs to be sustained. The recent national emergency in relation to COVID-19 will inevitably mean that there will be an increase in financial hardship, in vulnerability and therefore homelessness. Additionally, complex service users are on the increase and have multiple support needs; these clients require extensive time and resources to keep them housed, safe and able to begin recovery.

6. Objectives and actions required

OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT AND RELIEVE HOMELESSNESS

- Ensure the newly restructured team is fit for purpose and suitably trained and equipped to undertake all statutory functions relating to homelessness
- Ensure public information is up-to-date, accurate and readily available for those experiencing homelessness
- Ensure the Homeless Prevention Partnership is strong, effective and appropriately supported to deliver on the homelessness action plan
- Maximise all opportunities for funding to support the delivery of our services
- Review all supported accommodation currently available in the town and ensure it delivers services and support that matches need
- Review the allocations policy ensuring it meets the needs of those most vulnerable
- Review 'Quality Homes' to ensure it delivers the principles of social lettings
- Undertake research into the value of a landlord accreditation scheme with a view to improvements to the private rented sector where needed
- Re-inforce the Duty to Refer process with key stakeholders so that effective communication and information sharing supports the accommodation of vulnerable adults
- Re-visit the 'Team Around' process ensuring adults with complex lives are effectively supported via a multi-agency approach
- Engage service users in our work allowing their voice to influence our approach – listen to and act upon the stories they can tell and learn from them what can work well
- Work collaboratively across the Tees Valley, the wider region and country on activities that are mutually beneficial
- Undertake a Needs Assessment and ensure our data is accurate and reported appropriately so we have a thorough understanding of need.

OBJECTIVE 2: END ROUGH SLEEPING

- Continue to collaborate with key partners in the Rough Sleeper Action Group; locate, identify and bring in rough sleepers through rapid response using the skills of agencies within the voluntary and community sector
- Continue to benefit from external experts in rough sleeping and their flexible approaches to locating rough sleepers out of hours
- Investigate the opportunity to operate a 'safe place to go' in Hartlepool collaboration with a suitable partner

- Address the root causes of rough sleeping tackling identified issues in collaboration with partners
- Explore alternative accommodation solutions including the Housing First model where appropriate
- Ensure provision of emergency accommodation for cold weather months (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol), including support for people to be able to move on.

OBJECTIVE 3: PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION, SUPPORT PEOPLE TO MOVE ON AND INCREASE ACCESS TO HOUSING

- Continue to provide an out of hours service so that the public and emergency services can make contact and we can secure safety for homeless people
- Ensure temporary accommodation is always available, accessible and of a good standard and used appropriately while homelessness assessments are undertaken
- Use “out of borough” placements as a last resort and only because it meets client needs
- Ensure strong relationships with Registered Providers and Private Rented Sector Landlords are in place so that a wide range of accommodation options are available
- Explore alternative accommodation options for service users maximising use of existing buildings and space where appropriate
- Ensure tenancy support is in place so that service users can be helped to move on from temporary accommodation into alternative housing with support plans in place as appropriate
- Strengthen our tenancy support and Housing First delivery process.

OBJECTIVE 4: SUPPORTING COMPLEX ADULTS

- Ensure appropriate staffing is in place to meet the needs of complex service users – consider co-location of other professionals to fully support effective interventions
- Ensure the team is trained in understanding the needs of complex service users and the impact of Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences on lives
- Review the current Team Around the Adult (TATI) procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose and address the needs of complex adults that are experiencing multiple issues including homelessness
- Work alongside the Substance Misuse service – we are stronger together given the shared service users that span across both areas
- Hold weekly multi agency meetings for service users with multiple needs and ensure multi agency support is in place to support effective interventions (the ‘Huddle’ method)
- Assess and secure suitable accommodation for complex service users using a range of options including commissioned supported accommodation, Housing First, support in dispersed accommodation
- Provide Tenancy Support to complex service users and ensure they have a plan and are supported to achieve agreed goals
- Make sure we have regular contact with our most complex service users and be confident that they are safe; alert appropriate partners where we do not think this is the case.

7. MONITORING THE STRATEGY AND PLAN

The Homelessness Prevention Partnership will have oversight of the strategy and will develop an action plan based on the core objectives. The Strategy will be reviewed annually. The Partnership will have oversight of the action plan and monitor progress.

The plan will:

- Detail all actions required to meet our core objectives
- Detail timescales for completion and identify named lead officers/ partners
- Highlight resource implications
- Identify gaps in service provision that need attention
- Indicate anticipated outcomes and measurements of success

8. CONTACT US

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Lynda Igoe
Principal Officer – housing advice
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Appendix 1

Current services and provision to alleviate and support those at risk of / experiencing homelessness.

Name of provider/ provision	Service description	Lead agency
'Housing Options' – Housing Advice and Homelessness Service	Delivers day to day / office hours face to face and telephone advice and support to prevent and alleviate homelessness and rough sleeping. Delivers out of hours emergency service including weekends and bank holidays responding police and other emergency service needs	Hartlepool Council, Housing Advice Team
Bed & Breakfast/ hotels	Used for emergency temporary accommodation 'out of office hours' when someone needs to be accommodated pending an assessment. Grant funding provided by DLUHC to support costs.	Hartlepool Council, Housing Advice Team [evenings/ weekends and bank holidays]
Exempt accommodation providers (EAPs)	Accommodation that is not commissioned by the local authority, instead using 'exempt' provisions of current Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Regulations. In such accommodation, rental levels in excess of private sector Local Housing Allowance Rates can be charged where providers indicate that they provide a level of 'care, support or supervision' to claimants.	Varies – includes registered providers (social landlords) as well as private organisations and charities.
Homeless adults with mental health needs	Flats and on-site support for homeless single adults with mental health needs	Creative Support
Commissioned accommodation and support – homeless adults	Contracts in place with Registered Providers for: Bedsits, crash pad and dispersed properties for adults with low to medium level needs (e.g. ex-offenders and substance misuse service users)	Home Group

	Houses and crash pads for adults with medium to high levels needs (e.g. ex-offenders, substance misuse service users) Outreach support service for those that have moved on	
Commissioned accommodation and support – homeless young people	Bedsits and crash pads for young people aged up to 18 and young people aged up to 25	Thirteen Sanctuary Supported Living
Commissioned accommodation and support – young people with children	Flats for young people (single/ couple) and their young child/ren	Thirteen
Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP)	Flats and houses for medium to high level needs adults that require support	Sanctuary Supported Living New Walk CiC Community Campus
Move On	Houses for adults that need low level help in the community	Home Group
Supported Lodgings	Help for young people aged 16-18 that live with another adult and receive day to day life skills support	Varies
Rough Sleeper support [and accommodation]	Regular 'sweeps' by trained staff of areas known to be used by rough sleepers to engage and bring them in	Cornerstone
Housing First	Designed for homeless people with complex support needs the model builds on the starting block of having your own home first thus creating the right climate for engaging with other support agencies to enable change	Hartlepool Council, Housing Advice Team using HBC and other registered providers properties

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15 November 2021



Report of: Director, Children and Joint Commissioning Services
and Director of Resources and Development

Subject: HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision (test (i)/(ii) apply) General Exception Notice applied.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To present to Finance and Policy Committee details of the Government's Household Support Fund and outline proposals to commit this funding to support those in greatest need of assistance.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 30 September 2021, the Government announced its allocation of £500m to support vulnerable households to help them with essentials over the coming months as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic. The Household Support Fund (HSF) covers the period 06 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 inclusive. Local Authorities have discretion on exactly how this funding is used within the scope set out in guidance and grant determination. The expectation is that it should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.
- 3.2 The HSF aims to support a wide range of vulnerable households including those with children of all ages and those without children. Support is not restricted to households in receipt of benefits.
- 3.3 The HSF Guidance document advises that local authorities can deliver the scheme through a variety of routes including providing vouchers to

households, making direct provision of food, or issuing grants to third parties (with the exception of debt advice provision).

- 3.4 Local authorities are required to develop a 'local eligibility framework and approach' to underpin the distribution of the grant funding based on local need around what will best support households most in need. At least 50% of the funding must be used for vulnerable households with children; the remainder of the funding (up to 50%) is available for vulnerable households without children (including individuals).

- 3.5 Eligible spend includes:

- Food;
- Energy and water;
- Essentials linked to energy and water including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens etc;
- Wider essentials which may include, but are not limited to, support with other bills including broadband or phone bills, clothing, and essential transport-related costs;
- Housing Costs in cases of genuine emergency where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need;
- Reasonable administrative costs including reasonable costs incurred administering the scheme.

Eligible spend does not include:

- Advice services such as debt advice;
- Mortgage costs.

- 3.6 On 07 October 2021, the Council received formal notification of the arrangements for the administration of the HSF including draft guidance, grant determination and delivery plan templates. Hartlepool Borough Council has been allocated an indicative grant of £993,021.25.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 In Hartlepool there are approximately 13,500 households who benefit from the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS), 9,000 of which are working age households. This is a useful indication of the number of households in Hartlepool who may be vulnerable to experiencing financial hardship. Of these households, approximately 3,500 have dependent children. There are approximately 5,600 children of statutory school age who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). If this eligibility is stretched from vulnerable two years to those still in full time education up to 19 years of age, there are approximately 8,000 eligible children.
- 4.2 This grant differs from the previously administered Covid Winter Support Grant and Covid Local Support Grant in that the reach is aimed at a wider number of vulnerable households, nevertheless, there is still a requirement

to ensure that at least 50% of the grant is spent on children. Councils are expected to reach a broad spectrum of households, not just those on benefits.

- 4.3 Officer have met to explore the available options to maximise the impact of this grant to support vulnerable households in Hartlepool. This has included considering what support can be delivered using Local Council Tax Support or other benefit entitlement, free school meal vouchers, support through voluntary and community sector organisations and the Local Welfare Support Scheme.
- 4.4 It should be noted that the administration of such a large grant poses significant challenges to the capacity and workload of the local authority. During the delivery of the previous grants where the vast majority of support was delivered to households through the provision of electronic food vouchers, there were issues with the voucher scheme itself, digital exclusion, ability to redeem codes and the need to print and distribute vouchers to families via schools. As such, this wider scheme, with a broader offer, will require an even greater commitment from Council officers to ensure it runs effectively, reaches those most in need and is administered efficiently. In this context, it is considered that a wholesale scheme based on an application process will be too time consuming, unmanageable and will not reach all those who require the support.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the grant is distributed by the following means;

Organisation/Scheme	Allocation	Rationale
Support for Families	£640,000	To provide cash or food vouchers to the value of £80 to be distributed to all children eligible for free school meals aged 2 -18. This will ensure that at least 50% of funding is spent on children. See 4.6 below for distribution options.
Local Welfare Support Scheme	£80,000	The Hartlepool Local Welfare Support Scheme is increased to enable the scheme to allocate awards for food, fuel and household goods. These awards will be made based on personal circumstances and are not means tested.

Housing Advice Team	£60,000	To provide assistance to meet exceptional housing costs. This funding will be used to support those who are at risk of eviction due to housing and council tax arrears.
Support for Individuals (inc. Pensioners) in receipt of benefit (LCTS or UC)	£50,000	To provide payments of £60 to circa 800 non-dependent households. Applications to be received via referrals from relevant agencies or internal services.
Hartlepool Food Bank	£10,000	Food parcels/bags of shopping to be distributed through their schemes. Both organisations have formal arrangements with the Council and a client base of people who benefit from their services.
The Bread and Butter Thing	£10,000	
Citizen's Advice Bureau	£40,000	To provide fuel vouchers. Both organisations currently deliver the Energy Redress Scheme so have the staff and software in place to purchase £30 fuel codes that can be sent to recipients via mobile phone text messaging.
Advice at Hart	£40,000	
Anglian Water	£15,000	To provide assistance to households in debt and water poverty through the Anglian Water Assistance Fund.
HBC Grant administration	£48,021	To cover the costs of the staffing, administration, printing, postage etc. associated with delivering the scheme.
Total	£993,021	

- 4.6 Having considered the range of options for the provision of food for families with children, there is no one model that officers consider offers an accessible, easy to use and effective scheme. There are therefore two options for consideration.

Option	Pros	Cons
Option 1 - Purchase of supermarket voucher codes through Edenred, an online food voucher platform that has been used by schools and the Council to deliver the free school meals schemes during the Covid pandemic.	<p>Enables codes to be sent direct to recipients via email</p> <p>Reduced administration for Council officers</p> <p>Enables recipients to select the supermarket or store of their preference</p> <p>Unredeemed vouchers are credited to the local authority and can be redistributed to those in need.</p>	<p>Digital exclusion</p> <p>Number of vouchers go unredeemed or unspent</p> <p>Less accessible, historically HBC has had to print and send vouchers to recipients via schools due to complexities of process</p>
Option 2 - Purchase of pre-loaded supermarket cards to be spent in stores on food.	<p>Can be batch purchased and sent directly to recipients</p> <p>Easiest to use, can be redeemed against shopping bill at checkout</p>	<p>Only Morrison's currently offer the option of bulk purchase store cards, which limits recipients to one store and one location</p>

- 4.7 On balance and evaluating the pros and cons of both of the above options, the officer recommendation to Finance and Policy Committee is to approve option two as this is the easiest scheme which ensure that households receive credited gift cards that can be redeemed at the checkout for their shopping.
- 4.8 It is proposed that delivery of the scheme will commence in November 2021 and funding is provided to third party organisations at the earliest opportunity to enable them to start reaching those in need immediately. With regard to any food scheme, it is proposed that two payments of £40 will be made to the parent /carer of each eligible child, one in mid December and a further payment in early February to phase the provision of support and link to school holiday times when children will not be in school and receiving their free school meals.

- 4.9 Should it become clear that individual strands of support outlined in 4.5 above are not being fully utilised, it is proposed to give delegation to the Director, Children and Joint Commissioning Services, in conjunction with the chair of Finance and Policy Committee, to amend funding pots so as to ensure full utilisation of grant within the time period.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council is being asked to administer a Government grant for local people based on local need. This grant was announced at very short notice and commenced immediately following the announcement. This creates risk for the Council in that officers have had to mobilise resources to develop the local scheme, eligibility criteria and implementation plan. There is a reputational risk to the Council if the scheme is not delivered effectively and efficiently and does not reach those most in need of support.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is being asked to administer the Household Support Grant of £993,021.25. In order to maximise funding, spend must be incurred by the 31 March 2022.
- 6.2 The conditions of grant allows for reasonable administrative costs, including reasonable costs incurred administering the scheme, to be claimed against the grant. Proposals outlined in the report, ensure the Council limits administrative costs to less than 5% of the total grant allocation.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific legal requirements and the proposals address the grant conditions imposed by the Government to ensure at least 50% of the funding supports children.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The timing of the announcement of the Household Support Fund on 30 September and the commencement of the programme on 06 October 2021 has not allowed any time for consultation with local stakeholders on the eligibility criteria and local implementation plan. The proposals in this report have been informed by the experience of and feedback from delivering both the Covid Winter Support Grant and Covid Local Support Grant.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 9.1 A Child and Family Poverty impact assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix One to this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 10.1 The proposals outlined in this report are targeted to support those in greatest need of financial assistance over the coming winter months. The scheme will be administered based on need and inclusive of all those with protected characteristics.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 It will be necessary for officers from HBC to implement and deliver the proposals outlined in this report on top of their current duties and responsibilities and it may be necessary for HBC to employ additional staff on a temporary basis to ensure the scheme is administered effectively.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no asset management considerations arising from this report.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Finance and Policy Committee is asked to consider and approve the proposals outlined in this report and agree the preferred implementation model noting that the officer recommendation is Option Two.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The Household Support Fund is a significant grant that is being provided to Hartlepool Borough Council to support local residents and mitigate some of the impact of financial hardship this winter. Finance and Policy Committee has responsibility to agree the arrangements for the provision of assistance to local residents

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Sign Off:-

Chief Executive



Director of Finance and Policy



Chief Solicitor



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	Yes			The Household Support Grant is targeted to mitigate the impact of poverty and financial hardship on those most in need between October 2021 and March 2022. The provision of assistance through the implementation of the scheme will have a positive impact on those who experience poverty by providing assistance in terms of funding for food, fuel, water, exceptional housing costs other essential items.
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness	Yes			
Those with low educational attainment	Yes			
Those who are unemployed	Yes			
Those who are underemployed	Yes			
Children born into families in poverty	Yes			
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances	Yes			
Lone parents	Yes			
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds	Yes			
Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE

Children in low income families	Yes			The Household Support Grant is targeted to mitigate the impact of poverty and financial hardship on those most in need between October 2021 and March 2022. The provision of assistance through the implementation of the scheme will have a positive impact on those who experience poverty by providing assistance in terms of funding for food, fuel, water, exceptional housing costs other essential items.
Educational attainment	Yes			
Healthy eating	Yes			
Overall impact of Policy / Decision				
POSITIVE IMPACT	X	ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE		
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE		
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE				
Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.				
Economic				
Children in Low Income Families (%)				
Children in Working Households (%)				
Overall employment rate (%)				
Proportion of young people who are NEET				
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment				
Education				
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)				
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM				
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)				
Housing				

Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims
Number of affordable homes built
Health
Prevalence of underweight children in reception year
Prevalence of obese children in reception year
Prevalence of underweight children in year 6
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6
Life expectancy

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15th November 2021



Report of: Director, Resources and Development

Subject: HARTLEPOOL TOWN MASTERPLAN

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Key Decision test's (i)/(ii) apply. Forward Plan Reference No. CE76/21

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from the Finance and Policy Committee for the Hartlepool Town Centre Masterplan, which following the securing of £25m Towns Deal Funding, sets out a framework to reshape the town centre through individual projects and interventions.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Hartlepool town centre, like many town centres is facing an unprecedented number of challenges including increased competition from online retailing, the growth of out of town retailing, changing consumer preferences and the impacts from the recent Covid pandemic. Hartlepool town centre is not unique in this regard and must respond to these challenges by diversifying and finding new ways to attract footfall and visitors.
- 3.2 The town centre can no longer rely on traditional retail uses in order to ensure its long term sustainability. Achieving the required level of structural change will be challenging and requires strong local leadership and intervention by the Local Authority, using all of its powers with the backing of local stakeholders and the wider community.
- 3.3 A previous report to Committee in January 2021 presented our Town Centre Investment Plan which set out the proposals to be delivered under our Towns Deal programme; a package of support across the skills, regeneration and connectivity agendas. This programme will contribute significantly to this wider Masterplan for the town.

- 3.4 It's important that a strong strategic vision is developed that can help drive the required change. It is widely recognised that effective strategic thinking and masterplanning are required in partnership with public and private sector organisations including local businesses in order to achieve this.
- 3.5 Individual town centres need to identify the mix that best suits their specific characteristics and local strengths. It is widely recognised that a scattergun approach of light touch interventions is not the solution for Town Centres facing large structural issues.
- 3.6 In order to respond to these challenges, this report presents a Town Centre Masterplan, following the commissioning of Arcadis and Genecon who delivered a successful Town Centre Investment Plan, to improve the Hartlepool experience, drive growth and ensure future sustainability for our town.

4. THE TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

- 4.1 The aim of the Masterplan (see plan in Appendix 1) is to set out a long term framework for the town to help renew and reshape the physical environment to ensure sustainable growth in skills, jobs, accessibility, connectivity and visitor experience. It presents a bold vision for change and ambitious individual projects and interventions, based on evidence and need, and a strong sense of community and identity. This is a key document to be able to present our Town's future and will be invaluable when funding streams for physical regeneration and placemaking become available, those such as Towns Deal and Levelling Up Funding.
- 4.2 The boundary for the Masterplan includes the Town Centre, the Civic Quarter and the Innovation and Skills Quarter. A wider less focused boundary has been included as a red circle to ensure that the existing investment priorities within the Central Area of Hartlepool such as the Hartlepool Waterfront, and the existing leisure facilities at Hartlepool Marina are considered in a holistic way to create a critical mass of activity and investment.
- 4.3 The Masterplan is formed around four key strategic themes:
- Connecting
 - Placemaking
 - Growing
 - Community

It focuses on the need to create a more consolidated Town Centre, with a unique heart and waterfront, developing a healthy economy to sustainably support the future of the town and facilitate creative recreational opportunities.

- 4.4 The Masterplan's strong vision to create a 'Wave of Regeneration', is underpinned by 10 key design principles including responding to local need,

ensuring local identity and character in design, bringing sustainable living to the town centre, improving landscape and public realm, and being bold in looking to the future to create a Net Zero town in response to climate change.

- 4.5 The masterplanning process identified four key zones for change and these are described in detail in Section 3 of Appendix 1; The Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, the Civic and Leisure Zone, the Church Street zone and the Waterfront Zone. While the zones provide the focus for the interventions and projects, the aim for the town is for the whole to become more than the sum of the individual zones.
- 4.6 The plan focuses on some ‘Big Moves’ which are to redefine the heart of the town, realise the potential of the Waterfront, and create a Transport Hub, and to then expand the reach of those Big Moves by delivering further interventions to create a ripple effect, expanding the strength of the town. Urban greening, creating strong connected links between the heart of the town centre and wider areas, and significantly improving public realm and town ‘experience’ is key to the plans success, described in section 3.5 onwards in the plan.
- 4.7 Section 4 of the Masterplan provides the detail on the ‘Big Moves’ and describes the exciting interventions in detail, which are to:
- Regenerate and reimagine the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre
 - Strong Waterfront improvements including redevelopment, connectivity and public realm enhancements
 - Create a new Transport Hub and pedestrian / cycle bridge from the town to the Waterfront

There a number of ‘ripple effects’ to be created from the Big Moves which are described in detail from page 50 onwards and these are:

- promote creative land use in the Church Street area
 - Integrate the leisure and civic quarter into the town centre heart
 - Create new, high quality housing in the town centre
- 4.8 Each delivery of the big moves together with other transformative regeneration projects already being delivered will have a transformative effect on Hartlepool Town Centre to create a well-connected, vibrant and liveable waterfront market town moving towards a future of leisure, living and learning. Each project in single isolation cannot create the transformative change but the Masterplan provides the framework and wider programme needed

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The Town Centre Masterplan provides the framework for all investment and development in our Town Centre. The next steps include promoting and

marketing the plan widely both internally and externally, and continue to use it in conversation with our valued stakeholders who have contributed to its development.

- 5.2 The plan will also be used as part of the governance process for the Council's Capital Management Programme and ensuring that our strategic capital schemes contribute to the plans delivery. Updates on the Capital Projects will be provided to Finance and Policy Committee over the course of the programme.
- 5.3 Critically the interventions and projects within the Masterplan require significant investment. Whilst the Government have approved the Town Investment Plan, further work is underway to complete the necessary business cases and options appraisals to securing the £25m Towns Deal funding. The Council has recently been advised that the round 1 Levelling Up Funding bid has not been successful and a revised bid will be submitted to round 2 in Spring 2022. Having a detailed, well presented Masterplan based on well described specific interventions will allow us to have ready-made projects 'on the shelf' for any future phases of regeneration and growth monies.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The risk of not adopting a Town Centre masterplan is two-fold; firstly, in the absence of a masterplan, continued delivery of in a piecemeal way will not contribute towards a comprehensive development of the town and secondly, there is the risk the Council will not be in the right position to benefit from future funding opportunities.
- 6.2 There are also risks attached to each of the prioritised Big Moves and ripple effect projects due to the level of development work that's still required to be completed, specifically the development of business cases and options appraisals to determine . This work includes detailed project design, technical studies, assessments, negotiations, planning and further community and stakeholder engagement.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Delivery of the plan will require significant investment over its lifetime, but the Council has already demonstrated its ability to articulate strong strategic cases for capital investment. Such as securing £25m of Towns Deal funding, and presenting a strong case for a round 2 Levelling Up funding bid for £20m.
- 7.2 All projects and interventions proposed will enter the Councils capital governance process, including Programme Management Board and Capital Programme Board, which now includes a requirement at concept stage to identify costs and potential funding routes.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Subsidy Control advice has previously been commissioned for appropriate aspects of the Town Deal projects and further due diligence on each project within the Masterplan will be undertaken at business case stage when it comes through the Capital Management programme process.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The level and quality of community engagement, what has undertaken, so far and what is planned in the future, on town centre regeneration will be a key factor in our success. Significant consultation has been undertaken in the development of the Town Centre Investment and Masterplans. 461 resident and 71 business surveys were returned as part of that process and that feedback provided a comprehensive picture of the priorities and challenges that this Masterplan presents.
- 9.2 A wide range of activity was undertaken to obtain the views from as many residents and businesses as possible. The survey was publicised using a variety of methods including social media, press releases, online meetings, letter drops to businesses and inclusion in a Council newsletter distributed to all households.
- 9.3 A wide range of stakeholder's supported the engagement process including Love Hartlepool, Hartlepool United Football Club, Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, the North East Chamber of Commerce, the Salaam Centre and the Federation of Small Businesses. These organisations helped to publicise the survey through their communication channels and to their networks.
- 9.4 In addition to the surveys a special meeting of the Economic Regeneration and Tourism Forum was held. Meetings also took place with Voluntary Sector organisations and 1:1 meetings were held with key stakeholders.
- 9.5 A range of previous surveys were analysed to supplement the data including results from the Council Plan and Covid Recovery consultations.
- 9.6 A second round of community engagement took place in December 2020 and January 2021 to obtain feedback and these have informed the May 2021 Masterplan which is presented here.

10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 10.1 The proposals under the Town Centre Masterplan will have a positive impact on reducing child and family poverty. The aim of our regeneration plans is to address growth constraints and unlock the economic potential of Hartlepool.

Quantifying these specific outcomes will form part of the options appraisal and business case development work.

- 10.2 The individual projects will be designed to create jobs, improve skills and generate new economic activity, particularly within the town centre. This will provide opportunities for local people and help to reduce the incidences of child and family poverty.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The economic benefits from the Town Centre Masterplan are designed to benefit all individuals and groups within Hartlepool. Attached at Appendix 2.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staff considerations if the Town Centre Masterplan is approved but staff resources and revenue implications will be considered as part of the business case for each individual project.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 There are no asset management considerations as a result of this report.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The Finance and Policy Committee is recommended to:
Approve the content of the Town Centre Masterplan included in Appendix 1.

15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The recommendation will approve the Town Centre Masterplan for adoption to provide the coherent framework and strategic narrative for all future town centre regeneration and will act as a mechanism to underpin future funding bids for investment.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 None.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Sign Off:-

Managing Director



Director of Resources and Development



Chief Solicitor



Please see link below to separate file.

[5.3 - Appendix 1 - Hartlepool Town Centre Masterplan](#)

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			The Town Centre Masterplan will create new employment opportunities and opportunities to improve skill levels within the town
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness	X			The Town Centre Masterplan will create new employment opportunities and opportunities to improve skill levels within the town The Town Centre Masterplan proposes to improve connectivity and accessibility around the Town Centre.
Those with low educational attainment	X			The Skills projects within the overall programme will offer wide ranging opportunities at Level's 1,2,3 and 4
Those who are unemployed	X			The Town Centre Masterplan will create new employment opportunities and opportunities to improve skill levels within the town
Those who are underemployed	X			The Skills projects within the overall programme will offer wide ranging opportunities at Level's 1,2,3 and 4.
Children born into families in poverty	X			The Town Centre Masterplan will provide opportunities for families of children born into

				poverty by creating employment opportunities and improving the economy of Hartlepool
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances			X	N/a
Lone parents	X			The Town Centre Masterplan will create new employment opportunities and opportunities to improve skill levels within the town
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds	X			The Town Centre Masterplan will create new employment opportunities and opportunities to improve skill levels within the town
Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Overall employment rate (%)	X			The Town Centre Masterplan will create new employment opportunities and create new opportunities to develop skills
Overall impact of Policy / Decision				
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE	X	ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE		
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE		
Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.				
Economic				

Children in Low Income Families (%)
Children in Working Households (%)
Overall employment rate (%)
Proportion of young people who are NEET
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment
Education
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)
Housing
Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims
Number of affordable homes built
Health
Prevalence of underweight children in reception year
Prevalence of obese children in reception year
Prevalence of underweight children in year 6
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6
Life expectancy

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15th November 2021



Report of: Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services

Subject: **HARTLEPOOL POWER STATIONS OFF-SITE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update Members on the completion of the Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station's Off-Site Emergency Response Plan following delays due to the COVID-19 response last year.

3. UPDATE

3.1 Members previously received a report on the updated Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) 2019 and the subsequent changes in the distance for the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) around the Power Station. The Distance has changed from the 1km previously to a minimum of 2km, and the updated map is included at **Appendix 1**.

3.2 To adhere to the updated REPPIR 2019 Regulations the following actions have been completed and assured:

- 1) The new Off-Site Emergency Response Plan and associated codes of practice needed to be completed before the **22nd November 2020**;
- 2) Those within the DEPZ have prior information on the risks and countermeasures available, including receiving a stable iodine tablet, which was sent out prior to the plan being published;

- 3) Publication of information on the Council website (https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20044/emergency_planning/1017/emergency_planning_-_nuclear/2) advising on what to do if you are in the DEPZ and providing information on the new Outline Planning Zone (OPZ) which goes out to a distance of 30km (map available at **Appendix 2**);
- 4) The Offsite Emergency Response Plan and all associated materials were issued to the regulator and stakeholders on the **18th November 2020**; and
- 5) The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) was advised in writing on the 18th October 2020 to ensure adherence to the regulations.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If dates set by the regulations were not met then the Office for Nuclear Regulation could open regulatory action against the Local Authority.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The time taken and resources required to develop the DEPZ have been recharged under REPIR to the PowerStation operator EDF.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The REPIR 2019 regulations places the duty for determining the DEPZ and further writing the Off-Site Nuclear Emergency Response Plan on the Local Authority which hosts the operator's site.
- 6.2 Under REPIR 2019 the Office for Nuclear Regulation are responsible for carrying out a reassurance test to make sure the regulations are covered in the plan and that the Local Authority carries out a suitable test every 3 years of the plan. The next test of the plan is due in May 2022, subject to confirmation from the ONR.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Local Authority consulted on the full Off-Site Emergency Response Plan with all the relevant agencies identified through the Cleveland Local Resilience Forum and wider government agencies that have a role to play in an off-site emergency.
- 7.2 This Consultation was carried out in October to meet the November 2020 deadline.

8. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Child and Family Poverty Considerations	No relevant Issues
Equality and Diversity Considerations	No relevant Issues
Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations	No relevant Issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant Issues
Asset Management Considerations	No relevant Issues

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the completion of the Off-Site Emergency Response Plan and the proposed date for the next test of this in May 2022, subject to confirmation from ONR.
- 9.2 That Members note the extension of the DEPZ and the provision and publication on the Council's website of prior information to businesses and residents.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Off-Site Emergency Response Plan is a legal duty placed on the Local Authority under the REPP19 Regulations.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1
- Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations (REPP19) 2019.
 - Report to Finance and Policy Committee 14th October 2019
 - Report to Finance and Policy Committee 13th January 2020

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

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APPENDIX 1

UPDATED DETAILED EMERGENCY PLANNING ZONE (DEPZ)



APPENDIX 2

30km OUTLINE EMERGENCY PLANNING ZONE



FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

15th November 2021



Report of: Managing Director

Subject: COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2024 – PROGRESS UPDATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide an update to Finance and Policy Committee on the progress made on the delivery of the Council Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council Plan 2021-24 was agreed by Council on 25th February 2021 and forms part of the Council's budget and policy framework as set out in the Constitution.
- 3.2 The Plan sets out 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.
- 3.3 Progress updates on the delivery of the Council Plan will be reported to Finance and Policy Committee during the autumn and spring of each year of the Plan. In addition an Annual Progress Report will be prepared and shared with all Elected Members each summer.

4. PROGRESS UPDATE – OCTOBER 2020

- 4.1 This update outlines the progress made on the delivery of the Council Plan vision over the first 4 months:

Hartlepool will be a place where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives.

Plans to develop a new leisure facility (Highlight) are progressing well, RIBA stage 2 is complete and there has been positive engagement with a range of partners. A Member's Seminar is booked for December 2021 and an informal planning application has been submitted.

The British Cycling funded development at Summerhill is progressing well. The BMX track is expected to be completed by the end of the year with the accessible cycling circuit due for completion by June 2022.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has delivered two projects so far covering the Easter and Summer holidays. In total 30 providers have been engaged and delivered a range of different activities along with food. Over 5,000 sessions have been provided. The programme is targeted at children who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). The proposals for the Summer holidays and the evaluation of the Easter programme were brought to Children's Services Committee in July 2021. Plans are currently underway in preparation for the Christmas holidays. The programme met the Department of Education's funding requirements and has received really positive feedback however it is only a one year funded programme. The recent announcement of the Household Support Grant is being investigated to see if this may be used to continue the scheme in the future.

Engagement and consultation has commenced with allotment holders to determine future priorities.

The Central Community Hub has been refurbished to provide additional community space, an occupational therapy demonstration suite, a refreshment offer and the Fab Lab (a digital fabrication laboratory that allows people to explore and use new technologies such as digital design, 3D printing and laser cutting).

The development of additional Children's Homes in Hartlepool was reported to Finance and Policy Committee in July 2021 and officers are now proceeding with the purchase of properties for development.

Additional financial support to care homes and providers of home care has continued in recognition of the additional pressures placed on them by COVID.

All new carers identified at first contact or via social workers are now directed to Hartlepool Carers for a good conversation, a light touch assessment and access to community led support. Where the impact of caring is more substantial and community led support has not provided solutions, a full carers assessment is completed and when appropriate, a direct payment or support service offered.

Work has taken place with Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust to invest funding to support mental health recovery. This includes funding for psychosocial support, social prescribing, a support worker for Dads, support for

women from black Asian and minority ethnic communities and funding for community choirs.

We have worked with NHS partners to support the COVID vaccination programme, the Active Hospitals programme and support for people with long COVID.

Over 100 Community COVID Champions have been trained to support ongoing positive community engagement and communication in relation to the COVID pandemic and supporting people as restrictions have eased.

A Digital Inclusion Team has been established to support people with access to equipment, training and support to enable access to key services and opportunities for some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in our communities.

Hartlepool will be a place where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm.

The introduction of a Free School remains in development and there has been a recent consultation on the change of land use.

The contextual safeguarding hub is now live.

The Council secured £145,000 of Department of Education COVID recovery funding through the regional partnership for sector-led improvement in Children's Social Care.

We have worked with other Local Authorities in the region to develop a campaign that promotes the Shared Lives model as an alternative to residential care.

Increased activity in relation to adult safeguarding concerns has been well managed with response times and targets maintained.

A range of animations have been produced that will be promoted via social media campaigns to support National Adult Safeguarding Week (15-21 November 2021).

The National Development Team for inclusion have reviewed our approach and identified that it is inclusive for all and meets the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

A Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is now in place and a Needs Assessment has been prepared. Work is now underway to prepare a new Domestic Abuse Strategy.

90% of our schools in Hartlepool are now rated as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

Two of our Council Children's homes are rated as Good and one is rated as outstanding by Ofsted.

The Bread and Butter Thing is providing a sustainable solution to food poverty, supporting 250-300 people each week to access affordable food across five sites.

The Community Pot has been allocated to a range of voluntary and community sector organisations to address some of the impacts of the COVID pandemic. This includes financial advice and support, digital inclusion, supported housing and counselling, as well as the Community Led Inclusion Partnership.

Hartlepool will be a place of resilient and resourceful communities with opportunities for all.

As COVID restrictions have eased, it has been possible to provide sporting and cultural events including summer pantomimes at the Borough Hall, Hartlepool Waterfront Festival, Summer at Seaton and the Big Lime Triathlon.

The Council has worked with partners to consult on improving provision of Changing Places Toilets, and submitted a bid for funding to provide additional facilities that will support residents and visitors.

A Volunteer Co-ordinator has been appointed and is working across the Council to map current activities and identify scope for joint working to recruit volunteers and promote volunteering opportunities.

Following funding being secured for the refurbishment of the Borough Hall an options appraisal is now underway with work expected to start in 2022.

We have worked in partnership with Hartlepower to support the development of micro enterprises, that increase the range of community support options available for local residents

We hosted Luke Jerram's 'In Memoriam'; an art installation commemorating those who lost their lives to COVID.

Almost 10,000 young people have been engaged in the Youth Employment Initiative led by Hartlepool Learning and Skills.

The Youth Employment Hub has been launched in partnership with Job Centre Plus supporting young people to access skills and employment opportunities.

Achieved 134% of expected outcomes in Community Learning.

Hartlepool will be a place that is sustainable, clean, safe and green.

Almost all of the Neighbourhood Investment Programme has been completed with outstanding schemes at Hindpool Close, Seaton Toilet Block and the British Cycling Scheme at Summerhill.

The Integrated Community Safety Team has recently recruited two additional Civil Enforcement Officer posts funded by Thirteen Group. One officer is now in post, with a further officer to join the team in the next few weeks.

A planning application has been submitted for the Lynn Street Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) scheme. Phase 1 of the scheme is to move out of Reed Street and this is scheduled for February 2022, while work on the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre remains ongoing.

Work has started on site at Greatham to develop additional affordable housing.

Conservation work remains ongoing to bring number 15 Church Street back into a productive use helping both the regeneration of Church Street and creating an asset in the Council's property portfolio. The £1,000,000 project aims to create both residential and commercial units and will also secure the future of the former Shades Hotel until a larger refurbishment scheme to convert the building and bring it back into use can be delivered.

The Safer Streets Project has been successfully delivered as per the funding bid with all additional CCTV in place, mobile cameras being deployed and screens used for vacant properties.

We were awarded £684,430 from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 2 to deliver energy efficiency improvements to 79 homes. These include loft insulation, external wall insulation, air source heat pumps and Solar Panels. We have appointed E.ON to deliver this work through their local subcontractors. Targeted mailers have been sent to 543 households so far and there are 45 applications pending.

The restoration of the Headland Amphitheatre event space was first proposed in 2019. A structural survey of the site identified that the terraced structure that retains and protects the upper promenade was in need of repair and had to be replaced. After years of being unused there was local support for it to be restored for community and cultural events on the Headland and the construction work is now on site. The planned works will replace and renew a large section of the terraces that creates permanent seating in an amphitheatre arrangement and restoration is due to be completed in October 2021 creating the new Elephant Rock venue.

Consultants have been appointed on the project at Hartlepool Train Station. Options are being considered with Network Rail in conjunction with the TVCA to

bring the second platform back into operation. This will require a new overbridge within the station.

The doubling up of the bulky waste collection service has been introduced.

Investment in local highway safety schemes continues in accordance with the 5 year maintenance plan.

Hartlepool will be a place that has an inclusive and growing economy.

Government grant support of £52.5M has been delivered to local businesses.

The 'Summer at Seaton' activity programme funded via Welcome Back Fund was a success.

Work continues in relation to business support and engagement with local businesses to encourage investment, growth and job creation.

The Council has worked with Homes England and Hellens Group to secure the future growth of Queens Meadow.

The reopening High Streets Fund has been promoted by HBC teaming up with Love Hartlepool and the Totally Locally Shop Hartlepool campaign has been delivered.

Hartlepool has been successful in securing a £25M Town Deal from the Government. The Council continues to work with the Town Deal Board and the Government to support the delivery of the Town Deal priority schemes, with the goal of ensuring all Hartlepool residents have a share in the town's success.

Hartlepool will be a place with a Council that is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflects the diversity of its community.

The Hybrid Working Pilot for Council employees was launched in September and will inform the development of a Hybrid Working Policy. Through the pilot we will look to develop the necessary support, guidance and training for managers and employees and to ensure a hybrid approach supports our services. The pilot will also help us to plan and resource the IT infrastructure needed to support a flexible workforce. Throughout the pilot we will be engaging with our employees and using their experiences to inform the future approach.

The Digital Team were shortlisted for the Digital Public Service Delivery Award at the Granicus Digital Awards 2021. The Team reached the final four with Portsmouth City Council, Coventry City Council and Harrogate Council. They are

also a reference site for govService (Firmstep) supporting other local authorities with their digital plans and approaches.

A booking solution to support this summer's holiday activity programme was designed and built by the Digital Team. Over 5,000 bookings were made enabling Hartlepool children to participate in a wide range of free events including swimming, archery and adventure days at Carlton.

An online form for families in receipt of free school meals to request a free food and activity box was developed and almost 700 boxes were distributed during the summer holidays.

The Councillor Portal was launched at the end of May 2021 and almost 250 reports have been submitted by 23 Councillors. An Officer Working Group has been established to ensure reports are being dealt with on a timely basis, and Councillors have provided feedback during a well-attended session held at the end of July with a follow-up session to be arranged during November. The Portal continues to be improved based on the feedback being received.

The Council has maintained Disability Confident Commitment Status and is now working on a plan to progress to the next stage of the award.

The Comms and Marketing Team continue to facilitate the sharing of COVID messages and 10,000 leaflets per week have been distributed communicating the walk-in vaccination centres, leading to an increased uptake in vaccinations. Bus advertising, banners and digital presence all continue to be undertaken to communicate key messages in the community.

Planning for the annual FLU vaccination programme is well underway, which will protect staff and ensure critical services continue to be delivered.

A Strategic Development & Sustainability Manager appointed to develop a net zero & low carbon policy to consider the Council motion. This will include a net zero plan, renewable energy plan and building performance needs.

A Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme is underway to replace current lighting with LED's in the Civic Centre and Town Hall Theatre.

4.2 **Current areas of concern**

Whilst good progress is being made on the delivery of the Council Plan there are a number of areas of concern that may impact on future progress including:

- Access to building materials and potential increased costs which will impact on the capital projects identified within the Plan. There are increased pressures on the market at the moment due to COVID and Brexit which may lead to building projects costing more and taking longer than anticipated due to supply chain issues.
- There is currently no indication of funding for future years for the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

- The continued impact of COVID on income.
- Uncertainty regarding the impact of winter pressures and changes to health and social care funding.
- The impact of COVID on poverty and deprivation across Hartlepool with particular concern about the end of furlough.
- Capacity issues are impacting ability to progress work on the net zero work due to the focus needing to be on the capital programme delivery.
- The interventions required to meet the Government net zero targets in the next 8 years are likely to have significant financial and resource implications for the Council.

4.3 Performance Indicators

Future progress reports will include Hartlepool's latest position on a number of Performance Indicators (PIs). Work is currently underway to confirm which PI's would be most appropriate and an update will be included in the spring progress report to Finance and Policy.

4.4 Strategic Risk Register

Risks within the Strategic Risk Register have been reviewed by Departments with no changes to risk ratings identified. However, consideration is to be given to the development of a new strategic risk relating to the capital programme and access to building materials and increasing costs of projects.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council agreed the Risk Management Framework in June 2019 and this ensures that appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of the Council's key strategic risks. Embedding the identification and management of risk supports the achievement of our Council Plan and provides assurance to elected members that these risks are being appropriately managed.
- 5.2 The Council Plan and Strategic Risk Register are monitored regularly to enable early identification and reporting to Members of any emerging risks which might prevent delivery of the strategic priorities identified in the Council Plan.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Plan was 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. In addition, effective risk management arrangements should help improve the use of valuable and limited financial resources.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 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.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 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 27th November 2019, 29th January 2020 and 14th July 2020 and through reports to individual Policy Committees in January and February 2020.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 9.1 The priorities identified in the Council Plan include work to reduce child and family poverty within Hartlepool. There is no change to the Child and Family Poverty Impact Assessment included within the Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 report to Council on 25th February 2021.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The priorities identified in the Council Plan aim to have a positive impact on the whole population of Hartlepool and those with protected characteristics. There is no change to the Equality Impact Assessment included within the Council Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 report to Council on 25th February 2021.

11. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

11.1

Staff Considerations	No implications
Asset Management Considerations	No implications

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Finance and Policy Committee are requested to note the progress made on the Council Plan 2021-2024.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Finance and Policy Committee have overall responsibility for Performance Management and are the responsible Committee for a number of service areas contained within the Council Plan.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 Council Plan 2021/22 - 2023/24 report to Council on 25th February 2021.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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