

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE AGENDA



Tuesday 9 July, 2024

at 9.30 am

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

MEMBERS: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Dodds, Hargreaves, Lindridge, Male, Scarborough and Young.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December, 2023 (*previously circulated and published*).

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 No Items

5. KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 No Items

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Long Term Plan for Towns, *Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*

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.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 No Items

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Dates of forthcoming meetings –

Tuesday 3 September, 2024 at 9.30 am
Tuesday 22 October, 2024 at 5.00 pm
Tuesday 26 November, 2024 at 9.30 am
Tuesday 21 January, 2025 at 5.00 pm
Tuesday 11 March, 2025 at 9.30 am



ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

9 JULY 2024



Subject: LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS

Report of: Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods
and Regulatory Services

Decision Type: Non Key Decision

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

Hartlepool will be a place:
- where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives.
- where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm.
- of resilient and resourceful communities with opportunities for all.
- that is sustainable, clean, safe and green.
- that has an inclusive and growing economy.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a progress update to Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee on the 'Long Term Plan for Towns' (LTPT) programme and to agree proposals to invite Expressions of Interest to appoint an Independent Chair and a lead representative for the Voluntary and Community Sector to sit on the LTPT Board.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 19th February 2024 members of Finance and Policy Committee received a report outlining the government announcement of a new ‘Long Term Plan for Towns’ programme in September 2023 and the award of a £20m fund to the Council to provide long-term investment in local people’s priorities.
- 3.2 The report provided details about the prescribed governance arrangements, investment themes and the timetable for establishing a Town Board (by 1st April 2024) and a new Long Term Plan (by 1st August 2024). Members were advised that timescales were extremely tight, and early discussions had been held with DLUHC lead officers, including the Deputy Area Lead (North East and Tees Valley), as our appointed lead on Town Deal and Levelling Up. Outcomes from those conversations informed the proposals set out in section 4 of the report.

4. PROGRESS TO DATE AND PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Members previously agreed to support the proposal for the existing Town Deal Board to take up the remit of an interim board who would establish a programme in the short term to provide time for a new strategic place board to be created. This would allow the newly established LTPT Board to identify any gaps in interventions and also to ensure there is no duplication of investment or delivery.
- 4.2 Proposed membership of the new LTPT Board, to ensure compliance with the requirements set out in the guidance from DLUHC, was agreed by Members as follows:
- Chair – to be nominated;
 - Member of Parliament (Mandatory);
 - Police and Crime Commissioner (Mandatory);
 - NHS Foundation Trust;
 - School Education;
 - Further and Higher Education;
 - Leader of the Council;
 - Chair of Town Deal Board;
 - Hartlepool Development Corporation;
 - Production Village Board;
 - Voluntary and Community Sector;
 - Youth Parliament;
 - Business and Tourism Forum;
 - Sports Organisation;
 - Civic Society;
 - Historic England;
 - Jomast;
 - Homes England; and
 - Faith Groups Representative.

4.3 Following the report to Members in February a formal request was tabled at the Town Deal Board meeting on 5th March 2024 where members agreed:

- That the Town Deal Board to act as the interim board for LTPT while a designated Project Officer is appointed to support a new Town Board. DLUHC would support the Town Deal Board to establish a programme in the short term while a new strategic place Board was created; and
- To invite the MP for Hartlepool and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to be official Town Deal Board members in the interim period, as these are mandatory memberships for the Town Board.

4.4 Invitations to join the Board were sent to the existing MP and PCC on 18th March 2024, however due to the local, PCC and Mayoral elections in May a renewed invitation has been sent to the new PCC. Following the outcome of the General Election, an invitation will be sent to the MP.

4.5 The above satisfied the 1st April 2024 deadline to have a Town Board established and submission of a governance template which was approved by DLUHC on 14th May 2024 and allowed the release of a further £200,000 capacity funding. DLUHC also shared feedback on the governance proposal, stating *“The Board should be clear of the inherent differences between the Long Term Plan for Towns programme and Town Deal, noting the focus of the three investment themes and need to develop the Long Term Plan in consultation with the local community, to ensure it is reflective of their priorities.”*

4.6 To ensure there is a balance on the Board, it is recommended that the following organisations be invited to join:

- Chair of Northern School of Art;
- ICB representative instead of NHS only, as the ICB is a collaboration of NHS, Mental Health Trust, Public Health and Primary Care Networks; and
- Civic Society representative.

4.7 On 24th May 2024 [Further guidance](#) was published by DLUHC just before the start of the pre-election period, but it does not provide any direction on how Boards/LAs should proceed during an election period, and it retains the 1 August submission deadline for the 10 year vision statement and 3 year investment plan. The guidance also referenced the important role MPs have in the design and delivery of Long Term Plans, but following the dissolution of Parliament, further MP engagement can only take place after the General Election.

4.8 DLUHC have not issued a template for the 3 Year Investment Plan but have advised Boards continue to put together their plans on the basis of the timelines indicated in the original guidance as it would put them in the best

position to move at pace post elections, should the programme continue unchanged.

- 4.9 While the Council remains the accountable body for funding and executing LTPT plans, DLUHC guidance states that *“the independent chair of Long Term Plan for Town Boards should be invited by the local authority. Town Boards are responsible for developing the Long Term Plan, working closely with local people”* and goes on to advise that *“Town Boards must be chaired by a local community leader or local businessperson. The chair should act as a champion for the town and provide leadership for the Town Board, ensuring it is community-led and embedded within the local area. They can be anyone who holds a prominent role such as:*

- *a local charitable organisation;*
- *a philanthropist;*
- *the head of a Further Education College;*
- *a director for the NHS Board or Trust; or*
- *a director of a football club.*

The guidance currently states that Elected representatives, such as MPs, MSPs, MSs or local councillors, cannot chair the Town Board.”

- 4.10 We do however need to be mindful of the General Election and current guidance may change therefore it is proposed that the Council invites Expressions of Interest from representatives in the roles outlined above to allow the appointment of an interim Independent Chair, and if required, an interim deputy chair, until clarification is obtained following the next Government
- 4.11 It is also proposed the Chair of Economic Growth & Regeneration Policy Committee becomes a member of the LTPT Board
- 4.12 In response to a further request from DLUHC to increase representation from the VCS it is proposed that the Council contact representatives from the following organisations to discuss the programme and seek their support to utilise existing networks to help share opportunities and promote the programme as projects emerge:
- Changing Futures Home – Changing Futures North East (changingfuturesne.co.uk);
 - Hartlepool Carers;
 - Hartlepower;
 - Hartlepool Opportunities Partnership (HOP);
 - Thrive (Lived experience voice and poverty truth commission); and
 - Wharton Trust.
- 4.13 In the absence of a traditional Voluntary Development Agency (VDA) and given the vast range of VCS organisations operating in the Borough, in order

to be fair and transparent it is proposed that the LTPT Board invite Expressions of Interest to facilitate a process of co-production with the LTPT Board and a wider group stakeholders to agree the required 10 year Vision Statement and the interventions that would form the 3 year investment plan.

- 4.14 To guide discussions it is proposed to use the emerging Place Narrative and headline findings from initial analysis of responses to the Council's Big Conversation, which clearly indicate community safety, high streets, regeneration, and transport are at the top of public's priorities. Rather than undertaking more consultation / engagement, it is recommend the Board use the capacity funding to support the VCS to develop proposals against the three themes set out in the guidance. Identifying key areas of focus after which clearly funded, deliverable projects can be developed as part of the development of the Long Term Plan in timescales to be determined by the Board.
- 4.15 Therefore the Council will be agreeing the approach above with the interim Chair of the LTPT Board in the coming weeks and reaching out to the Organisations identified above.
- 4.16 Members may also recall that agreement was given to create a new full time Project Officer post dedicated to supporting the Board and overseeing delivery of the Long Term Plan and its interventions, which will be funded from the external revenue allocated by DLUHC for the administration of the programme. The post has been advertised and it is hoped that this will be appointed to in early July.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS

RISK IMPLICATIONS	There are no significant risks in accepting the award of the £20m funding and a risk register will be developed once an MoU is received from DLUHC. Risk assessment and registers will be required to be developed for each proposed intervention ahead of approval by a Town Board and the Council.
FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	The securing of the £20m grant over a 7 year period provides capital and revenue resources to support the regeneration of the town and provide a safer and more secure Borough. The funding will support major regeneration projects and contribute to longer term inclusive growth. There are no revenue implications to delivering the programme or it's administrative and support functions as revenue funding has been provided by DLUHC of £250k to support the development of the plan. Given the impending General Election, a future government may have differing priorities which may

	put future funding at risk, given the 7 year drawdown period.
LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	Independent legal advice will be sought on Subsidy Control due to the significant level of due diligence required to ensure compliance for the programme. A subsidy control report will be required for the overall programme, and individual assessments undertaken on any proposed intervention to be funded, which will require resource to be allocated.
CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY	The £20m programme principally aims to support the regeneration of the town, reduce crime and improve community safety, and improve accessibility and connectivity to a more vibrant town. This will provide wide ranging benefits and job opportunities for local people leading to reduction in unemployment, and the impacts of criminal behavior, and reduce levels of poverty for many groups. At this stage the investment plan has yet to be determined through consultation and therefore the specific positive impacts, and for which groups, are yet to be determined but will be presented in future reports to Committee (see Appendix 1).
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS	The specific delivery elements of the programme are yet to be determined as the investment plan for the town is still to be developed through consultation however considerations of race, gender, age and disability will be prioritised as part of the consultation and engagement mechanisms (see Appendix 2).
STAFF CONSIDERATIONS	A dedicated Project Officer will be appointed utilising the external revenue funding to manage the programme and form part of the existing Strategic Development and Sustainability Team.
ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS	At this stage there are no Asset Management considerations although each individual intervention proposed will need to assess whether there will be further impacts.
ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS	At this stage there are no Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change considerations, however each individual intervention proposed will need to assess whether there will be future impacts.
CONSULTATION	The outcomes of the Big Conversation will be used to inform the projects and priority interventions and

	further engagement sessions will be held with the LTPT Board and wider stakeholders are projects and interventions are developed.
--	---

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the report;
- b) Agree to invite Expressions of Interest from the board membership for the appointment of an interim independent local Chair and deputy Chair;
- c) Note the additional organisations be added to the membership of the LTPT Board;
- d) Note the addition of the Chair of Economic Growth & Regeneration to the membership of the LTPT board;
- d) Note that the LTPT Board will invite Expressions of Interest from independent organisations to facilitate a process of co-production to agree the required 10 year Vision Statement and the interventions that would form the 3 year investment plan; and
- e) Subject to any further changes to guidance which may affect the above recommendations and the delivery of the Long Term Plan for Towns, then it is recommended that any changes requiring urgent decisions are delegated to the Executive Director for Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chair of Economic Growth and Regeneration.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To ensure progress continues to develop the 10 Year Vision Statement and 3 Year Investment Plan with a view to meeting the prescribed deadline of 1st August 2024.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Finance and Policy Committee – Long Term Plan for Towns – 19th February 2024.

9. CONTACT OFFICERS

Tony Hanson
 Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
 Email: tony.hanson@hartlepool.gov.uk
 Tel: 01429 523300

Beverley Bearne
Assistant Director of Development and Growth
E-mail: beverley.bearne@hartlepool.gov.uk
Tel: (01429) 523002

Sign Off:-

Managing Director	Date: 28/06/2024
Director of Finance, IT and Digital	Date: 28/06/2024
Director of Legal, Governance and HR	Date: 28/06/2024

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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	✓			The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' programme announced in September 2023 and the award of a £20m fund to the Council to provide long-term investment in local people's priorities will positively impact on all groups and demographics. By supporting the regeneration of the town, and improving accessibility and connectivity to a more vibrant town it will provide many more opportunities for upskilling, training and employment for young people. At this stage the investment plan has yet to be determined through consultation and therefore the specific positive impacts, and for which groups, are yet to be determined but will be presented in future reports to Committee.
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness				
Those with low educational attainment	✓			The £20m programme will provide wide ranging benefits and job opportunities for local people leading to reduction in unemployment, and the impacts of criminal behavior, and reduce levels of poverty for many groups. The investment plan has yet to be determined through consultation and therefore the specific positive impacts, and for which groups, are yet to be determined but will focus on raising educational and employment opportunities.
Those who are unemployed	✓			The £20m programme will provide wide ranging benefits and job opportunities for local people leading to reduction in unemployment, and the impacts of criminal behavior, and reduce levels of poverty for many groups. The

6.1 APPENDIX 1

				investment plan has yet to be determined through consultation and therefore the specific positive impacts, and for which groups, are yet to be determined but will focus on raising educational and employment opportunities.
Those who are underemployed	✓			The £20m programme will provide wide ranging benefits and job opportunities for local people leading to reduction in unemployment, and the impacts of criminal behavior, and reduce levels of poverty for many groups. The investment plan has yet to be determined through consultation and therefore the specific positive impacts, and for which groups, are yet to be determined but will focus on raising educational and employment opportunities.
Children born into families in poverty				
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances				
Lone parents				
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds				The package of measures that are yet to be set out in the investment plan will regenerate the town, create wider educational and employment opportunities for the whole community and be accessible to people of all ages, races, religions and orientation.

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Department	Division	Section	Owner/Officer
Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services	Development and Growth	Strategic Development	Paul Taylor
Service, policy, practice being reviewed/changed or planned	Long Term Plan for Towns		
Why are you making the change?	<p>The government announced a new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' programme in September 2023 and the award of a £20m fund to Hartlepool Borough Council to provide long-term investment in local people's priorities. Under guidance from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities, the Council must establish an independent Town Board which must develop, agree and deliver a 10 year Investment Plan setting out action against 3 investment themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety and security (through tackling crime and anti-social behaviour) 2. Transport and connectivity (through offering improved options and accessibility) 3. High streets, heritage and regeneration (through enhance town centres and making them more attractive and accessible) 		
How might this impact (positively/negatively) on people who share protected characteristics?			
<i>Please tick</i>		POSITIVELY	NEGATIVELY
Age		✓	
<p><i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' programme announced in September 2023 and the award of a £20m fund to the Council to provide long-term investment in local people's priorities will positively impact on all groups and demographics. By supporting the regeneration of the town, and improving accessibility and connectivity to a more vibrant town it will provide many more opportunities for upskilling, training and employment for all age groups. At this stage the long term, 10 year investment plan has yet to be determined through consultation and therefore the specific positive impacts, and for which groups, are yet to be determined but will be presented in future reports to Committee.</i></p>			
Disability		✓	
<p><i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' programme must focus on improving accessibility and connectivity for all groups, but as above, 10 year investment plan has yet to be determined by the Town Board and its stakeholders.</i></p>			
Gender Re-assignment			
<p><i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' investment plan priorities are yet to be determined.</i></p>			
Race		✓	
<p><i>The specific delivery elements of the programme are yet to be determined as the investment plan for the town is still to be developed through consultation however considerations of race, gender, age and disability will be prioritised as part of the consultation and engagement mechanisms.</i></p>			

Religion	✓	
<i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' investment plan priorities are yet to be determined.</i>		
Gender	✓	
<i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' investment plan priorities are yet to be determined.</i>		
Sexual Orientation	✓	
<i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' investment plan priorities are yet to be determined.</i>		
Marriage & Civil Partnership		
<i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' investment plan priorities are yet to be determined.</i>		
Pregnancy & Maternity		
<i>The new 'Long Term Plan for Towns' investment plan priorities are yet to be determined.</i>		
Has there been consultation /is consultation planned with people who will be affected by this policy? How has this affected your decision making?	Undertaken:	
	Intensive stakeholder engagement is already being currently undertaken to develop the data and intelligence base for the Investment Plan.	
	'Big Conversation' Over several months, concluding in March 2024, HBC have undertaken 'Hartlepool's Big Conversation' engaging with residents, organisations and partners from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to find out how they feel about the town, together with thoughts and ideas about the type of place they want Hartlepool to be in the future.	
	What the Council has heard through the Big Conversation with over 2000 engagements with people in the town is now being collated and analysed to inform a) the development of a new Council Plan setting out Council's priorities for the next 5 years, b) a new Place Narrative for Hartlepool and as such c) underpin engagement with partners and sectors for the development of the new Long Term Investment Plan.	
	Place Narrative HBC has commissioned and is currently working with leading consultants on the development of a 'Place Brand Narrative that will act as an overarching strategic resource for Hartlepool and its constituent organisations including HBC and the collective plethora of partner organisations. The narrative is being developed at present through intensive	

		<p>consultation with stakeholders, alongside the Big Conversation, and will celebrate all that unites the borough and yet allows for the nuance of difference between our communities, places, and spaces. This will provide valuable intelligence for the development of the Investment Plan.</p> <p>The plan will also be able to draw on the existing adopted Town Investment Plan and Town Centre Masterplan which are the foundations for our existing development pipeline.</p>	
<p>As a result of your decision how can you mitigate negative/maximise positive outcomes and foster good relationships?</p>		<p>HBC are funded by DLUHC to appoint a dedicated Long Term Plan for Towns Project Officer to support all sectors and their constituent organisations and assist in the continued development of strong partnerships.</p> <p>The soon to be established, independent Town Board (as described in the report) will be a multi sector, multi disciplinary body working closely with local people and have strong local community leadership.</p> <p>The LTPT programme will also be actively using the YourSay platform, successfully being utilised by Town Deal projects, and will provide an important mechanism for two way communication with the general public, and been a popular way to present complex information and respond swiftly to the public's interest.</p>	
<p>Describe how you will address and monitor the impact</p>		<p>1. No Impact - No Major Change <i>Significant consultation was fundamental to the initial development of the five project proposals, and the business cases are now presenting schemes that will impact positively on the community, different sectors of society, age groups, and social groups</i></p>	
		<p>2. Adjust/Change Policy <i>Please Detail</i></p>	
		<p>3. Adverse Impact but Continue as is <i>Please Detail</i></p>	
		<p>4. Stop/Remove Policy/Proposal <i>Please Detail</i></p>	
Initial Assessment	28/06/24	Reviewed	00/00/00
Completed	00/00/00	Published	00/00/00