

# AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA



**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**at 5.00pm**

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

## **MEMBERS OF AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:**

Councillors Boddy, Buchan, Darby, Hall, Holbrook, Jorgeson, Moore, Morley, Roy and Thompson.

Standards Co-opted Independent Member- Mr Martin Slimings

Standards Co-opted Parish Council Representatives: Parish Councillor Kane Forrester (Wynyard) and Parish Councillor Patricia Andrews (Headland)

Local Police Representative

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

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

### **3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### **4. STATUTORY SCRUTINY ITEMS**

- 4.1 People First Independent Advocacy Service – Update by The People And Performance Manager - *Statutory Scrutiny Manager*
- 4.2 Derelict land and Buildings in Hartlepool – Final Report - *Statutory Scrutiny Manager*
- 4.3 Selection of Potential Topics for Inclusion in the 2024/25 Statutory Scrutiny Work Programme - *Statutory Scrutiny Manager*
- 4.4 Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget 2023/24 - Outturn - *Statutory Scrutiny Manager*

### **5. AUDIT ITEMS**

No Items

**6. OTHER ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- 6.1 Youth Justice Strategic Plan - *Executive, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 6.2 Crustacean Deaths Working Group - Verbal Update - *Councillor Creevy*

**7. STANDARDS ITEMS**

No Items

**8. MINUTES FROM RECENT MEETINGS FOR RECEIPT BY THE COMMITTEE**

- 8.1 Health and Wellbeing Board – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- 8.2 Finance and Policy Committee relating to Public Health issues – None
- 8.3 Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee – None
- 8.4 Safer Hartlepool Partnership – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- 8.5 Tees Valley Area Integrated Care Partnership – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- 8.6 Regional Health Scrutiny – None
- 8.7 Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Health Scrutiny Committee - None

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR**

For information: - forthcoming meeting dates: -

Tuesday 24 September, 2024 at 5.00 pm  
Tuesday 15 October, 2024 at 5.00 pm  
Tuesday 5 November, 2024 at 5.00 pm  
Tuesday 10 December, 2024 at 5.00 pm  
Tuesday 28 January, 2025 at 5.00 pm  
Tuesday 4 March, 2025 at 5.00 pm  
Tuesday 1 April, 2025 at 5.00 pm

# **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

### **11 JUNE 2024**

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

**Present:**

Councillor: Shane Moore (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Bob Buchan, Rob Darby, Ged Hall, Philip Holbrook, Michael Jorgeson, Melanie Morley, Aaron Roy and Carole Thompson

Standards Co-opted Members:

Mr Martin Slimings – Independent Member  
Parish Councillor Kane Forrester (Wynyard)

Also Present: Martin Hopps, Cleveland Police

Officers: Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health  
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services  
Noel Adamson, Head of Audit and Governance  
Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Gemma Jones, Scrutiny and Legal Support Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the meetings held on 12 March 2024**

Confirmed.

#### **4. Introduction to Scrutiny** *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager)*

The Statutory Scrutiny Manager submitted a report setting out the role and functions of the Audit and Governance Committee in fulfilling its statutory scrutiny responsibilities as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the statutory scrutiny functions related to the areas of crime and disorder and health.

##### **Recommended**

That the report be noted.

#### **5. Statutory Scrutiny Work Programme Preparation – Presentation – Health in Hartlepool – Inequalities and Challenges** *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager/Director of Public Health)*

The Statutory Scrutiny Manager advised that as part of the work programme preparations for the new municipal year, presentations would be provided in relation to the inequalities and challenges around health in Hartlepool and the challenges around crime and disorder to give Members the opportunity to consider potential items and inform discussions in readiness for identification and consideration of work programme topics at the next meeting on 16 July.

The Director of Public Health provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation in relation to the inequalities and challenges around health in Hartlepool which included the following issues:-

- People in Hartlepool live shorter lives and experience more ill health than people in the North East and England.
- Inequalities
- Determinants of Health
- Causes of Inequalities
- Life Expectancy at Birth
- Inequality in Life Expectancy in Hartlepool
- Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth
- Emergency Hospital Admissions
- Covid 19 Case Rates
- Deprivation in Hartlepool

- Child Poverty in Hartlepool
- Adult and Childhood Obesity
- Solutions

In the lengthy discussion that followed Members debated issues arising from the presentation and the Director of Public Health responded to issues raised. Clarification was provided in terms of the key issues in terms of health services support, prevention programmes, partnership working, ongoing work and proposals to improve life expectancy in Hartlepool and the links to health inequalities including obesity prevention measures. In response to concerns raised in relation to the impact of the high number of teenage pregnancies, Members were advised that whilst under 16 birth rates in Hartlepool had reduced, measures were in place to support young people in this regard, details of which were provided. A query was raised in relation to the levels of engagement with young people in terms of sexual health and pregnancy prevention which the Director of Public Health agreed to provide following the meeting.

The Chair suggested that the public health budget be considered as a work programme item for the Committee for the coming year, the benefits of which were outlined.

The Chair placed emphasis upon the importance of building resilient communities and highlighted that some areas of the town required more attention than others. The Director of Public Health referred to the challenges around building resilient communities and highlighted that whilst there had been some benefits of the work to date in the Victoria Ward, this needed to be a longer term programme to see significant results.

Concerns were raised in relation to the driving factors in terms of deprivation in the town and the high influx of individuals from other areas moving into the town and the additional pressures on education, crime and disorder and health services as a result. It was suggested that issues of this type be considered as a potential work programme item. Reference was made to previous discussions around poverty figures and a query was raised as to whether any improvements had been made.

The Independent Member requested a copy of the presentation slides for reference purposes following the meeting.

### **Recommended**

- (i) That the contents of the presentation and comments of Members be noted and be utilised to assist Members in identifying work programme items at the next meeting.

- (ii) That information in relation to levels of engagement around sexual health and pregnancy prevention be provided following the meeting.
- (iii) That the potential work programme suggestions be considered at the next meeting.
- (iv) That a copy of the presentation slides be provided following the meeting.

## **6. Statutory Scrutiny Work Programme Preparation – Presentation – Crime and Disorder Challenges**

*(Assistant Director Regulatory Services and Superintendent District Commander Cleveland Police)*

As part of the preparations for considering the work programme items for the forthcoming year, the Chair welcomed Superintendent Martin Hopps, District Commander to the meeting who was in attendance to provide an update in respect of the challenges around crime and disorder in Hartlepool

The District Commander updated members on the challenges which included an overview of recorded crime, anti-social behaviour incidents and domestic abuse for the 12 month period up to and including May 2024, details of which were set out in a report, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting.

The District Commander reported that Cleveland Police Force was now out of special measures which would allow leadership, direction and stability for the force moving forward.

The report included statistical information as a comparator over the last 6 and 12 months in relation to local crime, anti-social behaviour and hate crime. In presenting the report the District Commander highlighted salient positive and negative data and responded to queries in relation to crime figures by type. It was noted that overall crime had risen by 5 in May 2024, had decreased by 522 offences in the last 6 months and 561 in the last 12 months demonstrating a 4% reduction in overall recorded crime.

Members were advised that Cleveland Police would soon undertake a review of their Neighbourhood Policing Strategy to strengthen partnership working, community engagement and proactive prevention activity.

In support the report the Assistant Director Regulatory Services provided a comprehensive presentation in relation to crime and disorder in Hartlepool which focussed on the following issues:-

- Community Safety Plan Priorities
- Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3 multi-agency working groups re: deliberate fires, fly tipping and off road vehicles
- Drugs and Alcohol
  - work in partnership with the Combatting Drugs Partnership to reduce drug supply
  - local delivery of the Drug and Alcohol Strategy Action Plan
- Domestic Violence and Abuse,
  - Local delivery of Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Partnership Action Plan 2022-2025
  - Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Serious violence
  - Local delivery of the Cleveland Unit for Reduction of Violence (CURV) Response Strategy
  - Assist in the delivery of the CURV Night Time Economy Action Plan
- Joint Working
  - Premises closures
  - AS 13
  - Action days
  - Community Protection Warning /Community Protection Notice
- Projects
  - ASB Hot Spot Funding
  - Safer Streets 5
  - UKSPF
  - CURV

In the discussion that followed the Assistant Director and District Commander responded to queries raised. Clarification was provided in relation to key issues and force priorities which included tackling off road bikes, anti-social behaviour hot spots, funding and joint working arrangements, the benefits of utilising drones, the definition of serious violence, crime reporting and monitoring procedures. Concerns were raised in terms of the increase in the number of knife crimes. The District Commander advised that the increase in pro-active searches could be contributing to the increase in knife crime figures.

In response to a query raised the Assistant Director outlined the Community Safety Plan and strategic assessment arrangements and the links to identifying priorities. Clarification in relation to how crime data from various sources was collated was also outlined.

Members welcomed the update and presentations and the Chair took the opportunity to thank representatives for assisting Members in identifying potential work programme topics.

### **Recommended**

That the contents of the presentation and comments of Members be noted and be utilised to assist Members in identifying work programme items at the next meeting.

A brief comfort break was agreed prior to consideration of the following item of business.

## **7. Annual Governance Statement 2023/24** *(Head of Audit and Governance)*

The Head of Audit and Governance presented the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24, a copy of which was appended to the report, as required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 for the Committee's approval.

Members were referred to the reasons an Annual Governance Statement was required, who was responsible and how the statement was produced, details of which were set out in the report.

### **Recommended**

That the submitted Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 be approved subject to minor rewording in paragraph 4.25, Page 13 to better reflect GDPR.

## **8. Joint Declarations from Management and Those Charged with Governance** *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital)*

The Head of Audit and Governance submitted for the Committee's approval a letter to Mazars from the Chair of the Committee detailing how the Committee had complied with the requirements of International Standards for Auditing. The Chair requested that the letter be amended to read "Chair" as opposed to "Chairman".

### **Recommended**

That the contents of the letter to Mazars, attached at Appendix A, outlining how the activities of the Committee had complied with the requirements of International Standards for Auditing be approved subject to a slight amendment to Chair.

## 9. Appointment to Committees / Forums - Annual Appointments *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager)*

The Principal Democratic Services Officer reported on the appointments made by Council to the following bodies for the Committee's information: -

- (a) North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Moore, self-selecting as Audit and Governance Committee Chair).
- (b) Tees Valley Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee; Councillor Morley (Councillor Roy as appointed substitute).
- (d) Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; Councillors Creevy (substitute Allen), Nelson (substitute Groves) and Young.
- (e) Tees Valley Combined Authority Independent Remuneration Panel; Martin Slimings (Independent Member).
- (f) Audit and Governance Committee Crustacean Deaths Working Group; Councillor Creevy (Mover of the Motion), Councillor Feeney, Vacant (Member of Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee) and Joan Stevens (Statutory Scrutiny Manager).

Nominations were sought from the Committee to the following bodies:-

- (g) Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee;
- (h) North East Regional Joint Member / Officer Scrutiny Network;
- (i) Durham Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Health Scrutiny Committee;
- (j) Health and Wellbeing Board as a non-voting official observer; and
- (k) Safer Hartlepool Partnership as a non-voting observer.

In terms of Parish Councillor representation on the Committee in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, a nomination was sought for a replacement Member following the recent election of Michael Jorgeson as a Borough Councillor. A replacement nomination had therefore been sought from Headland Parish Council for the remainder of the term. A nomination has been received from Patricia Andrews.

### Recommended

1. That the appointments set out in (a) to (f) above be noted.
2. That the following appointments be approved by the Committee: -
  - (g) Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Boddy (nominated to be Chair), Moore and Roy.
  - (h) North East Regional Joint Member/Officer Scrutiny Network – Councillor Jorgeson
  - (i) Durham Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Health Scrutiny Committee – Councillors

Moore (self-selected as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee), Boddy and Roy.

- (j) Health and Wellbeing Board as a non-voting official observer – Councillor Jorgeson
  - (k) Safer Hartlepool Partnership as a non-voting observer – Councillor Jorgeson
3. That Patricia Andrews (Headland Parish) be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee Parish Councillor vacancy to replace Michael Jorgeson following his election as a Borough Councillor (Term of Office 2024-26).

## 10. **Appointment to Committees / Forums - Personnel Sub-Committee** *(Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources)*

The Principal Democratic Services Officer reported that in order to comply with the requirements of the Constitution, the Committee was requested to appoint three Elected Members to the Personnel Sub Committee and to determine which of those Elected Members would act as Chair.

### **Recommended**

That Councillors Morley, Boddy and Hall be appointed to the Personnel Sub Committee and that Councillor Morley act as Chair of the Sub Committee.

## 11. **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) – Quarter 4 Update** *(Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources)*

The Principal Democratic Services Officer reported that Hartlepool Borough Council had powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) to conduct authorised covert surveillance and was required to provide Members with a quarterly update as to the use of those powers. Members were informed that in the quarter to the date of this meeting, there had been no RIPA Authorisations authorised.

### **Recommended**

That the report be noted.

## 16. **Minutes from the Recent Meeting for Receipt by the Committee**

None

The meeting concluded at 6.50 pm.

CHAIR

# AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

16<sup>th</sup> July 2024



**Report of:** Statutory Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** PEOPLE FIRST INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICE  
– UPDATE BY THE PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCE  
MANAGER

## 1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

Hartlepool will be a place:
where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives.
where people will be safe and protected from harm.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To inform Members that the People and Performance Manager from the People First Independent Advocacy Service will be in attendance at today's meeting to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the level and type of complaints from Hartlepool residents being dealt with by the service.

## 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since March 2018, the Audit and Governance Committee has received annual updates on the provision of free, confidential and independent advocacy support to people wishing to raise complaints about their NHS funded treatment or care.
- 3.2 The information provided is useful to the Committee in identifying any trends in terms of issues facing residents, or particular service areas of concern, that the Committee might wish to look at more closely as part of its work programme.
- 3.3 The People First Independent Advocacy Service is now responsible for the provision of this service and will at today's meeting present to the Committee an update on its activities, including the level and types of complaints dealt with from the perspective of Hartlepool residents. Comparative data will also be provided.
- 3.4 The People First Independent Advocacy Service report is attached at **Appendix A**.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **4.1 That the Audit and Governance Committee:**

- i) Note the update and seek clarification on any issues, where required; and
- ii) Utilise the information provided to assist in the development of its Work Programme for 2024/25.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**Contact Officer:-** Joan Stevens – Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Legal, Governance and Human Resources Department  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 284142  
Email: joan.stevens@hartlepool.gov.uk



# **Hartlepool NHS Complaints Advocacy Report**



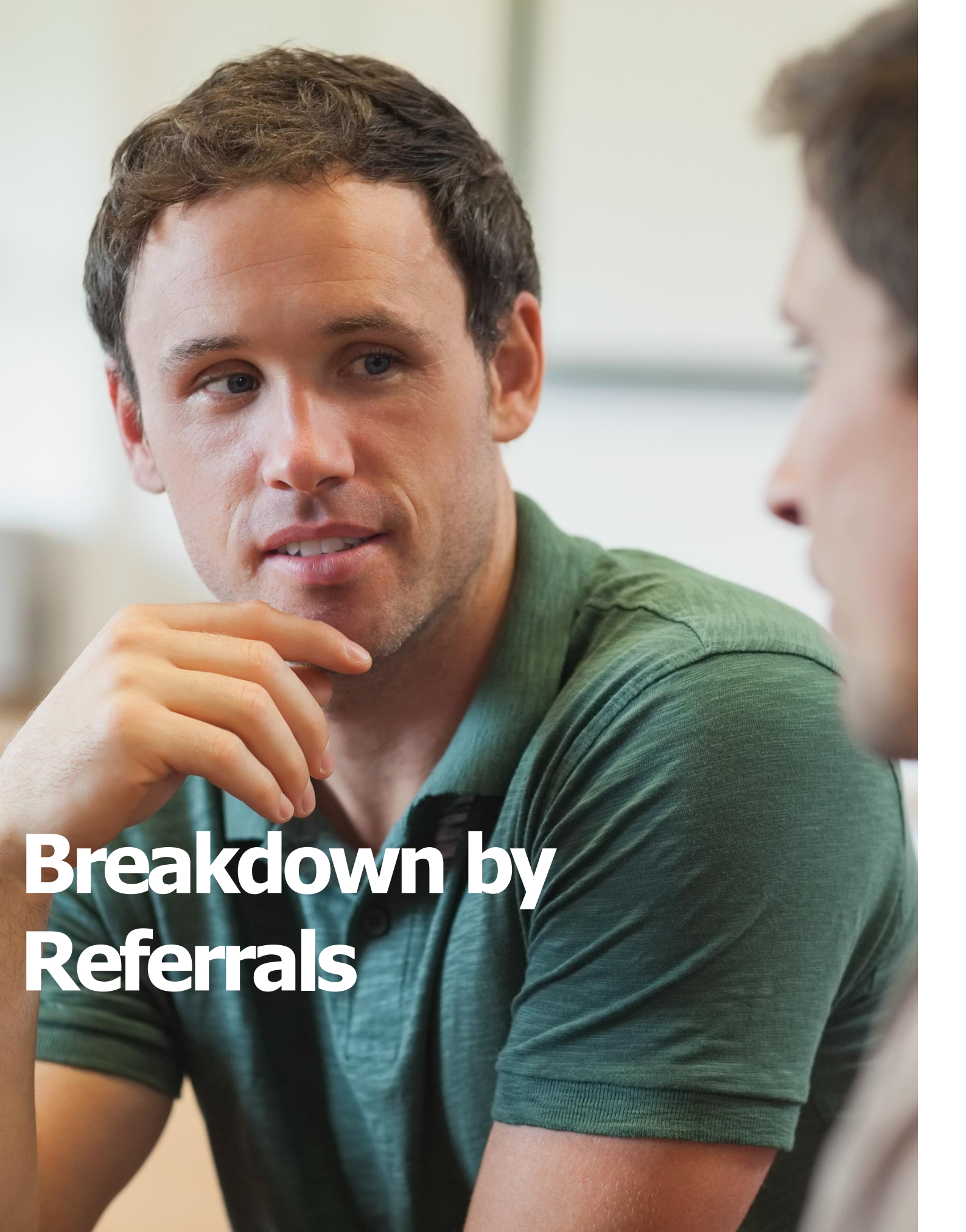
**People First**

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# Breakdown by Referrals

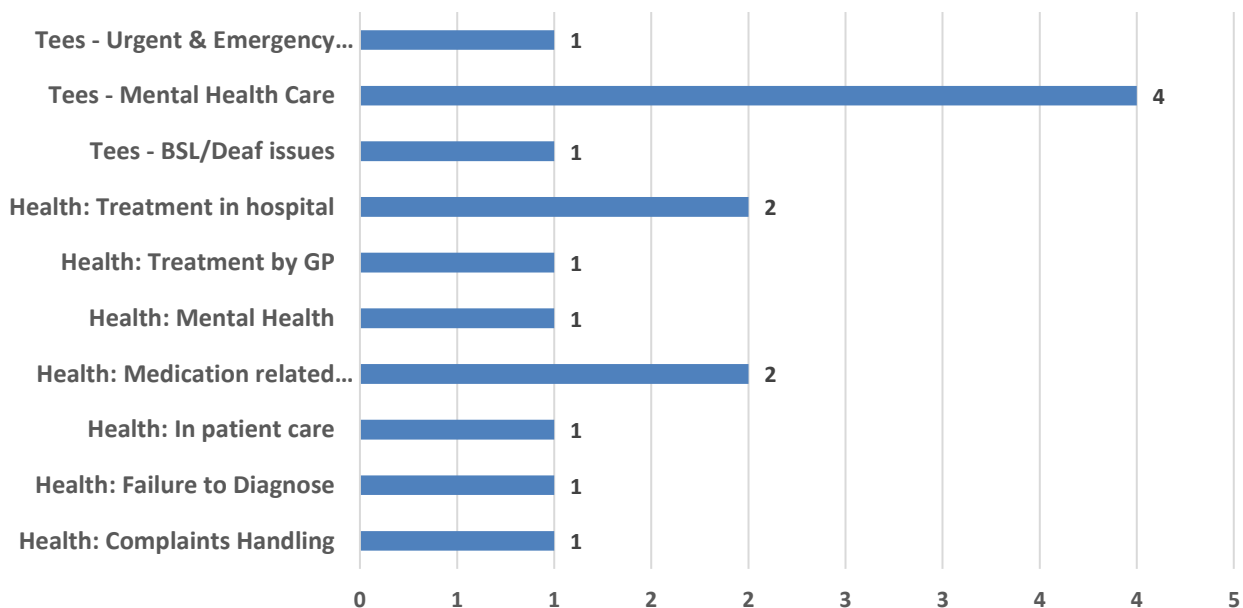
# Hartlepool Borough Council

During the period from April to June, Hartlepool received 4 new referrals and has 15 ongoing referrals. Out of these ongoing people, 8 are being supported through Local Resolution, and 4 are with the ombudsman. The remaining three individuals are being assisted by our triage team. Most of the referrals were self-initiated. North Tees Hospital has the highest number of ongoing referrals. The biggest issue is people receiving poor support with their mental health.

Month	New	Ongoing	Closed
April	1	14	2
May	2	14	0
June	1	15	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>		

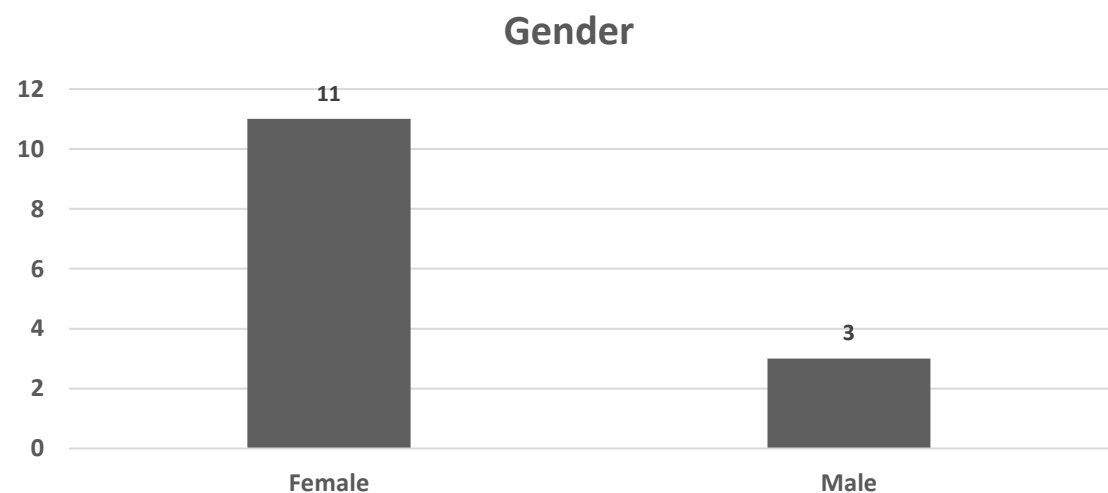
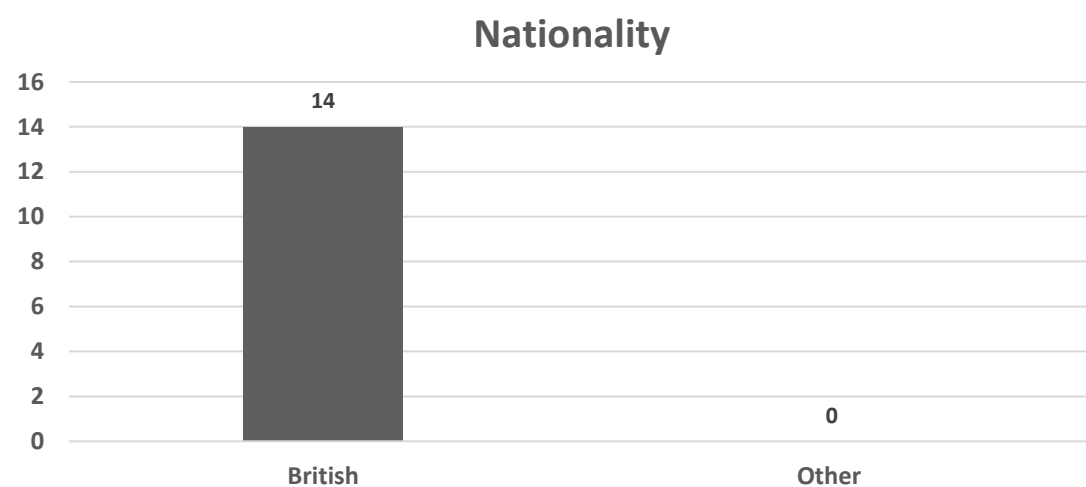
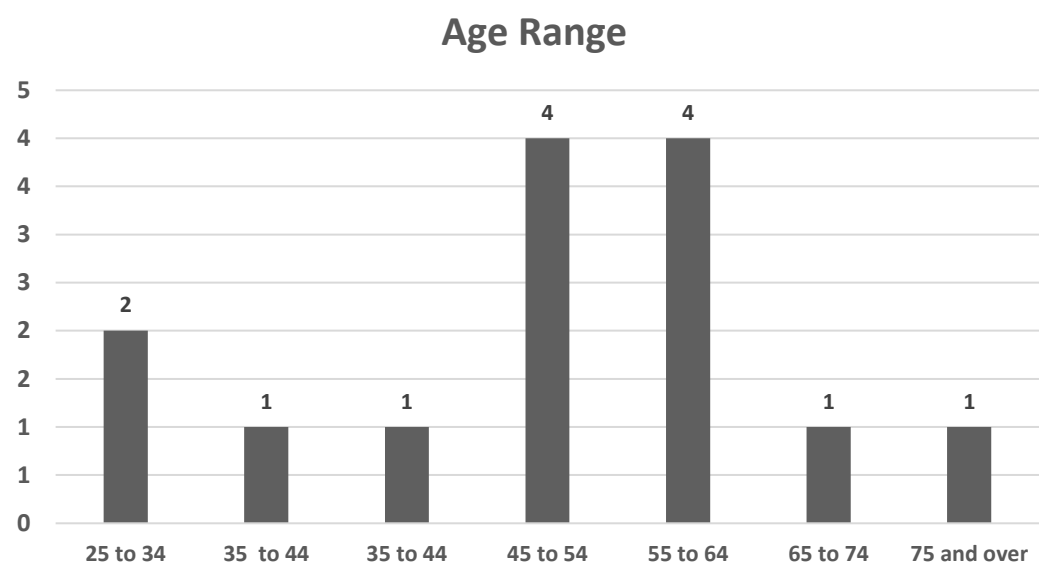
Setting complaints relate too				
Tees NHS - GP	Tees NHS - Trusts	Teesside NHS - James Cook Hospital	Teesside NHS - North Tees University Hospital	Teesside NHS - TEWV Trust
5	1	1	3	5

## Ongoing referral Issues



# Hartlepool Borough Council – Diversity

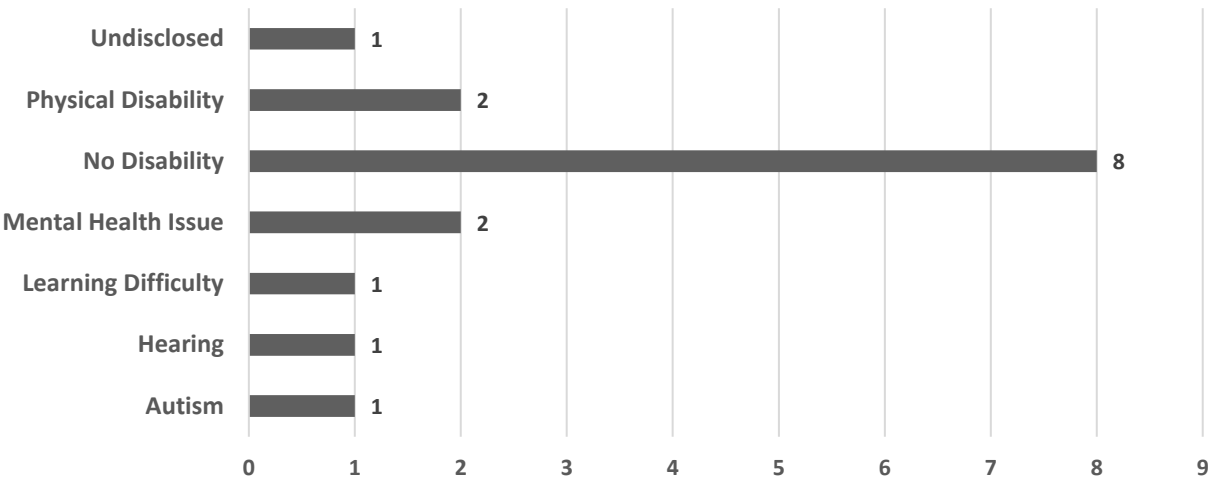
The following is a breakdown of the diversity among our ongoing referrals. The majority of referrals were received from White British females aged 45-64. Most of these individuals reside in urban areas and do not have any disability.



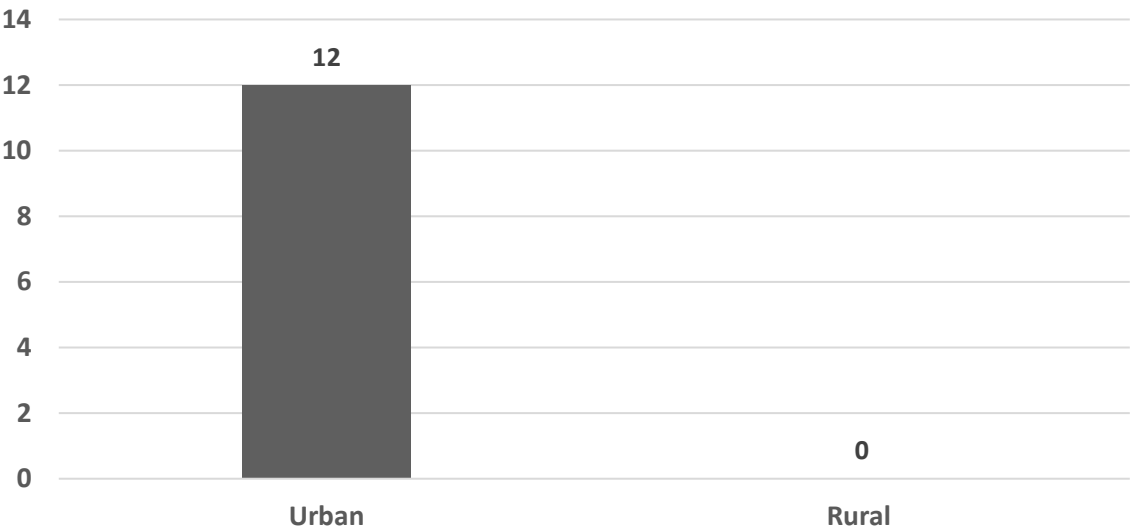
# Hartlepool Borough Council – Diversity

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Disability



Location Type



## Finances

Hartlepool council incurred a cost of **£13,531.92** for the contract in year one.



People First  
The People First Conference Centre  
Milbourne Street  
CA2 5XB

[www.wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](http://www.wearepeoplefirst.co.uk)

t: 03003 038037

e: [bestlife@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk](mailto:bestlife@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk)



**@Peoplefirst111**



**Facebook.com/PFIAtd**

# AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

16<sup>th</sup> July 2024



**Report of:** Statutory Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** Scrutiny Investigation into Derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool – Final Report

## 1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

<b>Hartlepool will be a place:</b>
- 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.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To present the Committee's report on 'Derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool' and provide an opportunity for Members to express any views, or comments, they may wish relayed to the Neighbourhood Services Committee and Finance and Policy Committee for consideration alongside the report's conclusions and recommendations.

## 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Audit and Governance Committee completed its 'Derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool' investigation in 2023/24 and, based on the evidence provided, the report attached at **Appendix A** has now been produced.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to consider approval of the report for submission to the Neighbourhoods Services Committee.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Committee:
- i) Considers approval of the report for submission to the Neighbourhood Services Committee; and

- ii) Identify any additional views or comments it would like to be brought to the attention of the Neighbourhood Services Committee, and Finance and Policy Committee, during consideration of the report's conclusions / recommendations.

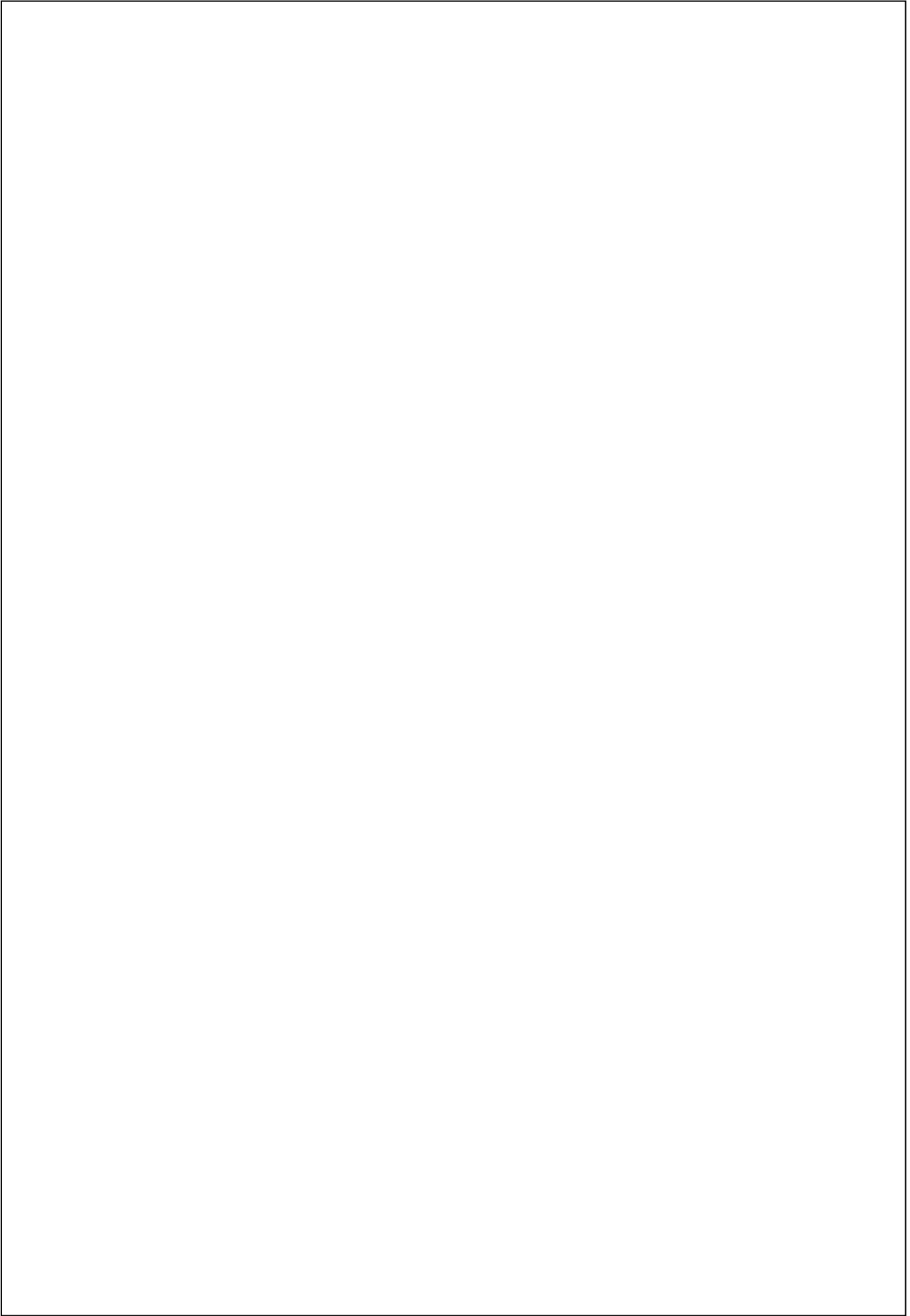
**Contact Officer:-** Joan Stevens – Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Chief Executive's Department – Legal Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 284142  
Email: joan.stevens@hartlepool.gov.uk

# **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT**

## **DERELICT LAND AND BUILDINGS INVESTIGATION**

**JULY 2024**





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

As part of the process for identification of the 2023/24 scrutiny work programme, the Committee's attention had been drawn to data<sup>1</sup> in relation to national, regional and local levels of unoccupied properties. Indications being that in 2020, 4.7% of Hartlepool properties (2,078 out of 44,250) had been reported as unoccupied and that when compared to the national rate (2.65%) Hartlepool had been ranked fifth highest in the UK.

The disproportionately high level of empty properties in Hartlepool was a significant concern for the Committee and Members were keen to gain a clearer understanding of the current position and the issues created in terms:

- The health and wellbeing of residents (including mental health) and increased risks of crime and antisocial behaviour with smaller derelict sites in urban communities often have the biggest impact on the wellbeing and safety of communities;
- Damage to community cohesion (communities can feel forgotten) and residents sense of place; and
- Impact on economic growth, with indications that neglected sites can deter investment, or mitigate the introduction of new income streams such as tourism<sup>2</sup>.

With due regard to the information provided, it was clear that the level and potential impact of derelict land and buildings met both the health and crime and disorder criteria for investigation under the Council's statutory scrutiny responsibilities. On this basis, and in response to concerns raised by residents, it was agreed that 'derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool' would be the Committee's sole investigation for 2023/24.

### Conclusions

The Audit and Governance Committee concluded that:-

- (a) The local authority's strategy for dealing with derelict land and property has had significant successes and officers are commended their activities. Factors that influence the creation of derelict land and buildings are, however, complex and with no 'one size fits all' solution, the local authority utilises a wide range of actions and intervention. It is timely to explore development of a new, more aggressive, strategy with a clear package of actions and responses to help address the issue.
- (b) Any proposals for the provision of additional activities, or service changes, must be considered alongside the financial challenges facing the local authority and be within available resources.
- (c) The local authority's strategy for dealing with derelict land and property has had significant successes and officers are commended their activities. Factors that influence the creation of derelict land and buildings are, however, complex and with no 'one size fits all' solution, the local authority utilises a wide range of actions and intervention. It is timely to explore development of a new, more aggressive, strategy with a clear package of actions and responses to help address the issue.

<sup>1</sup> Coulters Property (using data from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2020

<sup>2</sup> Head of Policy and Research at the Scottish Land Commission

**Conclusions (continued)**

The Audit and Governance Committee concluded that:-

- (d) Any proposals for the provision of additional activities, or service changes, must be considered alongside the financial challenges facing the local authority and be within available resources.
- (e) In considering the process for dealing with derelict lands and buildings, the Committee concluded that:
  - i) The provision of incentives, alongside other measures, is an important element of the Council's measures to encourage owners of land and buildings to bring them back in to use. With the aim of expanding the range of incentives available to the local authority, additional incentives that have been successfully implemented by other local authorities need to be explored. These including those referenced in Section 6.6 of this report.
  - ii) Members appreciated the value of the scoring matrix in ensuring the best use of limited Council resources. However, following transfer of the regeneration area to the Hartlepool Development Corporation, a review of the matrix was now required to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the scoring matrix.
  - iii) Consideration needs to be given to whether additional types of debt, and or costs, resulting from activities required to deal with derelict land and buildings can be considered as part of the first charge process. The potential being that the ability to trigger earlier enforcement action.
  - iv) Positive decisions have been made in terms of increasing the council tax liability for empty residential properties, the potential of doing the same for commercial properties and land requires further exploration.
- (f) Following creation of the Hartlepool Development Corporation (HDC), it is essential that strong working partnership are created, and maintained, in relation to the HDC's plans for delivery of a reduction in the level of derelict land and buildings within the HDC area.
- (g) With no requirement to have an Empty Homes Strategy, in the short term it is important that the findings of the investigation be fed into the development of the Housing Strategy. In the longer term, consideration needs to be given to the development of a specific Empty Homes Strategy.
- (h) With due regard to the impact of empty private rented accommodation on communities, and the potential benefits of a landlord licensing scheme on housing quality and number of empty homes, the Committee supported in principle of the introduction of a Hartlepool landlord licensing scheme. However, it was recognised that further work needed to be undertaken to access the viability of any potential Hartlepool scheme.
- (i) Demolition of town centre properties acts to displace problem tenants and emphasis needs to be placed on how tenants are dealt with and supported. To this end, consideration needs to be given to how support services could be provide to tenants, including how landlords and letting agencies could also be helped to support tenants.

- (j) The complexity of legislation and the powers available to the local authority around derelict land and buildings significantly influence / impact the local authority's ability to respond to the issue. In order to allow local authorities to more effectively respond to derelict land and building issues, central government needs to be lobbied to:
  - i) Undertake a review of national legislation and policy.
  - ii) Make the provision of housing support finding a priority.
  - iii) Support regeneration of areas as a key focus, alongside re-development, as part of Capital Programmes.

### Recommendations

The Audit and Governance Committee has taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Committee's key recommendations are as outlined below:-

- (a) That options for the expansion of the range of incentives available to the local authority be explored with consideration of incentives that have been successfully implemented by other local authorities, including those referenced in Section 6.6 of the report.
- (b) That following the transfer of the regeneration area to the Hartlepool Development Corporation, a review of the scoring matrix be undertaken to ensure its ongoing accuracy and effectiveness. The review to also consider incorporation of 'written off' debt as part of the scoring matrix.
- (c) That an exercise be undertaken to identify additional:-
  - i) Types of debt and or costs, resulting from activities required to deal with derelict land and buildings that could be included as part of the first charge process; and
  - ii) Options that can be implemented to increase costs for owners of empty commercial property that could contribute to a 'first charge', similar to those included for residential property.
- (d) That in the short term the findings of the derelict land and buildings investigation be fed into the development of the Housing Strategy and in the longer term consideration be given to the development of a specific Empty Homes Strategy.
- (e) That central government be lobbied to:-
  - i) Undertake a review of national legislation and policy;
  - ii) Make the provision of housing support finding a priority; and
  - iii) Support regeneration of areas as a key focus, alongside re-development, as part of Capital Programmes.

(f) That the Neighbourhood Services Committee explore the viability of:

- i) Re-introducing a Hartlepool landlord licensing scheme and / or tenant registration scheme;
- ii) Establishing a tenant support scheme in partnership with partners, including the voluntary and community sector, to assist landlords and letting agencies in supporting tenants to maintain tenancies and re-establishment of an all agency / cross sector group (Housing providers, social workers) with a focus on individuals.
- iii) Providing support and encouragement to business owners to bring empty property back in to use, including:
  - Guidance on the use of the buildings, where to get help, and advice regarding standards including energy efficiency, amenities and space standards for homes and the best way to secure a building or site;
  - In respect of planning/building control requirements including the use of the One Stop Shop, licence applications, listed building and conservation area consent; and
  - Relevant funding streams.

(g) That the Hartlepool Development Corporation (HDC) provide details of their strategy for the delivery of a reduction in the level of derelict land and buildings within the HDC area.

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Audit and Governance Committee's investigation in relation to 'Derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool'.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 Key to the delivery of the Council's overview and scrutiny responsibilities is the selection of investigations that add value to the operation of services provided by the Council and its partners. An essential part of this is the cross party membership of the Audit and Governance Committee which, for the purpose of the Derelict Land and Buildings investigation, consisted of Councillors Allen, Brash (Chair), Cowie, Creevy (Vice Chair), Groves, Hargreaves, Moore, V Nicholson, D Nicholson and Sharp.

## 3. THE PROCESS FOR CONDUCT OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 Members of the Audit and Governance Committee met formally on six occasions to receive evidence relating to the investigation and a detailed record of the issues raised is available from the Council's Democratic Services website<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.2 Key to the success of the investigation was the provision of clarity in terms of the aim for the piece of work, areas of enquiry and sources of evidence and the Committee, at its meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, agreed the following:
- i) Aim of investigation - To explore options for the development of a new, and far more aggressive, strategy for dealing with derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool.
  - ii) Areas of enquiry, sources of evidence and consultation / community engagement elements of the investigation (attached at **Appendix 1**)

## 4. DERELICT LAND AND BUILDINGS - WHAT WE KNOW

- 4.1 In order to inform discussions regarding the actions available to the Council to address the prevalence and impact of derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool, Members explored:
- The factors that contribute to homes becoming vacant;
  - Why properties and land stay vacant;
  - Why it is important that they be brought back in to use;
  - How can they be brought back in to use; and
  - The impact they have.
- 4.2 The Committee recognised that levels of derelict land and buildings are an issue for all towns and cities across the country, specifically in terms of:
- Meeting critical housing needs. Derelict land and buildings represent a waste of valuable and limited resources and each is a home that is not available on a housing register or to first-time buyers; and

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/meetings/committee/134/Audit\\_and\\_Governance\\_Committee](https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/meetings/committee/134/Audit_and_Governance_Committee)

- Wider negative impacts on communities. Empty properties can be a catalyst for crime and economic / social degeneration.
- 4.3 Whilst it was acknowledged that there was a need in some areas for a small supply of empty homes to support housing growth (ideally around 3% of properties), the housing challenge was recognised as a significant for residents. However, in the context of its investigation, the Committee was particularly concerned about the wider impact of derelict land and buildings on individuals and the wider community, including the potential for crime and economic / social degeneration on the role of private sector rented sector.

Why do properties and land become vacant and stay vacant.

- 4.4 When looking at why land and properties become, and remain, vacant the Committee identified a number of influencing factors:
- Part of Deceased Estate;
  - Ownership disputes;
  - Properties not in lettable condition/do not meet housing standards;
  - Insurance claims;
  - Bringing property back into use may be too expensive;
  - Low demand/over supply a location; and
  - Difficult to let.
- 4.5 Members recognised that many of the above had contributed to properties becoming vacant in their wards, with the resulting resident concerns about their condition and impact in terms social cohesion and community pride. In addition to this, whilst this was an outcome of last resort for many owners, the Committee was shocked to find that in some cases owners were making a conscious decision leave properties empty.

What are the benefits of bringing derelict land and buildings back in to use?

- 4.6 With a clearer understanding of the factors that result in empty properties and land, the Committee took the opportunity to explore the benefits of bringing land and buildings back in to use and how this could be achieved.
- 4.7 Evidence provided by the Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, emphasised the importance of bringing properties and land back into use from a wider community perspective, in order to:
- Create a stronger, balanced housing market and community sustainability;
  - Increase the supply of affordable housing and housing types / tenure options;
  - Enhance the viability and vitality of an area; and
  - Reduce the risk of vandalism, arson or squatting and the fear of crime.
- 4.8 Over and above benefits to the wider community, it was recognised that there are also specific benefits for Council and individual home / property owners in terms of the below.

The Council

- Increased Council Tax revenue;
- New Homes Bonus;
- Reduced need for enforcement; and

- Reallocate resources.

Home Owners:

- An income from renting, leasing or selling property;
- The property is more likely to hold its capital value if occupied and maintained; and
- Reduced Council Tax liability.

## 5. LEVELS OF DERELICT LAND AND BUILDINGS (NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND HARTLEPOOL)

- 5.1 Evidence presented by the Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services provided the Committee with an understanding of how levels of derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool compare to the national and regional position.
- 5.2 For the purpose of data<sup>4</sup>, it was brought to the Committees attention that empty properties were defined as *‘Empty properties classified for council tax purposes, including all empty properties liable for council tax and properties that are empty but receive a council tax exemption’*.
- 5.3 The Committee appreciated that the use of this definition meant that there would be limitations on the accuracy of the data provided, given that some local authorities do not charge for vacant properties. The effect of this being the removal of the incentive to report empty properties, creating the potential for ‘under reporting’.

### National Levels of Derelict Land and Buildings and Long Term Empty Properties

- 5.4 With due regard to the identified limitations of the data provided, it came as no surprise to the Committee that empty land and property was a significant issue across the whole country. Supporting data showing that in 2022 there had been a 676,304 (3.6%) increase in the recorded level of empty homes in England.
- 5.5 The Committee recognised the increased complexity of dealing with long-term vacant land and buildings, (i.e. those that have been vacant for more than six months), the number of which had increased in England from 248,149 in 2022 to 261,189 in November 2023. This represented an increase of 5%, was 16% more than before the 2019 pandemic and was at its highest level since 2011.

### Regional Levels of Derelict Land and Buildings

- 5.6 Looking more closely at the regional position, data from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for 2023, showed that levels of derelict land and buildings had also increased across the all Tees Valley between 2022 and 2023 (as detailed in **Table 1**).

Table 1 – Levels of Derelict land across the Tees Valley<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - Data on homes classed as empty for Council Tax purposes (October 2023)

<sup>5</sup> DLUHC, (March 2023)

Local Authority	2022	2023
<b>Hartlepool</b>	<b>1763</b>	<b>1801</b>
Darlington	1763	1765
Middlesbrough	2679	2819
Redcar and Cleveland	2003	2099
Stockton	2625	2813

- 5.7 With regards the level of long-term vacant properties across the north east region, the majority of local authority areas had seen an increase in numbers. Members were, however, pleased to see that Hartlepool had been one of only three local authority areas in the north east region where numbers of empty homes had been reduced (as detailed in **Table 2**).



Table 2 – Levels of long-term empty homes across the Tees Valley

Local Authority	LTEH 2022	LTEH 2023	LTEH Change	LTEH % change	Rise or Fall?
Darlington	623	677	54	9	UP
Durham	4,112	4,279	167	4	UP
Gateshead	1,332	1,341	9	1	UP
Hartlepool	847	633	-214	-25	Down
Middlesbrough	1,254	1,294	40	3	UP
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,729	1,769	40	2	UP
North Tyneside	970	946	-24	-2	Down
Northumberland	2,123	2,343	220	10	UP
Redcar and Cleveland	800	887	87	11	UP
South Tyneside	948	869	-79	-8	Down
Stockton-on-Tees	1,056	1,051	-5	0	NoChange
Sunderland	2,010	2,067	57	3	UP
<b>North East Region</b>	<b>17,804</b>	<b>18,156</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>UP</b>

#### Levels of Derelict Land and Buildings in Hartlepool

- 5.8 The Committee found that the overall level of derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool had reduced between 2020 and 2022, as detailed in **Table 3**. However, numbers had begun to increase again from 2022 onwards with 1,801 empty properties in Hartlepool in 2023.

Table 3 – Levels of empty properties in Hartlepool

Year	Number of empty properties in Hartlepool	Trend
2020	2,078 <sup>6</sup>	
2022	1,763 <sup>7</sup>	
2023 (March)	1,801 <sup>8</sup>	
2023 (September)	1,960 <sup>9</sup>	

- 5.9 Members were keen to gain an understanding of the levels of empty properties on a ward by ward basis, as detailed in **Appendix 2**, and found that:

- 1,960 empty properties in Hartlepool equated to 4.4% of overall number of dwellings in the borough.

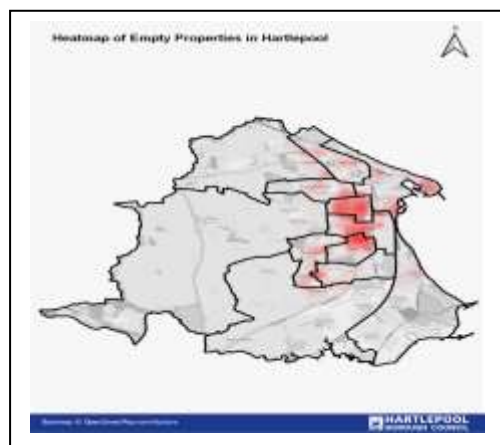
<sup>6</sup> Coulters Property (using data from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2020

<sup>7</sup> DLUHC, (March 2023)

<sup>8</sup> DLUHC, (March 2023)

<sup>9</sup> Council tax empty property data

- Empty properties are concentrated predominantly located the town centre areas of the town, as shown in the heat map.
- The majority of empty properties in Hartlepool had been empty for less than 12 months (1,389), whilst a much smaller number (264) had been empty for in excess of two years.



- Foggy Furze, Victoria, Headland and Harbour and Burn Valley had the highest number of long term empty properties (in descending order).
  - The majority of empty properties in Hartlepool were privately owned (85%)
- 5.10 Members welcomed the reduction in the overall level of empty properties in Hartlepool in between 2020 and 2022<sup>10</sup>, and although numbers had increased slightly between 2020 and 2023, 2023 numbers were still below those for 2019. In addition to this, Members were pleased to find that the number of long-term empty properties in Hartlepool had reduced by 25% to 633 during 2022/23<sup>11</sup>.
- 5.11 In terms of fluctuations in the level of empty homes in Hartlepool, questions were raised by the Committee in relation to the successes that had helped reduce numbers, the challenges that may have contributed to subsequent increases and potential improvements to operating practices and strategies that may be possible within available local authority resources.

## 6. POWERS AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND CHALLENGES

- 6.1 With an appreciation of the factors that contribute to homes and land becoming vacant, the Committee explored the mechanisms available to the local authority to bring them back in to use. Evidence provided demonstrated the range of short, medium and long term powers and incentives at the disposal of the local authority to bring land and buildings back into use. These are outlined below with further details provided in **Appendix 3**.

### Short term solution

Works to Secure Buildings  
Abatement Notices  
Community Protection Notices  
Defective Buildings Notice

### Medium term solution

Section 215 Notice  
Ruinous and Dilapidated Buildings Notice

<sup>10</sup> Coulters Property (using data from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2020

<sup>11</sup> [Action on Empty Homes 2022/2023](#)

Long term solution

Enforced Sale

Compulsory Purchase Order/Purchase by Agreement

Demolition Orders

Clearance Areas

Selective Licensing

6.2 In terms of the various pieces of legislation identified in **Appendix 3**, that could be used to help bring empty properties back into use, emphasis was placed on upon the lengthy and costly nature of the process. Attention was also drawn to complexity of the factors that influence the creation of derelict land and buildings and it was recognised by the Committee that there was no 'one size fits all' solution to the issue.

6.3 In exploring the practical implementation of powers available to the local authority, consideration was given to the how they could be implemented as levers, sticks and carrots to encourage owners to bring land and buildings back into use.

'Levers' / 'Carrots' to encourage compliance

6.4 The Committee identified a number of options that could be used to encourage compliance. These included:

- Advice and Guidance to the business owners including suggestions about the use of the building, where to get help, and advice regarding standards including energy efficiency, amenities and space standards for homes and the best way to secure a building or site
- Support for applications in respect of planning/building control requirements including the use of the One Stop Shop, licence applications, listed building & conservation area consent.
- Access to funding streams for owners of land/buildings where available.
- Occasionally the Local Authority are able to act as Intermediary, connecting owners with prospective purchasers.

6.5 Members were interested to explore other incentives that could potentially be implemented to encourage owners to bring empty properties back into use. As part of this the committee acknowledged the requirements of the capital programme and emphasised the need for capital funding going forward to have regard to targeting empty properties in the town. As part of this, it was suggested that the potential to have a policy in place that the local authority doesn't work with developers who have derelict land and properties in the town. The intention of this being to encourage developers to bring these areas of land and buildings back into use as a priority.

6.6 A number of potential incentives, which had been used successfully by other local authorities were brought to the attention of Members. These included:

- Grants/loans to empty property owners to bring property up to standard (Match funded by the owner and conditional on properties being reoccupied); and

- Lease and Repair Schemes where property is brought up to standard by local authorities who then manage it until the costs are recovered.

#### Sticks' to encourage compliance

6.7 The Committee's attention was drawn to a number of potential 'sticks' that are available to encourage the owners of derelict land and buildings to bring their properties back in to use. These included:

- The General enforcement policy. This provides guidance to enforcement officers, businesses, consumers and the general public on the range of options that are available to achieve compliance with the legislation that the Local Authority enforce. It is an 'umbrella' policy which applies to the enforcement activities of the Council. Documents that detail enforcement options and requirements specific to policies, procedures, codes and guidance will also comply with this policy where appropriate.
- Sanctions. In some circumstances it will be appropriate to take no action. This may be the case if the cost of compliance to the owner (or LA) outweighs the detrimental impact of the contravention. May be inappropriate where trader has ceased trading or where action would seriously impact their wellbeing. Where the law provides the complainant with other options to resolve issues which affect them, such as civil remedies, owners are directed to relevant information. Other sanctions are listed below;
  - Verbal and written warnings
  - Statutory Notices
  - Work in default
  - Enforced Sale
  - Penalty Notices
  - Orders and Injunctions
  - Simple caution
  - Prosecution
  - Detention and/or Seizure of Goods / Equipment
  - Proceeds of Crime
  - Refusal/Suspension / Revocation of a License / Registration / Consent / Permit or similar
  - Retrospective Application
  - Compulsory Purchase Orders

6.8 The Committee explored the level of council tax applied to empty properties and welcomed confirmation that a policy had been put in place to do this the potential to increase the level up to 200%. Member were, however, interested in whether there was a way of doing the same in terms of increasing charges on empty business premises / land.

6.9 Emphasis was also placed on the importance of ensuring that information about vacant properties is shared to ensure that necessary action can be taken.

#### Challenges and Risks

- 6.10 Whilst considering the powers available to the local authority in dealing with derelict land and buildings, Members gained an appreciation of the associated challenges and risks.

Challenges	Risks
<p>In some circumstances it is appropriate to take no action. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of compliance to the offender (or Council) outweighs the detrimental impact of the contravention.</li> <li>- May be inappropriate where trader has ceased trading or where action would seriously impact their wellbeing</li> <li>- Where the law provides the complainant with other options to resolve issues which affect them, such as civil remedies, we will direct them to relevant information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorrect use of legislation or not following legal process</li> <li>- Being unable to recover cost for work carried out in default</li> <li>- Costs can be challenged</li> </ul>
<p>Enforcement action must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In accordance with general enforcement policy,</li> <li>- Need to follow legal process, building ownership, timescales for work, carrying out works in default, a recurring problem, insecure building/fly tipping, managing expectations, resource issues</li> </ul>	

## 7. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- 7.1 The Committee, at its meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, agreed to seek the views of residents and groups in the town on the location of derelict land and buildings and the impact this has on their wellbeing and safety.
- 7.2 An extensive consultation and engagement exercise was undertaken via the Council's 'Your Say' engagement platform between the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 (extended from the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023).
- 7.3 Concern was expressed by Members that despite extensive promotion of the consultation (as detailed in **Appendix 4**) the number of responses had been relatively low, with only 74 participants. Some had, however, completed the survey more than once and this raised the response rate to 87.
- 7.4 In light of this, it had been recognised that the statistical relevance of the data needed to be taken into consideration. It had also become apparent to the Committee that additional mechanisms were needed to



increase the reach of the consultation. On this basis, a drop in session was held to provide residents with an opportunity to speak in person to the Chair of the Committee.

7.5 Working group sessions were also held to provide a friendly and informal opportunity for Members to speak confidentially to stakeholders and other individuals or bodies about how the issue of derelict land and buildings affect. Those involved in working groups included landlords, social housing providers, stakeholders (Police, Fire, Wharton Trust, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and representatives from a Middlesbrough Borough Council Selective Landlord Licensing scheme perspective..

7.6 The Committee welcomed evidence from Middlesbrough Borough Council in relation to the operation, and success, of its Landlord Licensing Scheme. Particular attention was drawn to the benefits of the scheme in improving housing quality and reducing the number of empty properties. However, no evidence in relation to the prevention of anti-social behaviour was available at the time on the working group meeting. With reference to the effectiveness of the previous Hartlepool Landlord Licensing Scheme, and the evidence provided by Middlesbrough Borough Council, the Landlords present at the working group meetings were not supportive of a landlord registration scheme, as it was felt such schemes penalise good landlords and acted to displaced tenants rather than deal with the issues that they and landlords face. There had, however, been support for:

- A tenant registration scheme to allow:
  - Details of problem tenants shared with landlords;
  - Rent arrears to follow tenants.
- A tenant support scheme to help:
  - Tenants maintain tenancies; and
  - Landlords and letting agencies support their tenants.
- The re-establishment of an all agency / cross sector group (Housing providers, social workers) to focus on individuals and support them to keep on the straight and narrow.
- The Lobbying of government to:
  - Make the provision of housing support funding a priority.
  - Support regeneration as a focus, alongside re-development.

7.7 Members noted landlord concerns regard landlord licensing schemes but felt that further work needed to be undertaken to properly assess the viability of the introduction of a scheme, similar to that operated in Middlesbrough, in Hartlepool. Given the complexity of landlord licensing as a process, it was suggested that this work be undertaken via the Neighbourhood Services Committee, alongside suggestions in relation to tenant registration and tenant support.

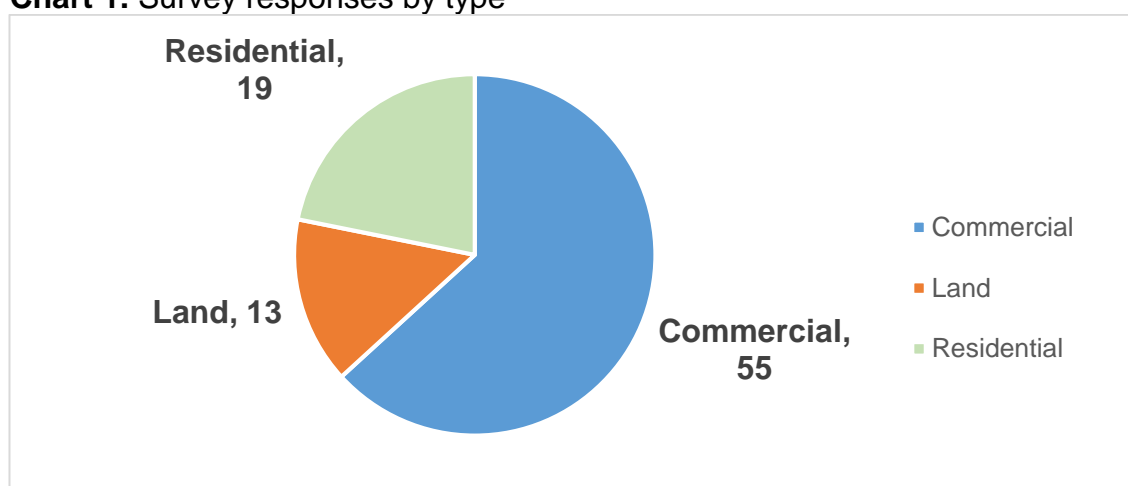
7.8 Building even further on this, a short survey was also launched to allow any landlords who had been unable to attend the working group sessions to contribute in terms of the impact derelict land and buildings could be having on their ability to let their properties in Hartlepool, overall impact on their

businesses. They were also provided with an opportunity to suggest ideas for action to bring empty homes back into use.

### Evaluation of consultation findings

- 7.9 After careful analysis of the survey results, Members found that more commercial properties had been highlighted than residential or land and surmised that this could be due to the central location of some of these buildings and therefore they may see higher footfall or traffic. These properties also tended to be larger in size and perhaps more noticeable.
- 7.10 A breakdown of property type is shown in Chart 1, categorised as commercial buildings, residential buildings or land. The location of the residential buildings kept confidential to prevent identification of individual properties.

**Chart 1. Survey responses by type**



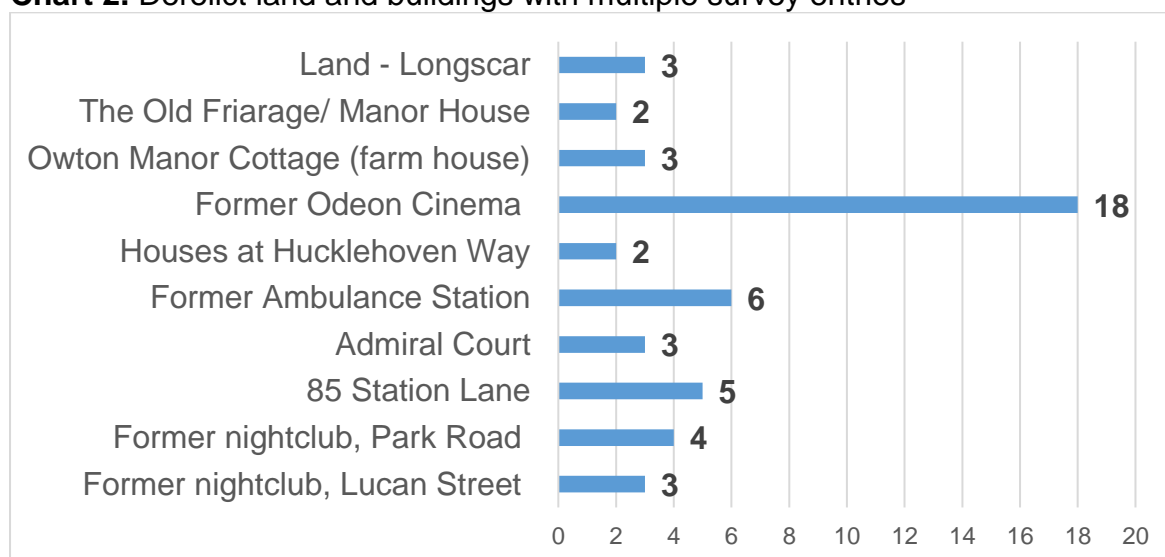
- 7.11 Consultation results, detailed in **Table 2**, highlighted that derelict land and buildings had been identified by residents across all electoral Wards within the town, with the exception of one. The Committee was surprised to find that there had been no submissions for the Throston Ward and felt that this could be an inaccurate reflection of the position in the Ward.

**Table 2 - Land and buildings by Ward**

Ward	Commercial	Land	Residential	Total
Burn Valley	2	1	6	9
De Bruce	2	1	1	4
Fens and Greatham	1			1
Foggy Furze	1		3	4
Headland and Harbour	8	3	3	14
Manor House			3	3
Rossmere	1	1		2
Rural West	6	1	1	8
Seaton	6	5	1	12
Throston				0
Victoria	28	1	1	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>87</b>

- 7.12 It was also interesting to the Committee that the most deprived wards in the town were not necessarily the areas with the highest number of entries (data source) and areas identified did not necessarily correlate to the prevalence of deprivation.
- 7.13 Looking in more detail at the survey results, Members were surprised to find that, whilst 27 properties were on the Council's Derelict Buildings Register, 48 different/individual buildings and areas of land had been identified by the survey participants. Some buildings and land had receiving multiple entries and **Chart 2** highlighted these Committees

**Chart 2.** Derelict land and buildings with multiple survey entries



- 7.14 Members were concerned to find that two of the buildings identified were owned by Hartlepool Borough Council, highlighting the need for the local authority to lead by example. These being the former Ambulance Station and part of the Owton Manor Cottage on Owton Manor Lane. It also came as no surprise to the Committee that the most highlighted property had been the former Odeon Cinema located in the Victoria Ward.
- 7.15 In terms of the outcomes of the working groups, the Committee noted with interest suggestions for a way forward in relation to:
- The need for better support for tenants and partnering with voluntary sector;
  - The establishment of a tenancy support scheme in partnership with the voluntary sector to intervene where required and coordination services so all work towards the same goal.
  - The introduction of a landlord licensing scheme on a wider scale.
  - Large scale investment for some streets, targeting one small area of empty domestic properties.
  - Maximise of first charges including police and fire brigade costs.
  - Evaluate the success of the pilot programme 'Taking back the streets' in Stockton with the potential to look at its introduction in Hartlepool
  - Use of the Capital programme to target empty properties.
  - HDC deal with some of the identified properties as a priority.
  - Lead by example with the properties we own.
  - Exploring financial incentives and grants to bring properties back into use.

7.16 With particular reference to the first charge process, the Committee received confirmation that it would not be possible to add costs in relation to police and fire brigade activity to the first charge on empty properties and land. It was suggested that the potential of incorporating all possible debt as part of the first charge should be looked in to. The aim being to, where appropriate, explore the potential of speeding up the process for enforced sale.

7.17 Members welcomed the breadth and balance of comments received and found the examples of lived experience gathered via the workshops particularly informative. A summary of the evidence provided as a result of the survey and workshops is provided below with more detailed information provided in **Appendices 5, 6 and 7**:

- i) Overwhelming people highlighted that the issues affects a sense of pride in the town and it came as no surprise to Members that the most popular answer to the question 'What impacts you the most about this issue?' was a sense of pride in the town.
- ii) People wanted to see them demolished and redeveloped. Although it was recognised that this was not always straight forward, due to the complexity of some buildings having listed status or English heritage status.
- iii) Participants felt that the derelict buildings and land made the area look unsightly and there were numerous concerns regarding the impression this gave to other residents and visitors to the town. Other concerns included the Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the presence of vermin.
- iv) Commercial properties were the highest reported properties and prominently placed buildings were reported multiple times. In addition to this, since April 2021 there had been 12 reports of anti-social behaviour and 3 crimes recorded.
- v) The former Odeon received significantly more entries than any other building/land and was reported to have been an issue for residents for more than 10 years.
- vi) Of the unsafe comments received 2 comments related to concerns about personal safety and 18 related to the building having aspects that seemed structurally unsafe or were a fire hazard. It was confirmed that all of the buildings identified had been reported to the Local Authorities environmental health team to ensure any necessary action could be taken to ensure the safety of the building.
- vii) Participants highlighted that some of these issues had been a problem for more than 10 years, with particular reference to the former Odeon Cinema.
- viii) Enforcement and demolishing properties were not always the primary solution. Other solutions included the development and repurposing of areas into something else and refurbishment to restore to former glory.

**8. EVIDENCE FROM OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR BODIES**

- 8.1 The Committee extended an invitation for input from a number of individuals including the Police, Fire Brigade, MP, Hartlepool Development Corporation and Chairs of relevant Council Committees. Responses were welcomed by the Committee, with emphasis placed upon the need for Hartlepool Borough Council to lead by example in terms of its own empty properties by the Chair of the Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee.
- 8.2 In relation to input from the Hartlepool Development Corporation (HDC), Members noted that at the time of the investigation the HDC had not undertaken any work on derelict buildings within the HDC area. The Committee was disappointed that the HDC had been unable to participate and emphasised the importance strong working relationships, and engagement, going forward. On this basis, the Committee was keen to see the development of a clear HDC strategy for the delivery of a reduction in the level of derelict land and buildings within the HDC area.

**9. HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL ACTIONS AND SUCCESSES IN RESPONDING TO THE DERELICT LAND AND BUILDINGS ISSUE**

- 9.1 With an understanding of the powers available to the local authority to bring empty land and buildings back in to use, Members were interested in finding out what the Councils strategies were in relation to the issue, what actions were being taken within the powers as outlined in Section 6 and what successes the Council has had in responding to the issue.
- 9.2 The Committee gained an appreciation of the wide range of activities that have been, and continue to be, undertake in relation to derelict land and buildings in the town.
- 9.3 As part of the work of the Derelict Buildings Multi Agency Group, new problem sites were considered at each meeting. The Committee was pleased to find that Historic England had been impressed with the multi-agency approach in Hartlepool as an example of good practice. Discussions at meetings of the group informed by three key pieces of documentation, as detailed in **Table 4**.

Table 4 – Evidence considered by the Derelict Buildings Multi Agency Group

Document	What is
Derelict Buildings Site Assessment	The form allows the scoring and prioritising of buildings to enable buildings and resources to be prioritised.
The Scoring Matrix (done every two years or on an ad-hoc basis on request)	Assigns scores for time vacant, visual impact, condition of building, location and enforcement activity. The score based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time Vacant</li> <li>• Visual impact</li> <li>• Condition of building/site</li> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Enforcement Activity</li> </ul>
A Derelict Buildings Register	A comprehensive list of derelict land and buildings.

- 9.4 Members appreciated the value of a scoring matrix in order to make the best use of the Council's limited resources, however, the Committee had been made aware of the removal of the regeneration area from the matrix as following creation of the Hartlepool Development Corporation. Whilst the matrix was reviewed every two years as a matter of course, the Committee felt that a review of the matrix was needed as a result of the removal of the regeneration area.
- 9.5 In relation to scoring of enforcement activity as part of the matrix, it was noted that debt relating to local authority enforcement activity is included in the matrix score, with the exclusion of 'written off' debt which was disregarded. Members were of the view that this process needed to be reviewed and 'written off' debt included going forward, in order to truly reflect the impact of derelict property.
- 9.6 With reference to the scoring matrix, The Committee gained an appreciation of the complex nature of the issues surrounding derelict land and buildings and recognised the resource challenges facing the local authority. With this in mind, whilst action in relation to all derelict land and buildings would be the preferred course of actions the appreciated the need to priorities the top three buildings, of the 27 currently on the register, for the allocation of resources. The top three buildings currently being Admiral Court, the Former Ambulance Station and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- 9.7 Particular attention was also drawn to Council activities in terms of:
- i) **Interventions in the housing market** to address both supply and condition including:
- Grants and loans using Government funding such as SHIP and New Deal for Communities
  - Empty Homes Acquisitions using Homes England funding
  - Regeneration activities have resulted in some commercial premises being repurposed and brought back into use
  - Housing Regeneration Strategy supported by the Local Plan
  - Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Programme
  - area based regeneration including improving/remodelling of existing homes, clearance and redevelopment of some area
  - Affordable Homes Programme
  - New Deal for Communities
  - North Central Hartlepool
- Successes as part of this being:
- 1,200 properties demolished over 10 years (including Longscar, The Hourglass, the Market Hotel)
  - 3 successful large scale Planning CPO's
  - New Build Programme
  - Securing and site clearance of Admiral Court
  - Northern Textiles building renovated and re-opened
  - 60-64 Lister Street renovated and brought back into use
  - Works on site at The Wesley, Grand Hotel, Park View Care Home, The Dome and Shades

ii) **The Housing Revenue Accounts** successes include:

- Expanded stock through acquisition of a mixture of new-build and existing properties (Property acquisition is on a modest scale both new build and purchase of existing properties)
- 349 homes now owned and managed by HBC
- 12 properties managed on behalf of private landlords in return for a management fee “Quality Homes Letting Agency”

Members recognised that careful property acquisition is needed to ensure the right mix of homes in the right locations to ensure the books are balanced but concern was expressed at the emphasis of HRA's on the building of new properties. The opportunity to bring empty and derelict land and buildings back in to use being a lost opportunity.

iii) **Capital Programme** – Members noted that any capital projects to tackle derelict land and buildings would need to be based on data and intelligence, be evidence and need, have a fully costed options appraisals and have a green book compliant business cases. Indications were, however, welcomed that some existing capital projects had already contributed significantly to tackling derelict / vacant land and buildings e.g. Wesley Chapel and Binns Building (Town Deal), a range of properties under Levelling Up Round 2.iv) **Hartlepool Regeneration Vision** had created:

- Economic benefits and binding communities together
- A step change in growth and sustaining of economic activity in the Town Centre
- Health and well-being benefits for residents through leisure services, sports facilities, cultural and heritage assets and inspiring public realm
- A sense of pride and value through quality place
- A more accessible, vibrant and functional town
- Perceptions of Hartlepool will be changed for the better, our community will be proud and positive about our future

v) **The Empty Homes Programme** has resulted in:

- 100 Empty homes acquired and refurbished through the cluster of empty homes funding
- 79 empty homes purchased and refurbished across the town through Homes England funding
- Homes let on Local Authority Flexible Tenancies and managed by Council's Housing Management Team
- Grants to purchase empty homes being available through Homes England Affordable Homes Programme

9.8 The importance of effective engagement with third sector organisations was fully supported by the Committee and Members welcomed the Council's success in relation to partnership working around the delivery of the following regeneration projects:

- Housing Hartlepool (Thirteen)
- New Deal for Communities (now NDC Trust)
- Placefirst (The Green)
- Property Developers/Owners

- 9.9 Going forward, emphasis was placed on the importance of engaging more fully with the third sector in terms of the Big Conversation and the new Long Term Plan for Towns. The Committee also look forward to seeing the outcomes of 'place narrative' work as a means of encouraging external investment.

## **10. FUTURE PLANS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- 10.1 Members recognised that a significant amount of work had been undertaken in relation to derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool, within the powers and resources available to the Council, emphasis was, however, placed upon the need to make even greater strides.
- 10.2 The Committee had been made aware of the development of a new Housing Strategy and was surprised to find that there is no requirement to have in place an Empty Homes Strategy. Members requested that the findings of the investigation be fed into the development of the Housing Strategy. Over and above that, the Committee requested that, whilst not required, the development of a specific Empty Homes Strategy be explored.
- 10.3 Members were keen to see the local authority take advantage of all possible funding opportunities and interventions. These included:
- Future National Funding Opportunities in the shape of:
    - With Levelling Up Rounds 1, 2 and 3 announced, no indication whether further funding rounds will follow
    - Town Deal ceases March 2026 and is fully allocated
    - 'Long Term Plan for Towns' has been announced by DLUHC with no further guidance at present, with £20m endowment style fund made available to HBC from 2024 on a year by year allocation basis
    - Must not be a focus on only sourcing grant funding, but seeking to attract private sector, external investment, and growing sector confidence in bringing projects forward
  - Options for Interventions as a result of increased partnership and external confidence due to positive progress in delivering existing projects and programmes e.g. Grand Hotel, Scarborough Street and Church Street. It was noted that there is a focus on developing strong, mutually beneficial relationships with private and community sector, however, it was appreciated by the Committee that policy change must be consistent with existing adopted plans such as Town Centre Masterplan, Town Investment Plan.

## **11. CONCLUSIONS**

- 11.1 The Audit and Governance Committee concluded that:-
- (a) The local authority's strategy for dealing with derelict land and property has had significant successes and officers are commended their activities. Factors that influence the creation of derelict land and buildings are, however, complex and with no 'one size fits all' solution, the local authority utilises a wide range of actions and intervention. It is

timely to explore development of a new, more aggressive, strategy with a clear package of actions and responses to help address the issue.

- (b) Any proposals for the provision of additional activities, or service changes, must be considered alongside the financial challenges facing the local authority and be within available resources.
- (c) In considering the process for dealing with derelict lands and buildings, the Committee concluded that:
  - i) The provision of incentives, alongside other measures, is an important element of the Council's measures to encourage owners of land and buildings to bring them back in to use. With the aim of expanding the range of incentives available to the local authority, additional incentives that have been successfully implemented by other local authorities need to be explored. These including those referenced in Section 6.6 of this report.
  - ii) Members appreciated the value of the scoring matrix in ensuring the best use of limited Council resources. However, following transfer of the regeneration area to the Hartlepool Development Corporation, a review of the matrix was now required to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the scoring matrix.
  - iii) Consideration needs to be given to whether additional types of debt, and or costs, resulting from activities required to deal with derelict land and buildings can be considered as part of the first charge process. The potential being that the ability to trigger earlier enforcement action.
  - iv) Positive decisions have been made in terms of increasing the council tax liability for empty residential properties, the potential of doing the same for commercial properties and land requires further exploration.
- (d) Following creation of the Hartlepool Development Corporation (HDC), it is essential that strong working partnership are created, and maintained, in relation to the HDC's plans for delivery of a reduction in the level of derelict land and buildings within the HDC area.
- (e) With no requirement to have an Empty Homes Strategy, in the short term it is important that the findings of the investigation be fed into the development of the Housing Strategy. In the longer term, consideration needs to be given to the development of a specific Empty Homes Strategy.
- (f) With due regard to the impact of empty private rented accommodation on communities, and the potential benefits of a landlord licensing scheme on housing quality and number of empty homes, the Committee supported in principle of the introduction of a Hartlepool landlord licensing scheme. However, it was recognised that further work needed to be undertaken to assess the viability of any potential Hartlepool scheme.

- (g) Demolition of town centre properties acts to displace problem tenants and emphasis needs to be placed on how tenants are dealt with and supported. To this end, consideration needs to be given to how support services could be provide to tenants, including how landlords and letting agencies could also be helped to support tenants.
- (h) The complexity of legislation and the powers available to the local authority around derelict land and buildings significantly influence / impact the local authority's ability to respond to the issue. In order to allow local authorities to more effectively respond to derelict land and building issues, central government needs to be lobbied to:
  - i) Undertake a review of national legislation and policy.
  - ii) Make the provision of housing support finding a priority.
  - iii) Support regeneration of areas as a key focus, alongside re-development, as part of Capital Programmes.

## 12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The Audit and Governance Committee has taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Committee's key recommendations are as outlined below:-

- (a) That options for the expansion of the range of incentives available to the local authority be explored with consideration of incentives that have been successfully implemented by other local authorities, including those referenced in Section 6.6 of the report.
- (b) That following the transfer of the regeneration area to the Hartlepool Development Corporation, a review of the scoring matrix be undertaken to ensure its ongoing accuracy and effectiveness. The review to also consider incorporation of 'written off' debt as part of the scoring matrix.
- (c) That an exercise be undertaken to identify additional:-
  - i) Types of debt and or costs, resulting from activities required to deal with derelict land and buildings that could be included as part of the first charge process; and
  - ii) Options that can be implemented to increase costs for owners of empty commercial property that could contribute to a 'first charge', similar to those included for residential property.
- (d) That in the short term the findings of the derelict land and buildings investigation be fed into the development of the Housing Strategy and in the longer term consideration be given to the development of a specific Empty Homes Strategy.

- (e) That central government be lobbied to:-
  - i) Undertake a review of national legislation and policy;
  - ii) Make the provision of housing support finding a priority; and
  - iii) Support regeneration of areas as a key focus, alongside re-development, as part of Capital Programmes.
- (f) That the Neighbourhood Services Committee explore the viability of:
  - i) Re-introducing a Hartlepool landlord licensing scheme and / or tenant registration scheme;
  - ii) Establishing a tenant support scheme in partnership with partners, including the voluntary and community sector, to assist landlords and letting agencies in supporting tenants to maintain tenancies and re-establishment of an all agency / cross sector group (Housing providers, social workers) with a focus on individuals.
  - iii) Providing support and encouragement to business owners to bring empty property back in to use, including:
    - Guidance on the use of the buildings, where to get help, and advice regarding standards including energy efficiency, amenities and space standards for homes and the best way to secure a building or site;
    - In respect of planning/building control requirements including the use of the One Stop Shop, licence applications, listed building and conservation area consent; and
    - Relevant funding streams.
- (g) That the Hartlepool Development Corporation (HDC) provide details of their strategy for the delivery of a reduction in the level of derelict land and buildings within the HDC area.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to place on record our appreciation, in particular of the willingness and co-operation we have received from all those involved in the investigation.

**COUNCILLOR JONATHAN BRASH**  
**CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (2023/24)**

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**CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION****Appendix 1****Terms of Reference**

- (a) To gain an understanding of the level, location, ownership of derelict land and buildings in Hartlepool and barriers to bringing them back in to use;
- (b) To examine the Council's:-
  - i) Approach to dealing with derelict land and buildings;
  - ii) Own derelict land and buildings, where they are, what is being done, what successes have there been and what plans there are for the future;
  - iii) Successes and challenges in bringing derelict land and buildings back in to use;
  - iv) Scoring matrix;
  - v) Number of notices and success rates; and
  - vi) Recovery rates, costs and the resources available to respond to the issue.
- (c) To seek the views of residents, groups and other bodies on the location of derelict land and buildings and impact on their wellbeing and safety.
- (d) To consider levers that can be used by the below to bring derelict land and buildings back in to use:-
  - i) The local authority; and
  - ii) Our partners in the public, social and voluntary sector.
- (e) To explore how derelict land and buildings can be brought back in to use:-
  - i) What 'sticks' are available and how are they being used in terms of:
    - Statutory processes for taking action and legislation;
    - First Charge concept;
    - General Enforcement Policy;
    - Finance (*e.g. fines, tax, rates and recovery rates*);
    - New schemes (*e.g. landlord licensing*);
    - Wider policy changes (*e.g. Engagement with private developers - Future potential investment schemes? Public money or engagement without more action on their side? The Right to Regenerate?*)
    - How can we draw in other partners to create a unified position and attitude?
  - ii) What 'carrots' can be used?
    - How do we shape the capital programme to target this issue?
    - What national opportunities for further grant funding exist?
    - What local options exist for more innovative and aggressive interventions in the market?
    - What greater role can the Housing Revenue Account play?
    - How do we bring our partners in the public, social and third sector into the agenda to increase their investment in tackling this issue more effectively?
    - How do we support the third sector (see the community housing work in the Annexe) in expanding their work in a coordinated way?
    - What is the potential role of the HDC in realising this agenda?
- (f) To consider examples of best practice in other local authority areas (Inc. other derelict land strategies); and

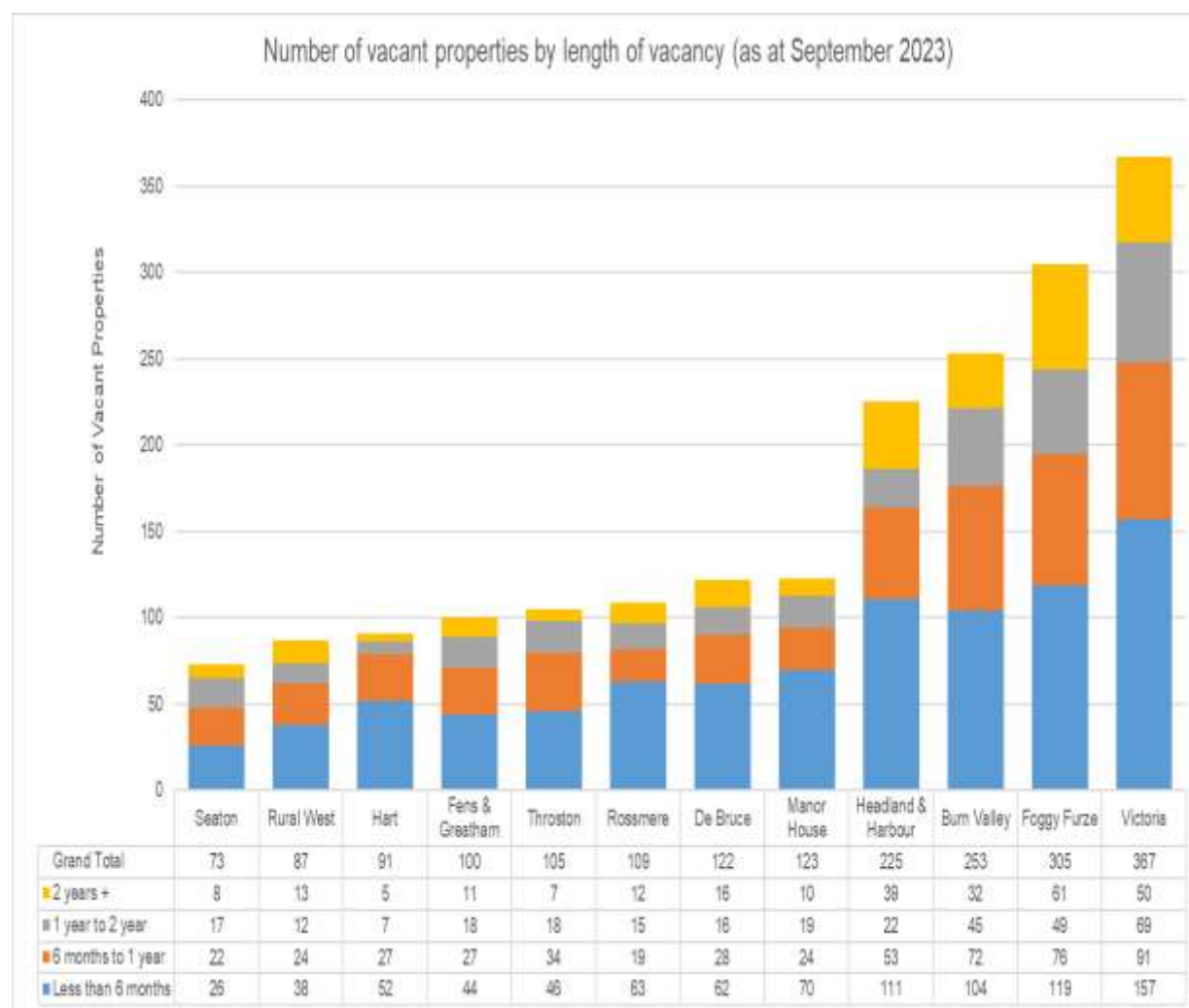
- (g) To explore how derelict land and buildings can be better brought back to use in the future, giving due regard to:-
- i) Improving effectiveness and efficiency; and
  - ii) If / how the service could be provided at either a reduced financial cost or within the resources available in the current economic climate.

### **Areas of Enquiry / Sources of Evidence**

- (a) Member of Parliament for Hartlepool;
- (b) Leader of the Council;
- (c) Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Hartlepool Partnership;
- (d) Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and Chair of the Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- (e) Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, Director of Public Health;
- (f) Partner Organisations (Police, Fire Brigade, Housing Associations, Hartlepool Development Corporation, etc.);
- (g) Owners of derelict land and buildings;
- (h) Historic England;
- (i) Local residents (via survey, attendance at Committee meetings, Working Groups and Community Group meetings with members of the A&G Committee);
- (j) A series of consultation workshops held with external stakeholders, agencies/bodies, landlords and social housing providers;
- (k) Representatives of minority communities of interest or heritage (via survey / member attendance at meetings of groups – invitations sent to the below);

VCS and Community Groups (Inc. Nasir Mosque)
Hartlepower
Healthwatch
Armed Forces (AF) Liaison Group, AF Associations, Veterans Hub - Hartlepool United Football Club)
Thirteen
Hartlepool College of FE / Hartlepool 6th Form College
Hartlepool Regeneration and Tourist Forum
Historic Groups (Inc. Hartlepool Headland Historic Group)
Incontrollable / CLIP

- (l) Parish Councils;
- (m) Ward Councillors; and
- (n) Examples of good practice / ways of working that exists within a neighbouring Local Authority in relation to the process for dealing with derelict land and properties and selective landlord licensing.

**Appendix 2****Number of empty properties in Hartlepool on a Ward by Ward Basis**

**Appendix 3****LEGISLATION AND MEASURES AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Power	Legislation	What can be done
<b>Short Term</b>		
Works to Secure Buildings	Section 29 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982	To secure property for example, boarding up.
Abatement Notices	Section 80 Environmental Protection Act 1990 -	Where there is a statutory nuisance for example, waste deposits
Community Protection Notices	Section 43 Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	Where issues have a detrimental effect on the area and causing distress to residents (where not considered a statutory nuisance).
Defective Buildings Notice	Section 76 Building Act 1984	Where defective buildings where the premises are deemed prejudicial to health and/or a nuisance.
<b>Medium Term</b>		
	Housing Act 2004 (as amended)	
Section 215 Notice	Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Where there is a detrimental effect on the area. Can include tidying up the land, planting, clearance, enclosure, demolition and rebuilding.
Ruinous and Dilapidated Buildings Notice	Section 79 – Building Act 1984	Where works or demolition are required – It is the choice of the owner which option they choose to proceed with.
<b>Longer Term</b>		
Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO)		If a property has been empty for at least 2 years and the owner does not intend to take steps to secure re-occupation and there is a reasonable prospect that the dwelling will become occupied if an interim EDMO is made, an application may be made to the Residential Property Tribunal. The use of this power is limited to properties that have become magnets for vandalism, squatters and other forms of anti-social behaviour that blight the local neighbourhood.
Enforced Sale	Building Act 1984, section 79, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 80 and Town & Country Planning Act 1990, section 215	It allows a charge to be made against the title of the property or land to which it relates until the debt is recovered. In relation to notices under the Building Act 1984, section 79 and Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 80 charges arising from works in default take first priority over any other charges on the land.
Compulsory Purchase Order/Purchase by Agreement	Town & Country Planning Act 1990 –	Changes ownership of the site. A comprehensive case is made in the public interest for compulsory acquisition and

	Housing Act 1985, Section 17	there must be at least some attempt made at voluntary acquisition first. There are potential statutory powers that could be used to enforce a CPO most likely under planning, although housing powers may also be an option under Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 if it was likely the site was to be used for new housing. There would however need to be a 'vision' in place for what the site would be used for, and any relevant planning permissions would either need to be in place or be acceptable in principle by the Council as Local Planning Authority and the Council would need to be able to fund the acquisition and possibly have in place a back to back type arrangement for a developer willing to take on the site and develop it.
Demolition Orders		used to deal with category 1 and 2 hazards, but when reaching a decision  Consideration to be given to: •The availability of accommodation for re-housing occupants; •The demand for, and sustainability of, the accommodation if the hazard was remedied; •The prospective use of the cleared site; and •The impact of a cleared site on the appearance and character of the local environment. The use of Demolition Orders in respect of dwellings containing category 2 hazards will be subject to an order made by the Secretary of State.
Clearance Areas		A Clearance Area may be declared: If it can be shown that each residential building in an area contains one or more category 1 hazard and that the other buildings (if any) in the area are dangerous or harmful to the health and safety of the inhabitants of the area; or The residential buildings are dangerous or harmful to the inhabitants of the area as a result of their bad arrangement or the narrowness or bad arrangement of the streets, and that the other buildings (if any) are dangerous or harmful to the health and safety of the inhabitants of an area.
Selective Licensing		Discretionary power to introduce selective licensing in areas experiencing one or more of the following: – low housing demand; – a significant or persistent problem caused by anti-social behaviour; – poor property conditions;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– an influx of migration; or</li><li>– a high level of deprivation or high levels of crime.</li></ul> <p>Two schemes operated in Hartlepool between 2009 – 2020, the schemes related to the management of properties in a designated area.</p>
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**Appendix 4****How was the Survey promoted?**

- The Your Say Our Future consultation platform, including in the monthly newsletters sent to all registered participants
- Extensive promotion on social media including a social media boost and monthly posts throughout the period of the consultation.
- Posters in all public Council buildings including the Community Hubs and libraries.
- Hartlepool Borough Council website.

Written invitations to take part were sent to:

- All elected Members
- All Policy Committee Chairs
- Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board
- Chair of Safer Hartlepool Partnership
- Armed Forces Liaison Group
- Hartlepower
- Victoria Ward Partnership
- Cobden Street Area Residents Association
- Burn Valley North Residence Association
- Chester Rd Residents Association
- Wharton Trust

**Who was invited to participate in the investigation?**

Written invitations to take part and request to share with contacts sent to:

- VCS
- Hartlepower
- Cleveland Police
- Cleveland Fire Brigade
- Jill Mortimer, MP
- Mike Young, Leader of the Council
- Chair of the Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee
- Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee
- Hartlepool Development Corporation
- Armed Forces Liaison Group
- Hartlepool JCP
- Thirteen Housing Group
- North Star Housing Group
- Hartlepool Further Education College
- Hartlepool 6<sup>th</sup> Form College
- Hartlepool Regeneration and Tourism Forum
- Healthwatch
- History Groups in Hartlepool
- Incontrollable / CLIP
- All Parish Councillors
- Victoria Ward Partnership
- Cobden Street Area Residents Association
- Burn Valley North Residence Association
- Chester Rd Residents Association
- Wharton Trust
- Middlesbrough Council Selective landlord licensing scheme.

**CONSULTATION – INFORMAL WORKING GROUP DETAILS**

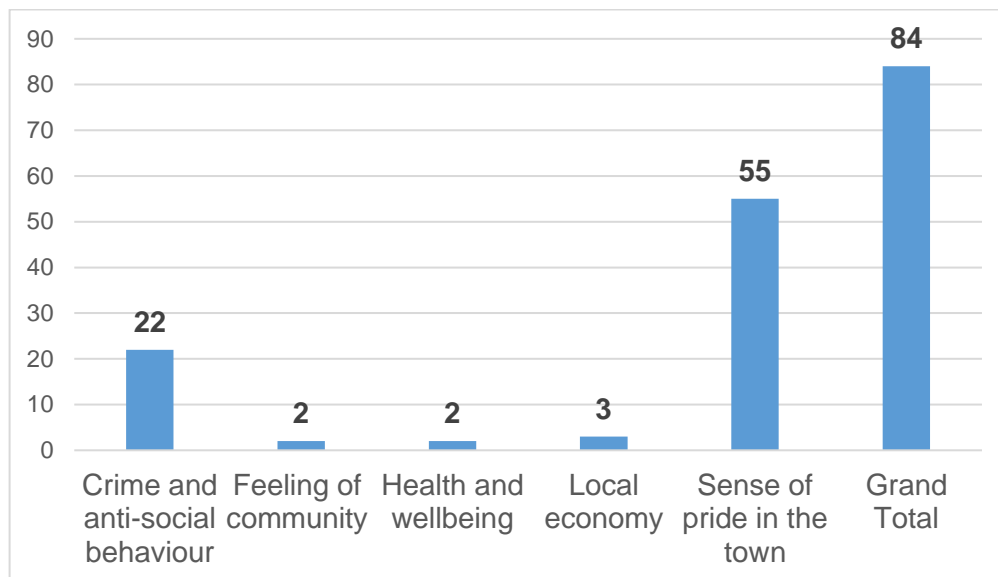
Date	Invitees	Issues discussed	
31 October 2023	Individuals/organisations/companies (Inc. landlords) who own derelict land/buildings or have successfully brought them back in to use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussions with individuals/organisations/companies who own derelict land / buildings regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The challenges they face (contributory issues / factors)</li> <li>• Successes in working with the LA</li> <li>• What could be done to help bring buildings / land back in to use</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Examples of properties that have been brought back in to use</li> <li>- Value of Landlord Registration Schemes in dealing with the issue?</li> </ul>	<p>Landlord comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of tenants with drugs as a single issue is not as significant as might be expected, a complex range of issues contribute to the behaviour of poor tenants.</li> <li>- Tenant arrears is a significant challenge for landlords. There is a need for rent arrears to follow tenants and for the names and addresses of problem tenants to be passed on to other landlords, to help inform decisions when they are approached to let their properties.</li> <li>- Landlords and the local authority need to work together to clamp down on bad tenants.</li> <li>- In terms of tenant referencing as part of landlord licensing (LL) schemes, it was noted that tenants who have had issues with previous landlords often indicate that they have been living with family members, rather than being honest about failed tenancies and rent arrears. In these instances, landlords currently have to accept information provided by tenants. In this respect the tenant referencing element of a landlord licensing scheme would be useful, however, there was no support for the wider operation of a landlord licensing scheme in Hartlepool.</li> <li>- There is no landlord support for landlord registration scheme (it is felt that it penalises good landlords). It was felt that the scheme had not worked in Hartlepool and reference was made to the success of the North Ormesby scheme with a whole area focus, rather than specific streets, as had been the case in Hartlepool.</li> <li>- Buys to let properties are not bought to be left empty. However, some landlords can find themselves with properties that it makes better financial sense to board properties up, and pay the required council tax, than doing the necessary renovations / maintenance to bring the property back in to use. This can be a particular problem for out of town landlords who buy properties without knowing the area in which they are located.</li> <li>- There is a downward spiral for some areas where difficulties in letting properties means that houses are let to whoever is willing to live there.</li> </ul>
21 November 2023	Representatives from partner organisations:  Police Fire Housing Providers Dyke House Annex (Wharton Trust) TVCA (HDC)	<p>Discussions with Stakeholders regarding what 'carrots' can be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What national opportunities for further grant funding exist?</li> <li>- What local options exist for more innovative and aggressive interventions? Local policy changes? Partnership working?</li> <li>- What greater role can the Housing Revenue Account play in solving the issue (inc. To what extent do we build new rather than improving / re-using older properties? Is the focus</li> </ul>	

	Joseph Rowntree Foundation	<p>of policy on new development or renewal?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do we bring our partners in the public, social and third sector into the agenda to increase their investment in tackling this issue more effectively?</li> <li>- How do we support the third sector (see the community housing work in the Annexe) in expanding their work in a coordinated way?</li> <li>- What is the potential role of the HDC in realising this agenda?</li> <li>- First Charge process</li> </ul>	<p>This tends to mean that properties have to be let to poorer quality tenants if they are not to be left vacant. An example of this being Oxford Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The demolition of town centre properties displaces problem tenants and emphasis needs to be placed upon how tenants are dealt with / supported.</li> </ul> <p>Other issues raised by those present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of demand in areas where there are problem tenants and the resulting cycle of empty property - leading to a degeneration of an area – leading to lower demand and more empty properties.</li> <li>- What options are available to bring properties back in to use where landlords have no intention of taking the necessary action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential use of management orders and the ability of local authorities to take possession, restore and re-let derelict properties.</li> <li>• Pride in neighbourhoods helps create areas where good tenants want to live, establishing a positive upward cycle.</li> <li>• Removal of Section 24 and the increase of council tax bills for the owners of empty properties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The findings of the A&amp;G Cttee investigation be fed in to the development of the Housing Strategy. The 6 November being the start date of the process.</li> <li>- Concern was expressed about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The central government focus on re-development, rather than regeneration and the impact of demolition on the displacement of issues into surrounding area, rather than the identification of a solution. Emphasis was placed upon the need to lobby central government to support regeneration as a focus, alongside re-development.</li> <li>• Concern was expressed that private sector housing was not always the right place for someone with severe drug, alcohol or other complex needs and that there was an absence of support for tenants with specialist needs. Attention was drawn to instances in the past where tenants had been eligible for support and whilst the work of housing officers was fully supported, it was noted that they were now facing increasing demands on their time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9 January 2024	Middlesbrough Borough Council	Exploration of Selective Licensing provider	

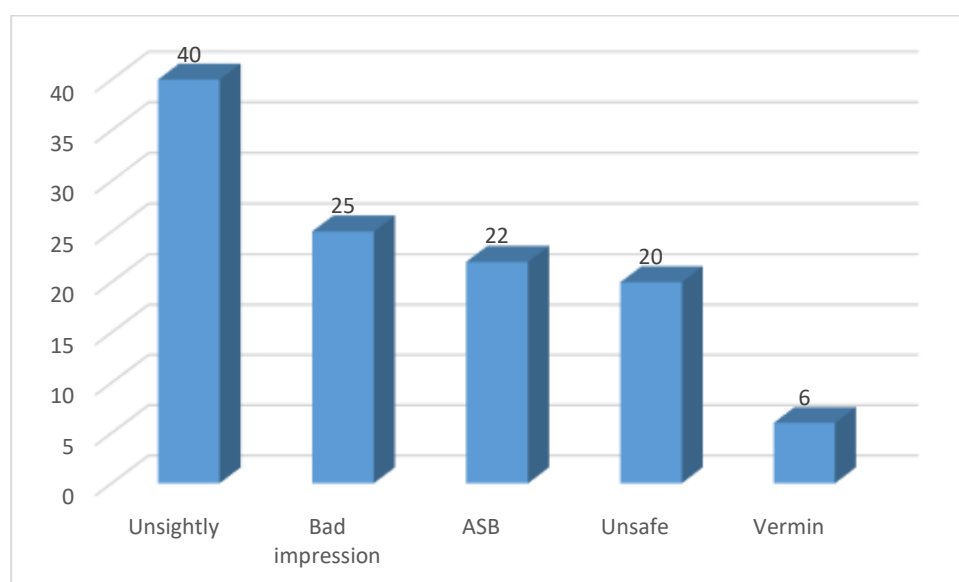
			<p>Emphasis was placed upon the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look at how these support services could be provide, including how landlords and letting agencies could be helped to support tenants.</li> <li>- Re-establish and all agency / cross sector group (Housing providers, social workers, benefits to focus on individual and support them to keep on the straight and narrow.</li> <li>- Lobby government to make the provision of housing support finding a priority.</li> </ul> <p>Middlesbrough Borough Council – Landlord Licensing Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Details of the Scheme were discussed with support expressed by members for its exploration. It was recognised that further work would be needed to effectively access the viability of the introduction of a similar scheme in Hartlepool and that this should be undertaken via the Neighbourhood Services Committee.</li> </ul>
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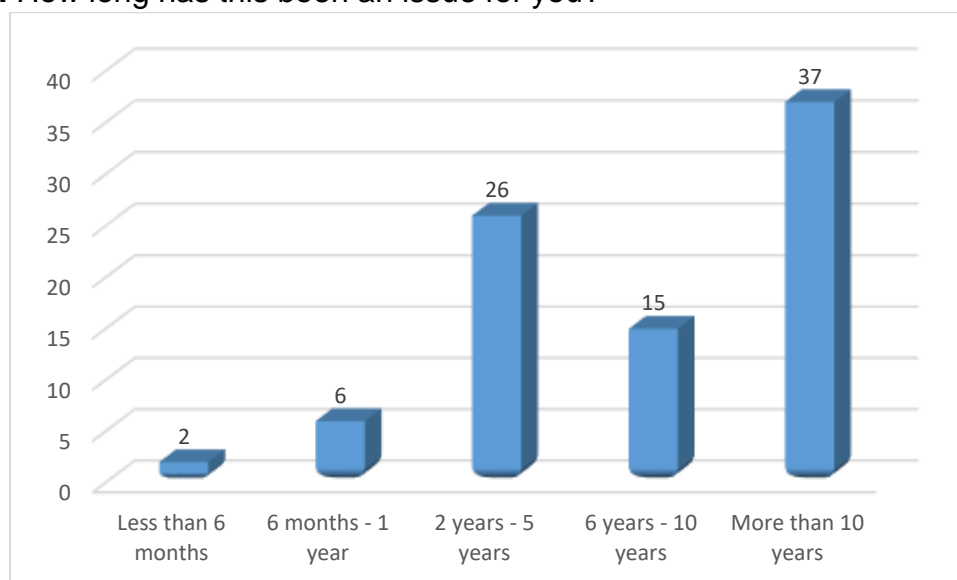
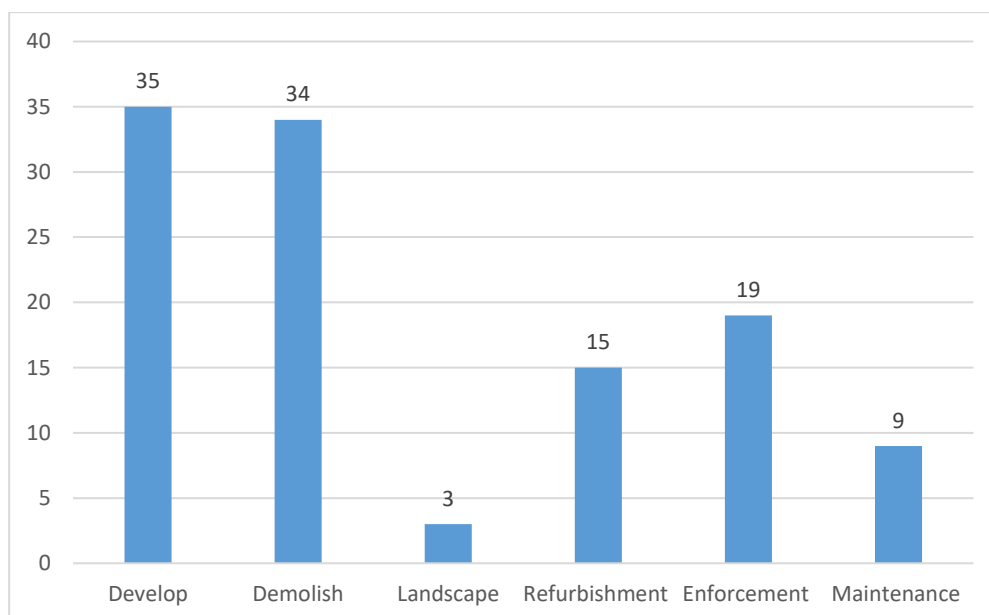
## SUMMARY OF SURVEY DATA

**Chart 3.** What impacts you the most about this issue?



**Chart 4.** How does this impact where you live?



**Chart 5.** How long has this been an issue for you?**Chart 6.** What should be done to tackle the problem?

## Appendix 7

### SURVEY FREE TEXT COMMENTS

#### What could be done to tackle the problem?

17. Generate positivity and employment. Free-to-rent work spaces or community space, or a speciality building for the towns Community Hubs.
18. Develop areas with housing or landscaped for community use.
19. Tougher enforcement on the land and building owners to make buildings safe and tidy.
20. Demolish it, reclaim the historic facade and put it in a museum, and make use of the land.
21. Compulsory purchase for the true value ie the value of the building minus the costs to restore it to the condition it should be in.
22. Involve appropriate heritage bodies in the drawing up of required works to bring the building back into use for the benefit of the community.
23. Work should be carried out with a condition that a certain number of apprentices from Hartlepool schools and colleges have to be taken on for the project by the successful main contractor.

#### How this impacts where you live? / How does this building or land affect you?

24. The derelict building affect the impression visitors have of the town.
25. Target areas for arson, anti-social vehicle use and flytipping

# AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

16<sup>th</sup> July 2024



**Report of:** Statutory Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** SELECTION OF POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR  
INCLUSION IN THE 2024/25 STATUTORY SCRUTINY  
WORK PROGRAMME

## 1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

<b>Hartlepool will be a place:</b>
- 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.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

### 2.1 To:-

- i) Outline the process for the determination of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme; and
- ii) Seek consideration of potential topics for inclusion into the Statutory Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

## 3. BACKGROUND

### 3.1 The Council's Audit and Governance Committee has responsibility for two areas of statutory scrutiny:

- Health. Matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services at a local and regional level; and
- Crime and Disorder. Activities of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, as the local authority's Crime and Disorder Committee.

### 3.2 In order to fulfil these responsibilities, the Audit and Governance Committee establishes an annual work programme that includes:

- i) Proactive investigations;
- ii) Policy Framework Items, as detailed below.

<b>BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS</b>	<b>TIMETABLE FOR CONSIDERATION</b>
Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2024-2025	July 2024
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 - 25	September / October 2024
Community Safety Plan 2024/25	March 2025

iii) Reactive issues of local concern that arise during the course of the year with the potential for bespoke 'one off' meetings; and

iv) Mandatory topics (e.g. substantial variations / changes in service provision or those agreed by the Committee in previous years).

#### **4. PROCESS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF POTENTIAL TOPICS**

4.1 In considering the development of the Committee's work programme, topic suggestions were sought from a range of sources:

- Hartlepool Borough Council Directors, Policy Committee Chairs and Elected Members;
- Partner organisations e.g. Cleveland Police, the Integrated Care Board, North Tees and Hartlepool Foundations Trust, Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust;
- Healthwatch and the Voluntary and Community Sector (e.g. Hartlepower); and
- The membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

4.2 As part of the process for identification of each year's work programme, it is important for the Committee to balance the conduct of proactive investigations and consideration of Policy Framework items against the need to retain capacity to respond to reactive and mandatory topics that could arise during the course of the year. It also important to make the most effective use of resources, and available committee time and, to assist the Committee in achieving this:

- **Appendix A** illustrates the items already scheduled for consideration in 2024/25.
- As a guide to the Committee in identifying a suitable topic(s) for investigation, the provision of a PICK scoring system has also provided beneficial in previous years. The PICK matrix has again been applied against each of the suggested topics with advisory scoring applied against 4 areas:
  - public interest;
  - impact;
  - council performance and efficiency; and
  - keep in context.

- 4.3 An explanation of the scoring system is attached as **Appendix B** and members are asked to consider setting a matrix score for each topic for consideration during the selection process.
- 4.4 As a means of balancing the Committees work programme in the previous year's, consideration has also been given to focusing on single 'detailed' investigations or in some instances two 'lighter touch' investigations. Members are asked to bear this in mind in the selection of a topic(s) for this year.
- 4.5 It is suggested that the application of a standard template for time allocations should be treated with caution as when scoping a subject a number of complexities may arise, therefore the anticipated duration should be allocated to the subjects on an individual basis. Consideration should also be given to the range of options available for consideration of topics, including:
- Full year (in depth) investigations;
  - Time limited (focused / lighter touch) investigations;
  - Amalgamation of topics where appropriate;
  - One off briefing sessions / reports; and
  - Timing of investigations (potentially to later in the year) or rolling forward for consideration as part of the Work Programming process for the following year. This may help investigations fit better with other work being undertaken in terms of topics.

## 5. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL INVESTIGATION TOPICS FOR 2023/24

### Crime and Disorder Statutory Scrutiny

- 5.1 In considering the development of a potential work programme item relating to **crime and disorder** issues, Directors, Policy Committee Chairs and Members have been approached for topic suggestions. On the basis of discussions, and in meeting the requirements of crime and disorder committee legislation, the below topics have been suggested as potential items for consideration by the Committee in relation to crime and disorder.

CRIME AND DISORDER TOPIC(S)	Councillors	Partners	Matrix Score
Arson offences, particularly around derelict buildings		Police	
Derelict Land and Buildings Investigation - Involvement in the work of the Neighbourhood Services Committee in responding to the landlord licensing recommendation.	X		
Retail Theft (Shoplifting)		Police	
Serious violence in the night time economy		Police	

### Health Statutory Scrutiny

- 5.2 In considering the development of a potential work programme item relating to **health** issues, suggested topics have been sought from Directors, Policy Committee Chairs, HealthWatch, the Integrated Care Board, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and Members.
- 5.3 In addition to the mandatory topic outlined above, the below health related topics have been suggested as potential items for consideration by the Committee.

HEALTH TOPIC(S)	Directors / Officers	Partners	Healthwatch	Councillors	Matrix Score
<p>Public Health Budget (allocation and outcomes)</p> <p>The public health grant is a ring fenced grant paid to local authorities to support the commissioning of public health programmes and fund the specialist public health service. It is required to be spent on public health activities and these are reported back to the Department of Health each financial year. There are statutory requirements that need to be funded including sexual health services, 0-5 services and Health Checks. There are also spending requirements that aren't mandatory but which we are expected to fund (for example substance misuse services). The largest spend we have and which may be appropriate for review are:</p> <p>Children's (0-19 services, early help) Substance Misuse Sexual Health</p> <p>The sexual health service is currently being recommissioned and the external element of the substance misuse service will be recommissioned in 2025.</p>	X			X	
TEWV - Community Mental Health Transformation		X			
TEWV - Health inequalities work		X			
TEWV - Progress on wider improvements		X			
Provision of Residential / Domiciliary Care			X		
Dementia Services (speed of diagnosis and timescale for prescription of medication)			X		
Access to GP's and Dentists			X		

- 5.4 Once the Committee has identified its Scrutiny topics, anticipated time frames need to be applied. It is recognised that the Committee's workload needs to be managed carefully, with due consideration given to the allocation of appropriate time to allow effective exploration of the identified health and crime and disorder topics. In order to assist in achieving this, it is suggested that the Committee considers the potential value of establishing working/ task and finish groups to carry out work relating to the topics.
- 5.5 Evidence gathered by the groups outside of the normal scheduled Committee meetings, could then be reported back to the full Committee, maximising the use of resources and time, assisting in the collection of evidence to inform investigations and helping manage the duration of formal meetings. To assist in consideration of this suggestion, Members views are to be fed into discussions at today's meeting, including potential groupings, for consideration by the Committee.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is requested to:-
  - (a) Consider if it wished to focus on one topic for investigation in the coming year, to allow flexibility in its work programme for emerging issues and referrals;
  - (b) Agree its work programme for 2024/25 and identify its primary topic(s) for investigation over the course of the year;

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 To develop an effective Audit and Governance Work Programme which will to complement the work of other bodies.

**Contact Officer:-** Joan Stevens – Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
 Chief Executive's Department – Legal Services  
 Hartlepool Borough Council  
 Tel: 01429 284142  
 Email: joan.stevens@hartlepool.gov.uk

TIMETABLE 2024/25		11 JUNE 2024	16 JULY 2024	24 SEPT 2024	15 OCT 2024	5 NOV 2024	10 DEC 2024	28 JAN 2025	4 March 2025	1 April 2025
<b>General Items</b>										
Statutory Scrutiny Work Programme Selection										
Scoping and Conduct of investigation(s)										
Appointment to other Committees and Outside Bodies										
Dedicated O&S Budget / Introduction to O&S										
Scrutiny Investigation update Report (annual)										
Crustacean Deaths Working Group										
Derelict Land and Buildings in Hartlepool Investigation (Closing the loop – Progress report)										
Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2024-2025										
<b>Crime and Disorder Items</b>										
Input in to work programming process										
Community Safety Partnership – Performance										
Community Safety Plan 2024/25 (B&PF) – Consultation										
<b>Health Items</b>										
Director of Public Health – Annual Report										
Health Inequalities Update (Director of Public Health)										
Healthwatch Work Programme										
Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS FT – Quality Account (via TVJHSC – March 2025)										
NTees & Hpool NHS FT – Quality Account (QA) and Regular General Update										
North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust (NTHFT)/North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) Hospital Admissions Avoidance Scheme (inc. clinical outcomes)										
Independent Complaints Advocacy Annual Update										
North Tees and South Tees Foundation Trusts - Group Model Update (TBC)										
Pharmacy First / Pharmacy Provision in Hartlepool (DPH/LPC) (TBC)										
Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Refresh										
Care Quality Commission Update (CQC) (TBC)										
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy										
<b>Audit / Standards Items</b>										
2023/24 financial report (including 2023/24 statement of accounts)***	Final Accounts									
Joint Declarations from Management and those Charged with Governance ***	Final Accounts									
Annual Audit Letter	Final Accounts									
Auditors Annual Report	Final Accounts									
Audit Completion Report	Final Accounts									
Treasury Management Strategy Update - Review of activity 2023/24 and Quarter update 2024/25	Treasury Management Strategy									
Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26										
Quarterly Internal Audit Plan Update	Internal Audit									
Audit Strategy Memorandum (tbc – Mazars))	Final Accounts									
24/25 Internal Audit Plan	Internal Audit									
Internal Audit Outcome Report 2022/23	Internal Audit									
Annual Governance Statement 2023/24	Final Accounts									
Audit Progress Report (to be slotted in to meetings already frequented)	Governance									
Letter to those charged with governance	Final Accounts									
Regulation of Investigation Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)										
Complaint Investigation (as and when required) / A&G meeting process										
Independent Remuneration Panel (as and when required)										
Appointment Independent Persons (approval to begin the recruitment process)										

## Appendix B

### PICK Priority Setting

#### P for Public Interest

Members' representative roles are an essential feature of Scrutiny. They are the eyes and ears of the public, ensuring that the policies, practice and services delivered to the people of the District, by both the Council and external organisations, are meeting local needs and to an acceptable standard. The concerns of local people should therefore influence the issues chosen for scrutiny. This could include current issues. For example, dignity is consistently cited as a high priority for service users (e.g. Mid Staffordshire Enquiry, care in Winterbourne hospital) and scrutiny committees are well placed to influence the agenda locally and drive forward better quality services). Members themselves will have a good knowledge of local issues and concerns. Surgeries, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Community Groups are all sources of resident's views. Consultation and Surveys undertaken by the Council and others can also provide a wealth of information.

#### I for Impact

Scrutiny is about making a difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. Not all issues of concern will have equal impact on the well-being of the community. This should be considered when deciding the programme of work, giving priority to the big issues that have most impact. To maximise impact, particularly when scrutinising external activity, attention should also be given to how the committee could influence policy and practice. Sharing the proposed programme of reviews with Members, officer and key partners will assist this process.

#### C for Council Performance

Scrutiny is about improving performance and ensuring the Council's customers are served well. With the abolition of external inspection regimes, scrutiny has an even more important role to play in self regulation. Members will need good quality information to identify areas where the Council, and other external organisations, are performing poorly. Areas where performance has dropped should be our priority. As well as driving up Council performance, scrutiny also has an important role in scrutinising the efficiency and value for money of Council services and organizational development.

#### K for Keep in Context

To avoid duplication or wasted effort priorities should take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered. Is there another review happening or planned? Is the service about to be inspected by an external body? Are there major legislative or policy initiatives already resulting in change? If these circumstances exist Members may decide to link up with other approaches or defer a decision until the outcomes are known or conclude that the other approaches will address the issues. Reference should also be made to proposed programmes of work in the Council's plans and strategies

## Appendix B

## PICK Scoring System

- **P**ublic Interest: the concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen

Score	Measure
0	no public interest
1	low public interest
2	medium public interest
3	high public interest

- **I**mpact: priority should be given to the issues which make the biggest difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area

Score	Measure
0	no impact
1	low impact
2	medium impact
3	high impact

- **C**ouncil Performance and efficiency: priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well or proposals which will support the current Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Programme.

Score	Measure
0	'Green' on or above target performance
1	'Amber',
2	low performance 'Red'

- **K**eep in Context: work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Score	Measure
0	Already dealt with/ no priority
1	Longer term aspiration or plan
2	Need for review acknowledged and worked planned elsewhere
3	Need for review acknowledged

Each topic will be scored under each category as indicated above. Where a category is not applicable, no score will be given.

# Audit & Governance

Hartlepool LPA

16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 / Supt. Martin Hopps



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## 3 Areas for Consideration

In association with the Council Plan priority of Hartlepool being a place where those who are vulnerable are safe and protected from harm, the following three areas of crime are to be considered in their wider community context:

- **Retail Crime** - *Retail crime is defined here as any criminal act (intended and unintended) against the retail industry i.e. a store, a company, their properties as well as their employees and customers.*
- **Arson** - Section 1(1) and (3) CDA provides that arson is committed if a person without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property by fire, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged.
- **Night-time Economy related Serious Violence** - The CURV definition of serious violence includes any offences within the offence groups: violence against the person; robbery; burglary; sexual offences; and criminal damage and arson which have a Cambridge Crime Harm Index score of 182 or above. Offences are referred to as being associated with the night-time economy (NTE) if they take place between 6pm and 6am, within particular geographic zones that have been identified as being night-time economy areas.



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# Retail Crime in Cleveland


- 7922 crimes recorded in the last 12 months (increase of 7%).


Crime type	Direction of Travel								Performance Gap (difference from average) 12 months to March 2024	
	6 months to May 2024	12 months to May 2024	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	National average	MSG average
Shoplifting	+1.6%	+3.7%					EH		+79.3%	+42.7%

## Key (force comparisons)

Comparisons show the difference between the local rate per 1000 population and the average rate for the most similar force group and the national average. Coloured arrows are used to identify instances where the gap has changed

- Rises in retail crime also observed in other forces but Cleveland has one of the highest rates per 1000 population in the country and the highest rate for shoplifting.
- Key driver – funding drugs habits, no evidence to suggest a link to the cost-of-living crisis.

 Gap is negative and has increased by 5% points of more, when compared to April 2023

 Gap is negative but has reduced by 5% points of more, when compared to April 2023



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# Retail Crime in Hartlepool

- 1992 crimes recorded in the last 12 months (increase of 30.6%).

Crime type	Hartlepool		Redcar & Cleveland		Middlesbrough		Stockton	
	Last 6 months	Last 12 months	Last 6 months	Last 12 months	Last 6 months	Last 12 months	Last 6 months	Last 12 months
Shoplifting	+3.4%	+34.9%	-9.8%	-8.0%	+26.9%	+9.1%	-9.4%	-10.6%

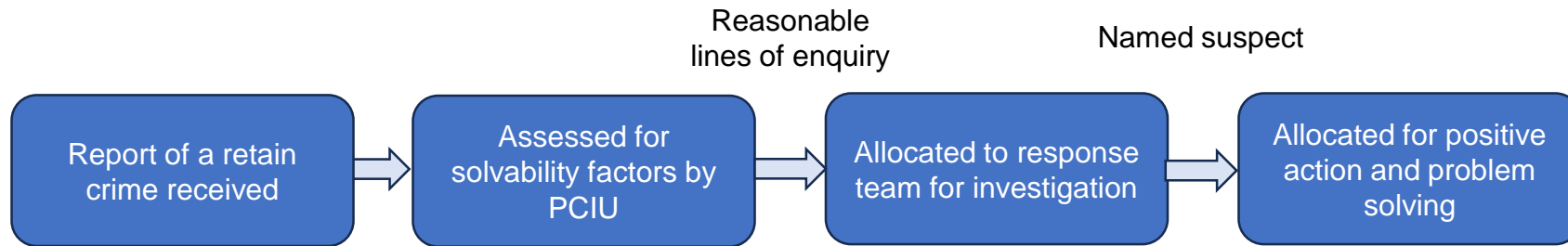
# Governance in Cleveland



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# Response to Retail Crime

## Crime Allocation



### Identifying trends and problem solving across the force area

- Top 5 offenders and top 10 stores for each LPA identified by POP co-ordinators
- Information and intelligence used by LPA retail crime leads to inform problem solving activity and engagement with retailers via local retail forums



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# Response to Retail Crime

## Solved Crime Rates

Crime type	Direction of Travel								National Comparisons 12 months to March 2024	
	Last 6 months to May 2024	Last 12 months to May 2024	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	MSG average	National average
Shoplifting	27.7%	27.7%							23.6%	21.4%



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# Working with retailers

- Encouraging retailers to engage with local Retail Crime Forums
- Opportunity to provide tactical updates, crime prevention advice and share information
- Crime Prevention Officers visiting most vulnerable stores to provide bespoke advice and help prevent loss. For example;
  - Target hardening
  - Target removal
  - Property marking/monitoring
  - Access control
  - Surveillance
  - Staff awareness
  - Restricting access/banning orders



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# Questions to consider

Shops are a key part of the fabric of our society and help communities to thrive; shop theft threatens the financial viability of shops and puts the prices up for law abiding citizens. Shopworkers, like everyone else, have the right to undertake their employment without fear and harassment and assaults are completely unacceptable

- Are we encouraging retailers to maximise the use of new technologies for the prevention and detection of retail crime, including the facilitation of digital CCTV evidence?
- Are we encouraging Community Safety Partnership to direct investment to design out crime to areas they perceive to be a problem, including reducing opportunities to sell stolen goods?
- Are we actively encouraging the use of appropriate funding to invest in local retailers?
- Are there sufficient support pathways for those who use retail theft to fund substance misuse?
- Are there sufficient food banks, advertised, accessible and with ongoing funding for those use retail theft as a means during the cost-of-living crisis?
- Are there sufficient out of court resolution pathways available to residents of Hartlepool?



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# Arson in Cleveland

- 442 crimes recorded in the last 12 months (decrease of 19%).

Crime type	Direction of Travel								Performance Gap (difference from average) 12 months to March 2024	
	6 months to May 2024	12 months to May 2024	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	National average	MSG average
Criminal Damage & Arson	-13.5%	-11.2%	L						+102.8%	+41.4%

## Key (force comparisons)

Comparisons show the difference between the local rate per 1000 population and the average rate for the most similar force group and the national average. Coloured arrows are used to identify instances where the gap has changed



Gap is negative and has increased by 5% points of more, when compared to April 2023



Gap is negative but has reduced by 5% points of more, when compared to April 2023



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# Arson in Hartlepool

- 90 crimes recorded in the last 12 months (decrease of 14.3%).

Crime type	Hartlepool		Redcar & Cleveland		Middlesbrough		Stockton	
	Last 6 months	Last 12 months	Last 6 months	Last 12 months	Last 6 months	Last 12 months	Last 6 months	Last 12 months
Criminal Damage & Arson	-4.9%	+7.2%	-21.9%	-18.3%	-6.8%	-10.1%	-18.1%	-16.2%

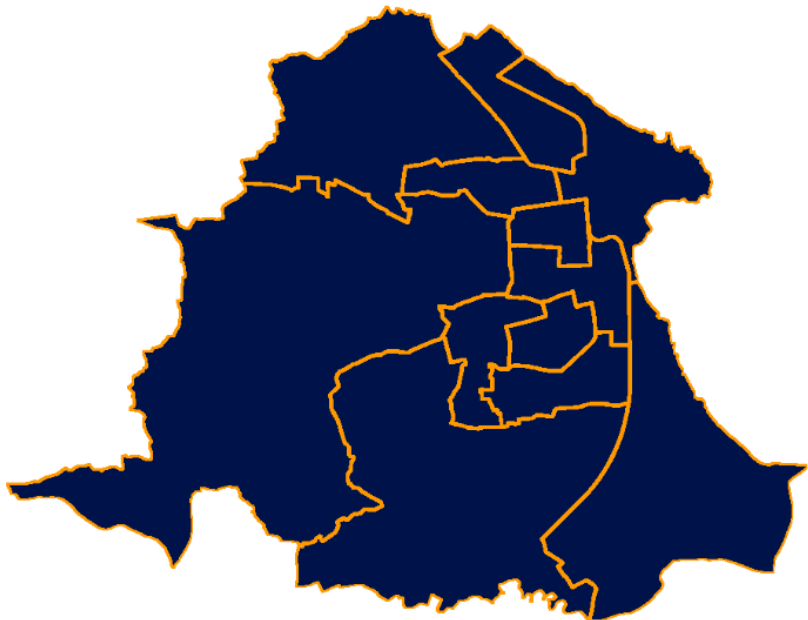


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# Arson in Hartlepool

Cleveland Fire



## Hartlepool District

Incident Type	Last Year Actual	Current Year Actual	% Change	Movement	Performance Key
Deliberate Fires	204	119	-41.67%	⬇️	Performing Strongly
Deliberate Primary Fires	7	10	42.86%	⬆️	Requires Improvement
Deliberate Secondary Fires	197	109	-44.67%	⬇️	Performing Strongly
Deliberate Dwelling Fires	1	1	0.0%	↔️	Performing Strongly
Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF's)	3	2	-33.33%	⬇️	Performing Strongly
Accidental Dwelling Fire Injury	0	1	100%	⬆️	Requires Improvement

Last Year Start Date	Last Year End Date	Current Year Start Date	Current Year End Date
1st April 2023	31st May 2023	1st April 2024	31st May 2024

### NOTE:

- i** Last Data Uploaded June 18, 2024, 3:44 p.m.
- All statistics may be subject to change following final data validation
  - **Primary Fires** are fires that occurred to property, vehicles and or involved casualties and or involved 5 or more pumping appliances.
  - **Secondary Fires** are NOT property fires eg. rubbish, grassland, wheelie bins and derelict buildings.



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# Arson impact in Hartlepool



- Two recent high-profile examples of ASB related arson that resulted in significant damage to existing properties, resulting in extensive scenes being held and consequential management including CID led investigations.

Wesley Nightclub  
on 07 November  
2023 £73,804



Engineers Club  
on 30 April 2024  
£73, 804.



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# Questions to consider

- Are we satisfied sufficient information sharing is taking place amongst key partners?
- Are we encouraging Community Safety Partnership to direct investment to design out crime to areas they perceive to be a problem?
- Are the subgroups of the CSP - derelict buildings, fly-tipping, and deliberate fire achieving what is required?
- Should the subgroups be held as one given the intrinsic links to arson between all three?
- Are enforcement officers suitably empowered to deal with matters that may be a pre-cursor to Arson and are they tasked accordingly?
- Is there sufficient investment in the prevention strategy concerning children and young persons?
- Could additional investment / funding be used to develop a Multi-Agency interactive safety centre serving the community of Cleveland, similar to that of SafetyWorks! In Newcastle?



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# NTE Serious Violence



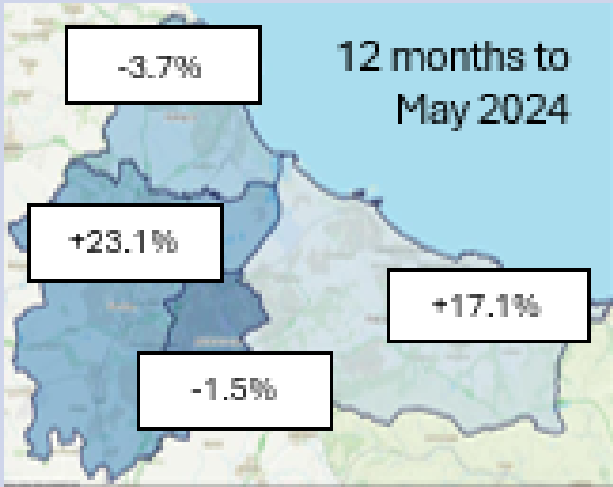

- According to the CURV Strategic Needs Assessment (CURV) across the four Local Authority Profiles (January 2024) there is proportionately more violence with injury in Hartlepool than across Cleveland.
- Across the five-year time period, 20% of recorded serious violence in Cleveland was recorded as NTE related - this varied by: Hartlepool (17%), Redcar & Cleveland (13%), Middlesbrough (24%), and Stockton-on-Tees (19%).
- Drugs/alcohol qualifiers were most prevalent in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland with 17% of serious violence across the five years having a qualifier, compared to 15% in Stockton-on-Tees and 16% in Hartlepool.



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# NTE Serious Violence

BCU comparisons	National comparisons*
 <p>12 months to May 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-3.7%</li><li>+23.1%</li><li>+17.1%</li><li>-1.5%</li></ul>	<p><b>Crime rate</b> Highest rate per 1000 population in the country</p> <p><b>Direction of travel</b> Cleveland +10.7% MSG average +6.9% National average +0.3%</p> <p>(as at the end of March 2024)</p> <div></div>

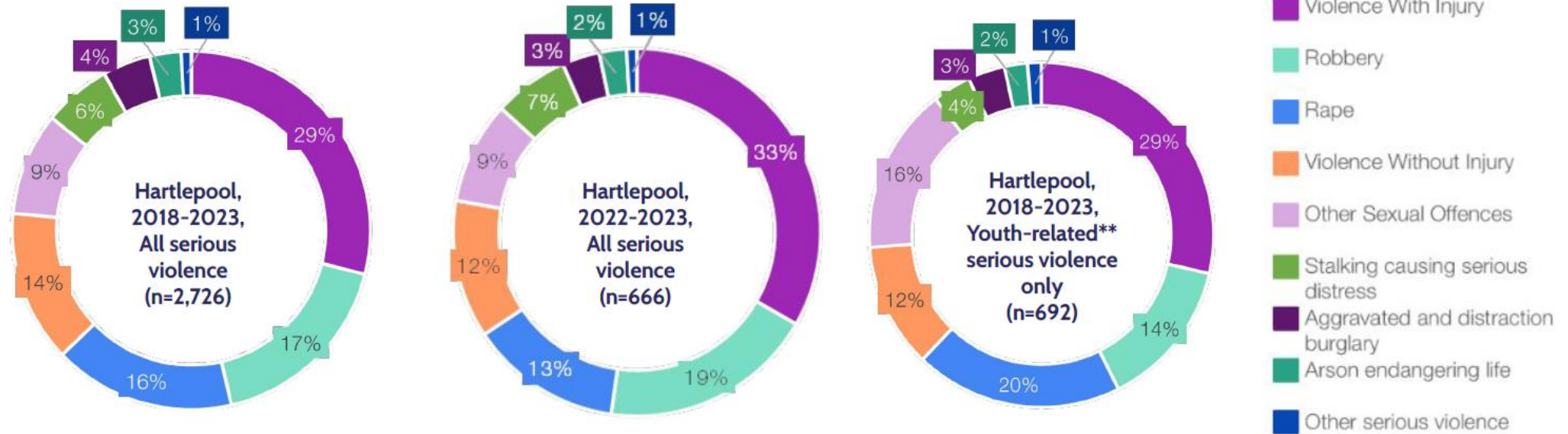


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# Serious Violence in Hartlepool

2,726 serious violence\* crimes committed in Hartlepool between September 2018 and August 2023



\*A breakdown of offences in the CURV definition of serious violence is included in the annex

\*\* Crimes are referred to as 'youth-related' if at least one suspect had a recorded age under 25



Police recorded crime data, locally provided

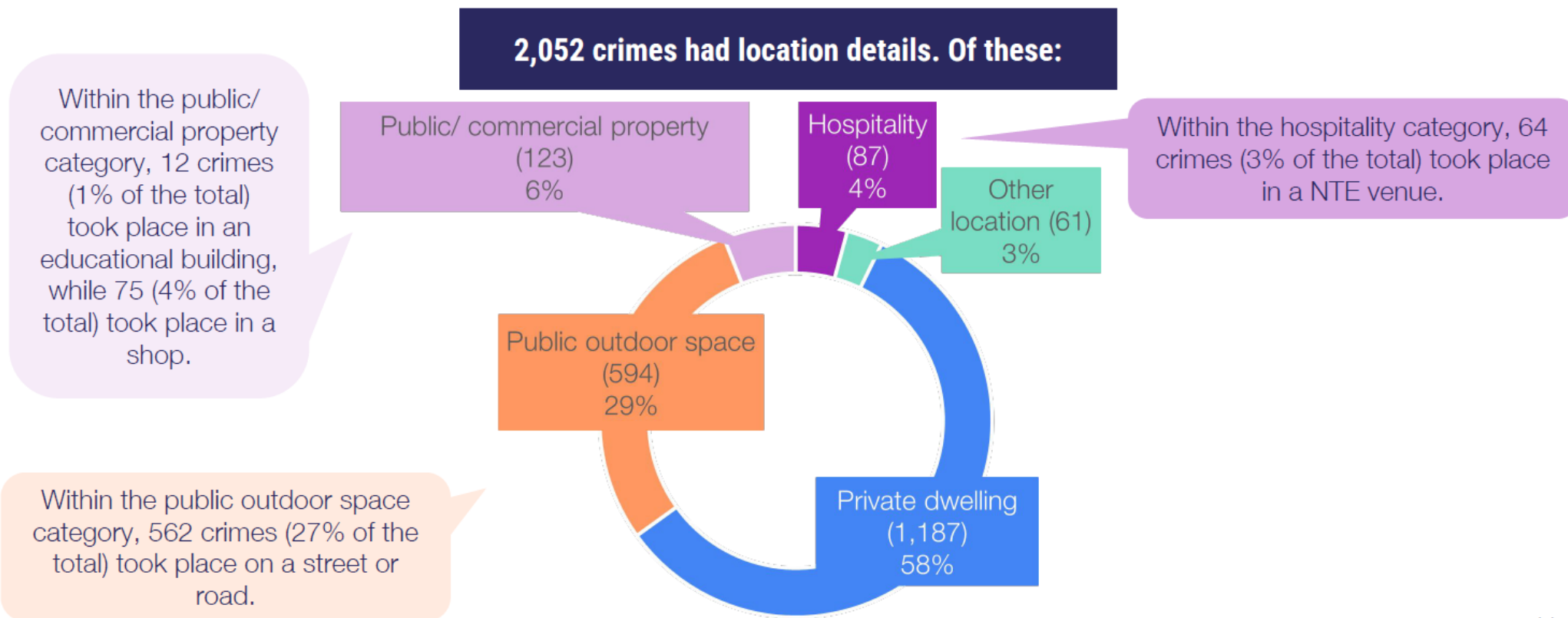
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# Locations in Hartlepool...

Figure showing a breakdown of serious violence by location given, October 2018 - October 2023



Police data, locally provided

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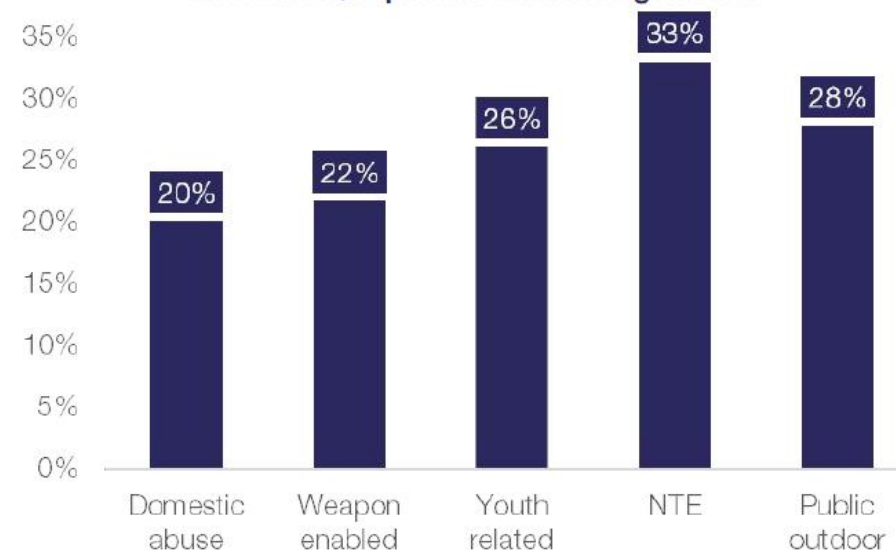
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# Burn Valley



- Burn Valley was the ward with the highest volume of recorded serious violence offences in Hartlepool with a total of 487 crimes, a third of which (33%) took place within times and geographical zones associated with the nighttime economy.

Proportion of serious violence in the ward with particular qualifying information, September 2018 to August 2023



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# NTE Trends



All serious violence incidents, by day and time of offence, September 2018 to August 2023

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
00:00-02:59	82	68	65	65	70	123	104	577
03:00-05:59	15	18	27	19	16	35	50	180
06:00-08:59	20	21	20	10	22	21	27	141
09:00-11:59	32	29	34	29	27	32	30	213
12:00-14:59	41	42	62	41	54	42	53	335
15:00-17:59	58	49	42	50	69	64	47	379
18:00-20:59	68	66	68	62	64	69	66	463
21:00-23:59	49	51	55	73	95	68	47	438
Total	365	344	373	349	417	454	424	2,726

Peak times for violent offending are Friday and Saturday evenings as well as the early hours of the following mornings. This correlates to times when people are more likely to be drinking or travelling to and from social events.



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# Questions to consider

- Are we encouraging Community Safety Partnership to direct investment to design out crime to areas they perceive to be a problem?
- Is sufficient prevention activity taking place such as the installation and maintenance of CCTV on Church Street?
- Are the licensees engaged with local authority and key partners around their licensing conditions?
- Are partners used to regularly test those conditions are being adhered to (trading standards / licensing officers)?
- Are we making best use of technology (LPA CCTV downlink to local station)?
- Do/Should the current A&E Hospital Navigators Programme extend to local hospital facility?



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# Any questions?

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[martin.hopps@cleveland.police.uk](mailto:martin.hopps@cleveland.police.uk)

## AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

16<sup>th</sup> July 2024



**Report of:** Statutory Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** DEDICATED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUDGET  
2023/24 - UPDATE

### 1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

**Hartlepool will be a place:**

- with a Council that is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflects the diversity of its community.

### 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide the Audit and Governance Committee with an update in relation to expenditure from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget in 2023/24.

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In 2013, a budget of £5000 per year was allocated to the Overview and Scrutiny function. The purpose of the budget is to provide support for the delivery of the work programme and development of the function.
- 3.2 The agreed process for the allocation of funding from the dedicated scrutiny budget is that:
- £500 and below. Any expenditure from the Dedicated Scrutiny Budget up to the sum of £500 could be delegated<sup>1</sup> to the Scrutiny Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee. An annual report outlining all expenditure to be presented to the Committee on an annual basis.
  - £500 and above. Appropriateness of any funding requests to be considered by the Committee.

### 4. BUDGET SPEND FOR THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 4.1 Further to the required annual update, the Committee is advised that expenditure to date from the 2023/24 dedicated scrutiny budget is as outlined in Table 1.

<sup>1</sup> Delegation approved by the Audit and Governance Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Table 1**

Purpose	Amount (£)
<b>Derelict Land and Buildings Investigation</b>	
Printing (promotional poster and paper survey)	12.18
Social Media (post promotion)	100.00
<b>Accessibility Investigation</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Consultation – as requested by the Finance and Policy Committee)	
Easy-read Survey	400.00
<b>Spend from 2023/24</b> (as of the 30 October 2023)	<b>512.18</b> (Budget Remaining 4,487.82)

## 5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee notes expenditure from the 2023/24 dedicated scrutiny budget (as detailed in Table 1.

**Contact Officer:-** Joan Stevens – Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
 Legal, Governance and Human Resources Department  
 Hartlepool Borough Council  
 Tel: 01429 284141  
 Email: [joan.stevens@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:joan.stevens@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**BACKGROUND PAPERS** - No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

# AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

16 July 2024



**Report of:** Executive, Director of Children's & Joint  
Commissioning Services

**Subject:** YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

## 1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

<b>Hartlepool will be a place:</b>
- 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.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2024-2025 (**Appendix 1**) to Audit and Governance Committee for consultation. Feedback will be incorporated into the final plan which will be reported to Children's Services Committee prior to final adoption of the plan by full Council.
- 2.2 The final Plan will also be sent to the National Youth Justice Board.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The national Youth Justice System primarily exists to ensure that children and young people between the age of 10 and 17 do not engage in offending or re-offending behaviour and to ensure that where a young person is arrested and charged with a criminal offence, they are dealt with differently to adult offenders to reflect their particular welfare needs as children.
- 3.2 Local Youth Offending Services were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop, deliver, commission and coordinate the provision of youth justice services within each Local Authority.
- 3.3 Hartlepool Youth Justice Service was established in April 2000 and is responsible for youth justice services locally. It is a multi-agency service and is made up of representatives from the Council's Children's Services, Police, Probation, Health and Education.

- 3.4 The primary objectives of Youth Justice Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people and reduce the use of custody.
- 3.5 There is a statutory requirement for all Youth Justice Services to annually prepare, a local Youth Justice Plan for submission to the national Youth Justice Board.
- 3.6 The annual Youth Justice Plan provides an overview of how the Youth Justice Service, the Youth Justice Service Strategic Management Board and wider partnership will ensure that the service has sufficient resources and infrastructure to deliver youth justice services in its area in line with the requirements of the National Standards for Youth Justice Services to:
- Promote performance improvement;
  - Shape youth justice system improvement;
  - Improve outcomes for young people, victims and the broader community.

#### 4. PROPOSALS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The draft Youth Justice Plan for 2023 – 2024 is attached at **Appendix 1**. Audit and Governance Committee is invited to discuss and comment on the draft plan to inform to development of the final version.

**Re-offending** - reduce further offending by children who have committed crime with a particular emphasis on continuing the development of Service interventions that are structured, responsive, tailored to meet identified individual need and evaluated. (Both within Youth Justice Services and provided by external agencies).

**Early/Targeted Intervention, Prevention & Diversion** – sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that creative strategies and services remain in place locally to prevent children from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Remand, Custody & Constructive Resettlement** – demonstrate that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the need for remands and custody. Ensure bespoke constructive resettlement packages are implemented at the earliest opportunity.

**Risk and Safety & Wellbeing (Asset Plus)** – ensure all children entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a high quality structured needs assessment to identify risk of harm, safety and wellbeing concerns and desistance factors, to inform effective intervention and risk management.

**Restorative Justice** – ensure all victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches and restorative justice is incorporated in to the work undertaken with children who offend.

**Effective Governance** – ensure that the Youth Justice Strategic Management Board is a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Justice Service performance and drives continuous improvement.

**Voice of the Children** – ensure that all children are actively involved in developing their own plans and are encouraged and supported to inform current and future service delivery.

***‘Child First’** – ensure that the Child First principles are regularly reviewed and embedded within the Youth Justice Service and that every child has the opportunity to live a safe and crime free life, and make a positive contribution to society.*

**Education, Training, Employment** – Working in collaboration with partners i.e. Schools, Virtual School and One Stop Shop to ensure all children open to the YJS are actively engaging in some form of suitable ETE, thus reducing NEET numbers, increasing attendance and improving outcomes.

**Substance Misuse** – Working in collaboration with partners i.e. Horizons/START to improve and sustain the engagement of children open to the YJS within substance misuse services

**Serious Violence & Exploitation** – Working with and alongside all partners including the Police, MACE and Violence Reduction Unit to address and reduce serious violence and all forms of child exploitation

**Over Represented Children** - Identify and address any areas of over representation within the YJS cohort alongside the management board and partners.

## 5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The strategic plan identifies key risk to future delivery as detailed in Section 8 of the plan these are:

- The unpredictability associated with secure remand episodes and secure remand length has the potential to place significant financial pressure on the Youth Justice Service and the broader Local Authority
- Managing the potential for reduction in YJB grant and partnership financial and ‘in-kind’ contributions pre and post 2024/25
- Performance on reoffending outcomes and impact on children
- Continued concerns around Serious Youth Violence, Criminal Exploitation and County Lines.

## 6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, a local authority must submit a Youth Justice Plan annually to the Youth Justice Board setting out (a) how youth justice services are to be provided and funded in their area and (b) how the YOTs established by them are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate and what functions they are to carry out. The plan must be published in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct.

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

There are no specific additional consideration relating to child and family poverty arising from this report, however such considerations are included in our assessment into the circumstances for children and young people and will, if necessary, have actions working alongside partners in place to seek to limit the impact upon children and families as a consequence of child poverty.

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

Equality and Diversity is considered within the report in relation to specific individual and groups of young people

**10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no specific staff considerations arising from this report.

**11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no specific management considerations arising from this report.

**12. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no specific environmental, sustainability and climate change considerations arising from this report

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

To note and provide feedback on the local Youth Justice Plan (2024/2025).

**14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 The development of the Youth Justice Plan for 2024 – 2025 will provide the Youth Justice Service with a clear steer to bring about further reductions in

youth offending and contribute to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families alongside the broader community.

- 14.2 The local Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2025 will establish responsibility across the Youth Justice Service and the Youth Justice Strategic Board for taking each improvement activity forward within agreed timescales.

## **15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998

## **16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

Laura Gough, Assistant Director, Children and Families, Hartlepool Borough Council, Level 4, Civic Centre, TS24 8AY.

Tel 01429 523957. E-mail [laura.gough@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:laura.gough@hartlepool.gov.uk)

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

11 March 2024

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Representative of NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, Karen Hawkins (In the Chair)

### **Prescribed Members:**

Elected Members, Hartlepool Borough Council - Councillors Allen, Harrison and Darby

Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council – Craig Blundred

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

Representatives of Healthwatch - Margaret Wrenn and Christopher Akers-Belcher

### **Other Members:**

Representative of Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector – Carl Jorgeson

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

Representative of GP Federation - Fiona Adamson

Also in attendance:-

Philippa Walters, Pharmacy Lead

Officers: Claire Robinson, Public Health Principal  
Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

## **76. Apologies for Absence**

Elected Members, Hartlepool Borough Council, Councillor Young  
Observer – Statutory Scrutiny Representative, Hartlepool Borough Council – Councillor Creevy

Representative of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust - Linda Hunter

Executive Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services, Hartlepool Borough Council - Sally Robinson

Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council – Denise McGuckin

Representative of Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector – Christine Fewster

Representative of NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - David Gallagher

Representative of Headteachers - Sonya Black

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

None

## **78. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2023 were confirmed

The minutes of the Tees Valley Area Integrated Care Partnership Meeting held on 24 November 2023 were received

## **79. Drug and Alcohol Strategy Update Report** *(Director of Public Health)*

Further to minute 51 of the meeting of the Board held on 10 July 2023, an update on progress against the Drug and Alcohol Strategy Action Plan was submitted. A copy of the Action Plan was appended to the report and a summary of the key deliverables between July 2023 and March 2024 was set out in the report.

### **Decision**

The report was noted.

## **80. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022 – Maintenance Report** *(Director of Public Health)*

The Board was updated in accordance with the process for statutory maintenance of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022. Board Members received notification of applications, decisions and other notice of changes to pharmaceutical services in Hartlepool from the ICB NENC or Primary Care Support England (PCSE) since the date of the last Health and Wellbeing Board Maintenance Report.

It was highlighted that there was no requirement to publish a Supplementary Statement to the PNA 2022 for the changes. The changes of ownership would be published on the Board's PNA website for information and the key to the map would be updated, though no change was required to the map itself.

Elected Members debated issues arising from the report with particular reference to the promotion and support of the 'Pharmacy First' service. A Healthwatch representative offered to assist with promotion of the scheme.

## Decision

The Board noted the following:

- i) That no other supplementary statements to the Hartlepool PNA 2022 have been issued since the last report of changes on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
- ii) The change to opening hours (and thereby availability of necessary pharmaceutical services) at Clayfields Pharmacy on Saturday afternoon.
- iii) The approval of a new distance selling pharmacy located in Hartlepool, the date of opening to be confirmed.
- iv) Change of ownership of two pharmacies at Seaton Carew and at Park Road as set out in report.

## 81. Measles Update *(Director of Public Health)*

The Board was updated on the current measles situation and assurance was given about preparedness should there be an increase in measles cases in Hartlepool. The report set out Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination data which showed more needed to be done to increase the uptake of vaccinations. A national and regional communications campaign was underway to raise awareness of the need for vaccination and which was being supported through NHS /UKHSA and local authority communications

Board Members were advised that as there was a likelihood of cases emerging in Hartlepool, the Health Protection Board for Hartlepool provides an opportunity for people to share plans and processes to give assurance to the Director of Public Health. An interim Health Protection Board had been held in February and organisations had shared their plans for responding to an outbreak.

The Director of Public Health undertook to follow up on issues raised by Board Members in relation to connection with the community and voluntary sector and the availability of more accessible clinics for vaccinations. An offer from a Healthwatch representative to assist in the promotion of the vaccination was also noted by the Director.

## Decision

The board noted the report.

## 82. Director of Public Health Annual Report *(Director of Public Health)*

Elected Members were referred to the requirement for the Director of Public Health to write an Annual Report on the health status of the town, and the Local Authority duty to publish it, as specified in the Health and Social Care

Act 2012. The 2023 Annual Report looked at people of working age and focused on work, skills and health looking at economic opportunities in the town, employment opportunities and focusing on work we are doing to improve health and wellbeing in workplaces. Following the success of utilising an electronic format and videos in recent years, the report was again accessed via a link included in the report with a copy of the Director's report also appended to the report. The Director of Public Health showed two videos to the meeting from the Annual Report.

Elected Members debated issues arising from the Annual report including how the Board could influence themes included in future Annual Reports and factors which had an impact on the health of employees with the success of involvement in the Better Health at Work Awards highlighted at the meeting.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the report and its conclusions.

Meeting concluded at 11.15 am

CHAIR

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

26 FEBRUARY 2024

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

### **Present:**

### **Responsible Authority Members:**

Councillor Little, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough  
Council  
Superintendent Martin Hopps, Hartlepool District, Cleveland Police  
Carl Pattison, Cleveland Fire Authority

### **Other Members:**

Sarah Wilson, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland  
Angela Corner, Head of Community Resilience, Thirteen Group  
Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services,  
Hartlepool Borough Council

### **Also Present:**

Anna Waddington, Cleveland Violence Reduction Unit (CURV)

### **Officers:**

Rachel Parker, Community Safety Team Leader  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

## **27. Apologies for Absence**

Denise McGuckin, Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery, NHS  
Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group  
Jo Heaney, Chair of Youth Offending Board  
Ann Powell, Head of Stockton and Hartlepool Probation Delivery Unit  
Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Joanne Hodgkinson, Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector  
Representative, Chief Executive, Safer Communities

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

## 28. Chair

Subsequent to the meeting of Council on 22 February 2024, there was no appointed Chair of the Partnership. Nomination for a Chair for this meeting only was sought and Councillor Little was nominated and agreed.

**Councillor Little in the Chair.**

## 29. Declarations of Interest

None.

## 30. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023

Confirmed.

## 31. Right Care, Right Person (*District Commander, Cleveland Police*)

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report was to inform members of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership of the Right Care, Right Person approach, an initiative to ensure that vulnerable people get the right type of support from the police and other services to assist with their needs.

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

The Hartlepool District Commander, Cleveland Police provided an update on the roll-out of the Right Care, Right Person approach which would assist police in making decisions about when it is appropriate for them to respond to incidents. The threshold for a police response to a mental health-related incident was:

- to investigate a crime that has occurred or is occurring.
- to protect people, when there is a real and immediate risk to the life, or of a person being subject to or at risk of serious harm.

While some incidents do require police powers there were many which involve no crime or significant risk. If a police response was not lawfully or proportionately required it may, in some cases, cause further distress. For each incident, the most appropriate service to respond would be identified. This may be to manage the risk, or to provide care and support to the person and ensure vulnerable people were signposted to the right help and support for their needs.

There were risks involved that all partners, including the Police, needed to be fully aware of. The police should not assume, directly or indirectly, responsibility for all forms of risk. It should be considered whether it was appropriate for them to accept, or to continue to accept, responsibility for a risk when there were more appropriate agencies to deal with the situation.

The Chair welcomed the Right Care, Right Person approach which was to be rolled out across the force area. People suffering mental health issues needed to be dealt with by the most appropriate agency.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

## **32. General Neighbourhood Policing Update** *(District Commander, Cleveland Police)*

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report was to provide members of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership an update in respect of general policing duties within Hartlepool.

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

The Hartlepool District Commander, Cleveland Police provided an policing update for the Partnership.

Response Policing had reduced from five reliefs to four to accommodate a new shift pattern. The new shift pattern, typically a four-on-four-off pattern, was voted in by officers late last year following a period of staff consultation. The shift pattern has been tested against demand modelling and found to be an effective way to meet demand at peak times.

Two additional vacancies had been filled within Neighbourhood Policing with the addition of Sergeant Chris Phelan and the return of Police Community Support Officer Julie Dobson. PCSO Dobson would return to her original posting covering the Seaton Ward.

The District Commander updated Members on crime figures for Violence without injury, Violence with injury, Stalking and Harassment, Shoplifting, Vehicle related crime, Burglary – Residential, Theft from person, Criminal Damage, Robbery, Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team continued to manage several problem-solving plans (16). One example of this approach occurred around Easington Road and King Oswy Drive where youths had been damaging vehicles by throwing stones at them. High visibility patrols, engagement with staff at Dimensions Care Home and working closely with the council assisted in reducing ASB jobs between October and December to 0. Usually, there would be a spike in ASB over Halloween / bonfire night,

however, this had not been the case. Youths involved with ASB were identified and dealt with quickly, ensuring the clear message was passed that poor behaviour would not be tolerated. The ward PCSO would continue to engage with staff, providing them with reassurance and support moving forward.

Also within the update provided, the District Commander referred to the launch of the Cleveland Police Matrix team to demonstrate to the public how we are tackling criminals and protecting communities. The Matrix team would employ a new way of working to reduce and eradicate emerging threats of serious and organised crime. The Matrix team consisted of Tactical Disruption Team (previously known as the Operational Support Unit); Firearms; the Dog Unit; Roads Policing; Casualty Reduction and Road Safety; Camera Enforcement; Football; Public Order; Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN); Search; as well as Operational and Emergency Planning. Vehicles within the fleet have been rebranded; and the Tactical Disruption Team vehicles will also be bright yellow.

The Chair welcomed the report and the return of PCSO Dobson to Seaton Carew.

#### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

### **33. MUGA – Verbal Update** (*Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative*)

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek the Partnership's guidance on the future of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) equipment purchased by the Partnership some years ago.

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

The Fire Brigade representative reported that the MUGA equipment was stored at the Stranton Fire Station for a number of years but the garage building it was in required maintenance and was to be out of use for quite a period of time. The Fire Brigade were looking for a local voluntary group that could take the equipment on and put it to good use. Should this not be possible, then it was suggested that the equipment be auctioned with any monies gained being returned to the Partnership.

The Chair stated that she could provide storage for the equipment in the interim. It was suggested that it may be prudent to advertise for a community group to take the equipment on initially and then review the situation if that was not successful.

#### **Decision**

That the MUGA equipment be advertised to Hartlepool community groups for future management and use.

### **34. Fire Brigade Update – Verbal Update** *(Cleveland Fire Brigade Representative)*

#### **Purpose of report**

To provide a Fire update to the Partnership.

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

The Fire Brigade representative reported that a new shift pattern had been introduced for Fire staff which allowed for better management of staff during peak times. It was reported that all Fire incidents were up 6% against the five year target and the Brigade had been focussing on accidents that didn't lead to a 'full' fire in residential dwellings. Since September 2023, these incidents had increased 91% with the majority being in sheltered housing schemes. Each Fire Watch had been designated two such residential schemes in the town to visit on a regular monthly basis to build up a relationship with the residents in the sheltered housing scheme and provide regular fire guidance.

Set fires involving fly-tipping were another issue the Brigade was proposing to address through a free skips programme in hotspot areas to encourage people to dispose of their waste properly. There would also be stickers issued for residents to use on their wheelie bins showing what days they need to be put out and brought back in. Wheelie bin fires were a particular concern. There would be a social media campaign and work with local schools as well.

Deliberately set fires were 84% of all the incidents attended by the Brigade and a major issue with Cleveland being the worst Fire Authority area in the country for such incidents. Wards with the highest incidents, Manor House, Rossmere, Headland and Harbour, De Brus and Burn Valley would be targeted in a new campaign to reduce these. This would also be discussed through the Deliberate Fires Group.

Members welcomed the report and the proposals around tackling fires of fly-tipped materials. Elected Members asked if Ward Councillors could be included in the information on the skips programme. Members also noted the work with people in sheltered accommodation communities to reduce accidental fires. A member of the public commented on fly-tipping in and around allotment sites and the frequency with which this waste was set alight risking damage to sheds and fences.

#### **Decision**

That the update report be noted.

### **35. Strategic Assessment 2022-2023** *(Executive Director, Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)*

**Purpose of report**

To receive the Strategic Assessment for October 2022 to September 2023.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Regulatory Services reported that the findings from the Strategic Assessment would inform the development of the next Safer Hartlepool Partnership's statutory Community Safety Plan due in April 2024. The key findings of the assessment identify that the current Community Safety Plan priorities of Anti-social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol and Domestic Violence and Abuse remain relevant and, with the addition of Serious Violence, should be retained as priorities in the next Community Safety Plan, due for implementation in April 2024.

The Chair asked of the issues around shop lifting were in the town centre only or across the community. The Police District Commander stated that the issues were across the town, though there were certain hotspots. The Chair asked if there needed to be a set monetary value to shop lifting incidents before the Police would take action. The Police District Commander was clear in stating this was not the case and all incidents should be reported to the Police. While only small in value, an incident could be due to a prolific shop lifter and intelligence would help the Police target and prosecute such offenders.

It was also reported that while there were increases in the numbers of crimes reported, there were now many more ways to report incidents and greater confidence among the public that reports did eventually lead to action, sometime high profile, being taken.

In light of the lengthy period before the next meeting of the partnership, it was suggested that all Partner organisations considered that Strategic Assessment and submit any comments to the Assistant Director in the next four weeks.

**Decision**

1. Members of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership are asked to consider key findings of the strategic assessment and submit any comments on the contents to the Assistant Director, Regulatory Services.
2. That a draft Community Safety Plan 2024 – 2027 be presented to the next meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership for approval.

## **36. Safer Hartlepool Partnership Action Plan** *(Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)*

**Purpose of report**

To provide a Safer Hartlepool Partnership Action Plan in which partners report their performance against the priorities outlined in the Community Safety Plan 2024/2027.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Regulatory Services reported on the draft Safer Hartlepool Partnership Action Plan which outlined activities carried out by partners across the priorities of the 2024/2027 plan. Some partners were already producing action plans to accompany strategies such as Domestic Abuse and Drugs and Alcohol which were already being presented to the Partnership. Details from these plans were included in the action plan to ensure that all partners are contributing and including work they are carrying out.

**Decision**

That the action plan be noted and approved.

**37. Draft Community Safety Plan 2024 - 2027** (*Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*)

**Purpose of report**

To consider and agree a draft Community Safety Plan for 2024 – 2027

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director, Regulatory Services reported that the Community Safety Plan 2024-27 will provide an overview of some of the recent activities undertaken to improve community safety in Hartlepool, along with key findings from the Partnership's Strategic Assessment and consultation with the public. The draft Community Safety Plan will be subject to an eight week consultation period following its approval by the Finance and Policy Committee early in the new Municipal Year.

The Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services suggested that all partners be requested to consider and comment on the draft in the interim period ahead of approval by Finance and Policy Committee and the public consultation period so that any comments could be incorporated into the consultation draft. This was supported by the Partnership.

The role of the sub groups around drugs and alcohol, health and anti-social behaviour were clarified in the meeting. The Executive Director of Development, Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services stated that the membership and role of the neighbourhood safety group should be refreshed as part of this process.

**Decision**

1. That the partner organisations consider the proposed draft plan prior to the commencement of the consultation period and submit any comments to the Assistant Director, Regulatory Services.
2. That the establishment of sub group / task groups to deliver the Community Safety Plan priorities be supported.

### **38 Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 am.

CHAIR

# North East North Cumbria Health & Care Partnership



## Confirmed MINUTES

### Tees Valley Area Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Meeting

Meeting held on: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, 12pm – 2pm

Held at: Pease Suite, Dolphin Centre, Darlington, DL1 5RP

Item No:	Meeting Notes	Action
TVICP/23/47	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
	<p>Councillor Cook, as Chair, welcomed colleagues to the fourth Tees Valley Area Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Meeting.</p> <p><b>Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Bob Cook (Chair) – Health and Well-being Board Chair &amp; Leader of Stockton Borough Council</li> <li>• David Gallagher – Executive Area Director (South), NENC ICB</li> <li>• Craig Blair - ICB Director of Place, Middlesbrough / Redcar &amp; Cleveland, NENC ICB</li> <li>• Jean Golightly - Director of Nursing (South), NENC ICB</li> <li>• Jon Carling – Voluntary Sector Lead / 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector, Catalyst Stockton</li> <li>• Josh Harbron – Assistant Director of Adult Social Care, Darlington Council (<i>attending for James Stroyan</i>)</li> <li>• Michelle Stamp – Consultant in Public Health, South Tees Hospital FT, and Public Health South Tees (<i>attending on behalf of Mark Adams</i>)</li> <li>• Martin Short (MS) - ICB Director of Place (Darlington), NENC ICB</li> <li>• Rebecca Morgan (RM) – Project Development Manager / Healthwatch Sub-Regional Co-ordinator, Healthwatch</li> <li>• Professor Derek Bell – Chair, North Tees &amp; Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust / South Tees Hospitals NHS FT</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane Smith – Service Lead Strategy Quality &amp; Improvement – Children’s Service, Stockton Borough Council</li> <li>• Alex Sinclair – ICB Director of Place (Stockton), NENC ICB</li> <li>• Dr Helen McLeish – PCN Clinical Director, Darlington PCN</li> <li>• Dr Jackie McKenzie - PCN/CD Representative, Hartlepool PCN</li> <li>• Sandra Britten – Chief Executive (Operational) Alice House Hospice</li> <li>• Stacey Hunter – Group Chief Executive Officer (Joint North and South Tees), North Tees &amp; Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust &amp; South Tees Hospital Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Brent Kilmurray – Chief Executive of Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Councillor Mary Layton – Darlington Borough Council</li> <li>• Ken Ross – Public Health Principal, Darlington Borough Council</li> <li>• Craig Blundred – Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council</li> <li>• Mark Adams – Director of Public Health, Middlesbrough Council / Redcar &amp; Cleveland Council</li> <li>• Sarah Bowman-Abouna – Director of Public Health, Stockton Council</li> <li>• Anne Richards – Partnership Officer, RCVDA</li> <li>• Lisa Oldroyd – Chief Executive &amp; Monitoring Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland</li> <li>• Dr Catherine Monaghan – Medical Director, NENC ICB</li> <li>• Seth Pearson</li> <li>• Dr Teik Goh</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In Attendance:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathryn Warnock - South Tees Integration Programme Manager / Head of Commissioning &amp; Strategy, NENC ICB</li> <li>• Cath Martin - South Tees Strategic System Lead - Transfer of Care, South Tees Hospital Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Rebecca Herron – Governance Lead, NENC ICB</li> <li>• Lynne Pearson (Note Taker) – Corporate Secretary, NENC ICB</li> <li>• Claire Attey – Corporate Secretary, NENC ICB</li> </ul>	
TVICP/23/48	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Bharat Kandikonda - PCN/CD Representative –</li> </ul>	

	<p>Middlesbrough PCN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clive Heaphy – Interim Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council</li> <li>• Cllr Matthew Roche – Councillor, Darlington Borough Council (<i>Councillor Mary Layton attended</i>)</li> <li>• Mayor Chris Cooke – Joint HWBB Chair Live Well South Tees Board – Middlesbrough Council</li> <li>• Denise McGuckin – Managing Director of Hartlepool Borough Council</li> <li>• Elaine Redding – Director of Childrens Services, Stockton Borough Council</li> <li>• Dr Dharendra Garg – Stockton PCN Representative</li> <li>• Helen Ray – Chief Executive, North East Ambulance Service</li> <li>• James Stroyan – Director of People (Children &amp; Adult), Darlington Council</li> <li>• Ian Williams – Chief Executive, Darlington Council</li> <li>• Jill Harrison - Director of Adult &amp; Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council</li> <li>• Julian Penton - Voluntary Sector Lead/3rd Sector, Hartlepower (Hartlepool)</li> <li>• Lynne Walton – Director of Finance (South), NENC ICB</li> <li>• Mike Greene – Chief Executive – Stockton Borough Council</li> <li>• Miriam Davidson – Interim Director of Public Health, Darlington Borough Council (<i>Ken Ross attended</i>)</li> <li>• Peter Neal – Voluntary Sector Lead, Redcar &amp; Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency (RCVDA)</li> <li>• Sue Jacques – Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington NHS FT</li> <li>• Dr Teik Goh - PCN/CD Representative, Redcar and Cleveland PCN</li> <li>• Kathryn Boulton, Director of Children's Services, Redcar &amp; Cleveland Council</li> <li>• Kerry McQuade – Director of Strategy Planning and Transformation, North East Ambulance Service</li> <li>• Chris Zarraga – Director, Schools North East</li> <li>• Paul Smithurst – Regional Fundraising Manager, SSAFA</li> <li>• John Sampson – Managing Director and Chief Executive – Redcar and Cleveland Council</li> <li>• Councillor Shane Moore – Middlesbrough Council</li> <li>• Erik Scollay (ES) – Director of Adult Services, Middlesbrough Council</li> <li>• Patrick Rice – Director of Adults and Communities, Redcar &amp; Cleveland Council</li> <li>• Carolyn Nice – Director of Adult Services, Stockton Council</li> </ul>	
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TVICP/23/49	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Councillor Bob Cook (BC) reminded colleagues of the importance of the robust management of conflicts of interest and asked individuals to raise any potential conflicts of interest as the meeting progressed. No conflicts of interest were raised.	
TVICP/23/50	<b>Minutes from previous meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>	
	The minutes of the meeting, held 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, had previously been circulated to members for comment. There were no amendments requested and therefore the minutes were <b>AGREED</b> as an accurate record. Confirmed minutes have also been shared with Health and Wellbeing Boards for information.	
TVICP/23/51	<b>Matters Arising &amp; Action Log</b>	
	<p><b>Action Log</b></p> <p><u>TVICP/23/32 – Items for Future Meetings:</u> Martin Short (MS) advised that the development of the work programme for the Tees Valley Area ICP meeting was on the agenda for discussion at this meeting.</p> <p><u>TVICP/23/34 – Overview of SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity:</u> RH advised that the action log had been updated to outline the information received from Paul Smithurst (PS) regarding the 13 'medical' queries received by the North East SSAFA (Armed Forces Charity). She advised that colleagues could obtain further information from PS if required.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising to note.</p>	
TVICP/23/52	<b>Healthwatch Update</b>	
	<p>The report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Rebecca Morgan (RM) provided the key highlights of the Healthwatch Quarterly report, including the work of Healthwatch organisations in Darlington, Hartlepool, Stockton, and South Tees.</p> <p>Common themes and areas of work noted were:</p> <p>'Growing Older / Planning Ahead' project, which involved working with adults living with Learning Disabilities to understand any gaps in support and services, and to make</p>	

	<p>recommendations for future commissioning. The data for this project is currently in the process of being collated to provide both a local and Tees Valley-wide profile. RM confirmed that this information should be ready to be shared at the next Tees Valley Area ICP meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that a review of the ICB's Involvement Strategy has been undertaken. Healthwatch Darlington have coordinated this project, which included focus groups and engagement in a range of areas across the Tees Valley and the wider NENC region. In addition, it was noted that alongside general population engagement, Healthwatch were holding a series of workshops to include representation of the voices from communities including LGBTQ+ and BAME. RM highlighted that this was a very positive piece of work.</p> <p>The significance of Healthwatch's dentistry review was also highlighted. RM advised that there were three key elements which would be provided by Healthwatch to ensure support to the ICB's engagement and review of people's experience of dentistry across the NENC region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service user experience;</li><li>• Reviewing variance of information and messaging;</li><li>• General population survey – experiences and perceptions of NHS dentistry from those who have utilised this within the past year.</li></ul> <p>RM outlined the regional and national issues currently being monitored by Healthwatch, including GP access, women's health, migrant health (within established migrant communities) and Mental Health access.</p> <p>It was highlighted that Healthwatch South Tees were currently promoting the STAR Awards 2024, which honours health and social care champions.</p> <p>RM advised that Healthwatch South Tees had received a query in relation to the Shingles vaccine roll-out, from a patient who had met the eligibility criteria but was unable to find a practice who could provide the vaccination. Craig Blair (CB) assured the group that this could be discussed further outside of the meeting; and highlighted the importance of ensuring that patients were signposted correctly. He noted that there were complexities in relation to the roll-out and access to the vaccine, with discussions continuing at Scrutiny Committee. CB advised that he would contact Lisa Bosomworth (LB) to discuss further. Councillor Bob Cook (BC) highlighted that these discussions had also taken place at the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>	
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	<p><b>ACTION:</b> David Gallagher (DG) requested CB circulate the Shingles vaccine guidance to colleagues to ensure that they had sight of this.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> CB confirmed that he and LB would work on identifying the correct route for this individual to access the vaccination.</p> <p><i>RM left the meeting – 12.11pm</i></p>	<p>DG</p> <p>CB</p>
TVICP/23/53	<b>Dentistry &amp; Oral Health Update</b>	
	<p>DG provided a presentation and overview of Primary Care dental access recovery; and the development of an oral health strategy in the North East and North Cumbria. He also highlighted the support and input provided by Healthwatch towards identifying the current challenges with dentistry access and the potential solutions.</p> <p>The presentation included information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current challenges for dentistry provision and how these would be tackled.</li> <li>• The progress made so far in terms of recovering dental access.</li> <li>• The importance of building Practice / workforce resilience,</li> <li>• Impact on children's oral health</li> <li>• Ways of improving oral health; and the role of Local Authorities in achieving this.</li> <li>• Importance of water fluoridation as an effective public health intervention for improving oral health.</li> <li>• How a consensus could be built across the North East and North Cumbria.</li> </ul> <p>DG highlighted that the current challenges were attributable to the NHS dental contract remaining unchanged since 2006; and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the risks of transmission. He advised that it was anticipated that the dental contract will be reviewed in light of the current dentistry provision and access issues.</p> <p>It was noted that the North East and North Cumbria was not an outlier in terms of dentistry provision but must still strive to make improvements. The ICB has responsibility for the commissioning of all Primary Care services, including dentistry. DG advised that the Primary Care Team were therefore working hard to address the challenges around dentistry access and provision.</p> <p>In terms of improving oral health, DG explained that all Tees Valley Local Authority organisations – and the associated Health &amp; Wellbeing Boards – were responsible for their oral</p>	

	<p>health strategy. DG highlighted the evidence-based interventions to improve oral health, including fluoride varnish application and water fluoridation.</p> <p>DG explained that the Government was aiming to expand water fluoridation to areas across the North East, to reach an additional 1.6M people. It was noted that a public consultation had been due to begin in early 2024 but was still awaiting release. It was noted that parts of the North East, such as Hartlepool, already had water fluoridation in place, and this area performed better in terms of population oral health.</p> <p>DG advised that any consultations that would take place, via Local Authorities, would provide the public with the opportunity to respond to the proposal to implement a fluoridated water system in areas of the North East that did not currently have this in place. It was noted that Northumbria Water had indicated that they would be able to implement this relatively quickly; and funding would be provided at national government level, rather than local. It was highlighted that there was a need for a consensus across the North East system, and an awareness from system partners of the importance of supporting this, if possible.</p> <p>Brent Kilmurray (BK) advised that it would be helpful for potential contracting models to have a focus on vulnerable patient cohorts, to ensure that those most in need would be given priority. DG acknowledged the importance of this consideration; and advised that work would need to be undertaken with system partners, such as TEWVFT, to achieve this.</p> <p>A query was raised in relation to the retention of dentists; particularly the potential lack of professional development for NHS dentists and how to mitigate this. It was suggested that linking in with Teesside University and Newcastle University could help to increase career development and skill diversity. DG advised that discussions were currently taking place with Teesside University. He also highlighted the importance of NHS dentists focusing on addressing the current needs, such as access and prevention of tooth decay.</p> <p>Professor Derek Bell (DB) suggested a collective review of tooth decay prevention, including preventative measures such as the removal of carbonated drinks in schools and hospitals. DG noted that this would facilitate collaborative working; and also incorporate the broader health improvement agenda, as there was currently ongoing regional work on this taking place via the DPH network.</p>	
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	<p>Craig Blundred (CBI) highlighted that it would be key to consider and review the policies for all system partners; and this area of work would provide significant opportunities to work collectively.</p> <p>John Carling (JC) advised that it was positive to hear of the investment being made towards addressing this issue, but noted it was disappointing that this was non-recurrent funding. DG explained that the funding was non-recurrent for 2023/24, but it was hoped that the funding would be ring-fenced in future years.</p> <p>JC highlighted that Catalyst Stockton would welcome involvement in the messaging to communities regarding fluoridation.</p> <p>DG confirmed that there was a heatmap in place to help the targeting of the strategy to the areas of greatest need.</p>	
TVICP/23/54	<b>South Tees Integrated Working</b>	
	<p>Kathryn Warnock (KW) and Carol Martin (CM) provided a presentation and overview of South Tees system working across health and social care.</p> <p>The presentation included information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint working of the South Tees Integration Programme Board, noting its vision to maximise healthy life expectancy and independent living in the South Tees community, by establishing innovative and integrated health and social care services which promote prevention.</li> <li>• The agreed principles for senior leadership and collaborative working across hospital Trusts and Local Authority organisations.</li> <li>• The establishment of the Better Care Fund (BCF), including joint work programme, governance, plans, services and schemes. This includes the establishment of the iSPA.</li> <li>• The work undertaken to improve the transfer of care and discharge for patients.</li> <li>• The implementation of the Improving Transfers of Care and Discharge process, which was implemented following the identification of South Tees as an outlier for DTOC.</li> </ul> <p>Stacey Hunter (SH) noted that this was positive to note; and highlighted the importance of ensuring that this was available at a systemic level so that all patients received this. CM advised that discussions were ongoing to understand how this could be implemented in the most</p>	

	<p>effective way, in addition to the funding considerations. She explained that additional investment had been put into reablement and discharge services.</p> <p>KW highlighted the importance of wider integration and proactively bringing the appropriate colleagues together for risk stratification. She noted that the focus on transfers of care should continue, with the community element to facilitate bringing system partners together.</p> <p>CB explained that the South Tees system had been at crisis point before the implementation of the transfer of care process. He advised that, now there was a joined-up system approach to supporting patients discharged from hospital, the focus should be on prevention and achieving a reduction in bed base pressures.</p> <p>Jean Golightly (JG) welcomed the clarity of the presentation in setting out the improvements made. She advised that consideration should subsequently be given to how patient experience would be captured. She reiterated that the pressure on the system prior to the implementation of this process was significant; and had resulted in huge improvements. CM agreed that capturing patient experience was important; and confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Healthwatch to progress this.</p> <p>CM advised that support to carers was also being considered; and JG acknowledged the importance support and communications with carers.</p> <p>DG thanked CM and KW for their hard work and leadership around the transfers of care process. He highlighted that there was significant learning and best practice to be taken forward in terms of addressing other system challenges.</p> <p>DB highlighted the importance of utilising the data to guide what the next steps would be, particularly in terms of how to add value to patient experience and maintain their independence.</p> <p>Mary Latham (ML) highlighted the importance of communication with patients and families / carers, as they were often unaware of how to access the services available to them upon discharge from hospital.</p>	
TVICP/23/55	<b>Tees Valley Anchor Network</b>	
	The report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.	

	<p>Mark Adams (MA) presented and provided an overview of the Tees Valley Anchor Network. The report outlined the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The definition of an anchor institution as being large, public-sector organisations that were unlikely to relocate, and have a significant stake in a geographical area.</li><li>• The mapping exercise undertaken to identify the baseline 'anchor' activity within NTHFT and STHFT, following the completion of a questionnaire by both Trusts.</li><li>• The proposal that, as there were several anchor institutions across the Tees Valley, this could collectively create a Tees Valley Anchor Network for the local system.</li></ul> <p>MA explained that the purpose of the anchor network would be to bring together anchor organisations across the Tees Valley to maximise their impact in enabling sustainable, prosperous, and healthy communities. He highlighted that anchor networks were based around prevention, and the retention of wealth within communities wherever possible.</p> <p>The specific challenges across the Tees Valley which could be tackled by the anchor network were outlined. This included employment issues (particularly in relation to zero hours contracts), building utilisation and contracting.</p> <p>BC explained that Stockton was also aiming to implement a similar approach, as per the Social Value Act (2012), via work with procurement partners. He suggested that a Tees-wide body, as a social value entity, would be advantageous for all local organisations; and would ensure that procurement-spending would be used for local areas.</p> <p>SH confirmed that she would support the implementation of a Tees Valley anchor network, as this would provide an opportunity to change the experiences of the local populations for the better.</p> <p>JC queried how an anchor institution would link into the voluntary and community sector; and whether there would be membership available for these organisations. MA explained that this sector would have an important role to play within the anchor institution, particularly in terms of ensuring more inclusive employment.</p> <p>BK advised that a terms of reference would be required to ensure that the anchor institution could hold itself to account.</p>	
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	<p>Dr Teik Goh (TG) queried how an anchor network would ensure longevity and implement outcomes that would have a lasting impact. He suggested that linking in with schools and employment colleagues would help to achieve this. MA advised that an increased spend and metrics towards inclusive employment, particularly for BAME communities, should result in a diversity of employment population within sectors where there was currently a lack of representation. BC highlighted the importance of recruiting younger people into local government careers.</p> <p>DG advised that, if there was a full commitment to this approach, there would need to be an establishment of the next steps and clarity around the actions and implementation requirements. The Tees Valley Area ICP discussed this at length; and agreed that this should be brought back to the next meeting – following the establishment of the metrics.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Tees Valley Anchor Institution to be brought back to the next TV Area ICP meeting for further discussion.</b></p> <p>As per the recommendation of the report, it was also agreed that a task and finish working group would be initiated to support the development of an anchor institutions network for Tees Valley, as per the recommendation of the report. MA advised that the leads from each of the Tees Valley Area ICP organisations would be contacted to confirm/nominate the lead. DG emphasised the importance of ensuring that all system partners within the Area ICP were involved in this.</p> <p><b>ACTION: MA to contact the lead for each organisation within the TV Area ICP, to confirm the lead for anchor institution lead for each organisation.</b></p>	<p>RH</p> <p>MA</p>
TVICP/23/56	<b>Tees Valley ICP Workplan Proposal</b>	
	<p>The report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Sarah Bowman-Abouna (SBA) and Martin Short (MS) presented an update on the workplan for the Directors of Public Health; proposed some key areas of collective work for the Tees Valley ICP. It was noted that there was now an ask for these meetings to address some of the challenges identified for the Tees Valley.</p> <p>SBA highlighted the importance of establishing a clear action plan, outcomes, and timescales for delivery, which linked back to a refresh of the ICP Tees Valley places plan and local Health and Wellbeing Strategies in order to reduce any duplication and to ensure impact can be monitored. She advised that it was proposed that the</p>	

	<p>following four themes could be focused on four socio-economic determinants, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Work and health</li> <li>• Care and health workforce</li> <li>• Anchor institutions; which would link into the previous anchor institutions network discussions.</li> </ul> <p>It was proposed that the Tees Valley Area ICP meeting could be utilised as way of holding themed workshops to facilitate discussions around these areas. The Tees Valley Area ICP discussed the proposals in relation to work areas for the Tees Valley ICP work programme. The importance of establishing concrete outputs from these meetings was highlighted. The group agreed that a workshop format for future meetings would be welcomed; and it was suggested that the anchor institutions network could be topic for one of the workshops.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Following agreement from BC and DG, it was agreed that workshop sessions should be incorporated into the Tees Valley Area ICP meetings going forward.</p>	RH
TVICP/23/57	<b>Suggested Items for Next Meeting</b>	
	<p>DG advised that the intention of this item was to ensure that the group considered how to move forward with meaningful discussions and avoid any duplication of work. He suggested a programme that would require colleagues to report back on any areas of work they had been tasked with. BC advised that colleagues that any additional items suggested for the next meeting should be sent to DG.</p>	
TVICP/23/58	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>The Chair noted there were no further items of business advised and thanked members for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.</p> <p><i>The meeting closed at 2.02pm</i></p>	
	<p><u>Next Meeting</u>  Date: Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024  Time: 12-2pm  Venue: <b>TBC</b></p>	

Signed:



Date: 23.04.24

Cllr Bob Cook (Chair)

Confirmed