

PLEASE NOTE VENUE AND TIME

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 9th February 2007

at 1.30 pm

Ow ton Manor Community Centre
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Councillors S Allison, Barker, Clouth, R W Cook, Fleet, Gibbon, Hall, James, Laffey, A Marshall, J Marshall, Preece, Shaw, Wallace, Wistow and Wright.

Resident Representatives:

Ian Campbell, Iris Ryder and Linda Shields

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2007 (*attached*).

4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

No items.

5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS FROM COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND NON EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

No items.

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6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 The Executive's Forward Plan – *Scrutiny Manager*

7. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

No items.

8. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL MONITORING/CORPORATE REPORTS

No items.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 9.1 Building Schools for the Future – Stage Two Consultation – *Director Children's Services*

- 9.2 Withdrawal of European Structural Funding to the Voluntary Sector within Hartlepool Scrutiny Referral – Evidence from Community and Voluntary Sectors Organisations:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager / Scrutiny Support Officer*;
- (b) Verbal Evidence from Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations in Hartlepool:-
 - (i) Representative(s) from Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA);
 - (ii) Representative(s) from Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA) (*Attendance subject to confirmation*);
 - (iii) Representative(s) from Headland Development Trust; and
 - (iv) Representative(s) from Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre.
- (c) Feedback from the Focus Group held on 1 February 2007 – *Scrutiny Support Officer (to be circulated during the meeting)*

- 9.3 Withdrawal of European Structural Funding to the Voluntary Sector within Hartlepool Scrutiny Referral – Evidence Local Authority Representatives:-

- (a) Covering Report - *Scrutiny Manager / Scrutiny Support Officer*;
- (b) Verbal Evidence from the Local Authority's Representatives:-
 - (i) Assistant Director (Community Services), Adult and Community Services Department; and

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- (ii) Principal Economic Development Officer (Europe),
Regeneration and Planning Services Department

- 9.4 Railway Approaches – Final Report – *Chair of Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum*
- 9.5 New Scrutiny Powers on Crime and Disorder – *Scrutiny Manager*
- 9.6 Requests for Items for Discussion – Joint Cabinet / Scrutiny Event –
28 February 2007 – *Scrutiny Manager*

10. CALL-IN REQUESTS

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting Friday 16th March 2007 at 1.30pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5th January 2007

The meeting commenced at 1.30pm in Ow ton Manor Community Centre,
Wynyard Road, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Steve Gibbon, Gerard Hall, Pauline Laffey and Ann Marshall

Also Present In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2, Councillor Geoff Lilley as substitute for Councillor Stephen Allison and Councillor Dennis Waller as substitute for Councillor Marjorie James.

Officers: Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement and Property Services
Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

159. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Allison, Caroline Barker, Marjorie James, Rob Cook and resident representative Linda Shields.

160. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

161. Minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 24th November 2006 and the Single Status Working Group held on 21st November 2006.

The minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 24th November 2006 were confirmed, but due to the unavailability of the minutes of the Single Status Working Group held on 21st November 2006, they were deferred.

162. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Reports of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None.

163. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews from Council, Executive Members and Non Executive Members

None.

164. Forward Plan

The Executive's Forward Plan for January 2007 – April 2007 was submitted for the Committee's consideration. Members were asked to identify any issues in the Forward Plan that they felt should be considered by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee or one of the four forums. Although Members felt that there had been a slight improvement in the content of the Forward Plan, they still had concerns at the level of information it contained.

The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum referred to item NS104/06 – Selective Licensing of Privately Rented Houses and the need for a co-ordinated approach with the Forum during their current inquiry in relation to Private Sector Landlords. The Head of Procurement and Property Services indicated that he would progress this issue.

165. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

None.

166. Consideration of financial monitoring/corporate reports

None.

167. Final Report: Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gender Gap *(Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Forum)*

The draft final report of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's investigation into the Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gender Gap was submitted for the Committee's consideration, amendment and subsequent approval for submission to Council. The report set out the terms of reference, the methods utilised and the findings of the investigation.

The draft conclusions of the report, were as follows: -

- (a) That Hartlepool continued to do well in addressing the boys' underachievement issue in its schools with the gender gap being very close to national figures. However, the gap in Hartlepool related to boys writing rather than reading and as such future strategies should be focused upon boys literacy and in particular writing;
- (b) That the Authority should be commended on the appointment of a dedicated Raising Boys' Achievement Co-ordinator and that the findings of this scrutiny investigation would clearly feed into the development of future practices.
- (c) That it was evident that there was no 'one fits all' strategy that would address the boys' underachievement issue and where strategies were successful in Hartlepool, it was as a result of individual schools implementing innovative initiatives and practices tailored to their own cultural environments;
- (d) That in recognition of the differing ways in which individuals learn the curriculum should be tailored where possible, and vocational courses utilised, to meet the needs of individual boys;
- (e) That there was a need to encourage schools in Hartlepool to share best practice and whilst informal arrangements were in place consideration needed to be given to the creation of a formal network and perhaps Hartlepool's involvement in a regional network;
- (f) That transition arrangements for pupils moving between primary and secondary schools appeared on a whole to be working effectively in Hartlepool although it was evident that further improvements could be made;
- (g) That in view of the effectiveness of the National Education Breakthrough Programme for Raising Boys' Achievements in helping other local authorities to raise boys' achievement levels, there was a need to explore the extension of schools involvement in the programme within Hartlepool;
- (h) That it was evident that a 'cluster' funding approach to reduce the costs of involvement in the National Education Breakthrough Programme would be beneficial;
- (i) That to ensure the effectiveness of the 'rolling out' of the Blended Learning Project it was crucial for adequate staffing arrangements to be in place;
- (j) That whilst the Primary School Enquiry Groups had recently been established there may be a benefit for Elected Member involvement in

them together with the creation of similar groups for Secondary Schools;

- (k) That a large factor in boys reaching their true potential was the provision of good all round support and this was particularly applicable to parents; and
- (l) That whilst Departmental Action Plans were in place to address the underachievement of boys' there was clearly a need for the establishment of a separate departmental policy/strategy.

Members were reminded that as part of the action plan from this inquiry, feedback would be reported to this Committee to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. Members were also informed that the report has been included as part of the Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection recently undertaken across the Children's Services Department. Members acknowledged the success already achieved by the Children's Services Department in relation to raising boys' achievement and hoped that the findings of this inquiry would build upon this and ensure a consistent approach was achieved.

A Member noted the importance of encouraging young entrepreneurs through education to become interested in business. A Member of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum indicated that the Forum would be scoping an inquiry into Youth and Employment next week and this issue could be raised for discussion as part of this inquiry.

Decision

That the draft final report of the inquiry into Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gender Gap be approved for submission to Cabinet.

168. Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee – Progress Report (Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee)

In the absence of the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, the Vice Chair presented a report that updated Members on the progress made to date by this Committee since the start of the 2006/07 Municipal Year. It was reported that following consultation with the Scrutiny Chairs and the Scrutiny Support Team, substantial efforts were being made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to ensure the work programme for 2006.07 was delivered to the prescribed timescales.

As part of the process report, attention was also drawn to the issues discussed at the regular informal meetings held with the Scrutiny Chairs. A Member of the Committee queried the content of these meetings and was advised by the Scrutiny Support Officer that the remit of these meetings was to assist the Scrutiny Chairs with any issues arising from on-going scrutiny inquiries. They also provided an opportunity for the sharing of information and it was hoped that any issues arising from them is fed back to the Forums

by the Chairs. Members concerns were, however, noted and indication given that they would be passed on to the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the Scrutiny Manager.

Decision

That the progress made to date by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee be noted.

169. Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – Progress Report *(Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Forum)*

The Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum presented a report that updated Members of the progress made to date by the Forum.

As Members were aware, the Final Report of the Raising Boys' Achievement – Bridging the Gap inquiry was presented earlier on the agenda. At the next meeting of this Forum the Executive's finalised Budget and Policy Framework Proposals would be considered along with the scoping of the inquiry into Sex and Health Education. Members were informed that the next meeting would have young people present as part of the co-option of young people onto the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

Decision

That the progress made to date by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum be noted.

170. Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum – Progress Report *(Chair of Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum)*

In the absence of the Chair of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum, the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee informed the Committee of the progress made to date by the Forum.

Since the last progress report, all items in the work programme had been progressing well. It was noted that as part of the Health Scrutiny Support Programme – Annual Health Check Training had been organised for Members which would be a valuable opportunity for Health Members to understand the Health Check process. The Forum was due to consider the Executive's finalised Budget and Policy Framework proposals on 16th January 2007. A Member queried whether a response had been received from the PCT in relation to the proposed management arrangements. The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that clarification on this would be sought and given to the Member direct.

Decision

That the progress made to date by the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum be noted.

171. Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum – Progress Report (*Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum*)

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum presented a report that updated Members on the progress made to date by the Forum. It was noted that the Forum had received a report outlining progress against each of its recommendations made as part of its Local Bus Service Provision in Hartlepool investigation and this had proved extremely valuable. The inquiry into private sector landlords was ongoing with a benchmarking site visit to Gateshead City Council being undertaken later this month. As part of this inquiry, a Focus Group was held on 13th December at which residents, tenants and landlords were invited to give their views which will be fed into the process.

The Forum was due to consider the Executive's finalised Budget and Policy Framework proposals on 10th January 2007. Members felt that disseminating the budget consultation across the scrutiny forums as appropriate was a very worthwhile process.

Decision

That the progress made to date by the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum be noted.

172. Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum – Progress Report (*Chair of Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum*)

In the absence of the Chair of Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum, the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee presented a report that updated Members on the progress made to date by the Forum. Since the Forum's last progress report to this Committee on 20th October 2006 a considerable amount of progress has been made into the investigation into 'Railway Approaches'. The draft final report was due to be presented to the Forum on 18th January 2007. Also at this meeting the scoping of inquiry in relation to Youth Unemployment would be undertaken as well as the consideration of the Executive's finalised Budget and Policy Framework proposals.

Decision

That the progress made to date by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum be noted.

173. Call-In Requests

None.

JANE SHAW

CHAIR

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

9 February 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (SCC) to consider whether any item within the attached Executive's Forward Plan should be considered by this Committee or referred to a particular Scrutiny Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As you are aware, the SCC has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny, as it thinks fit, and if appropriate can exercise or delegate to individual Scrutiny Forums.
- 2.2 One of the main duties of the SCC is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive and to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process in advance of the decision being made.
- 2.3 This would not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.4 As such, the most recent copy of the Executive's Forward Plan is attached as **Appendix 1** for the SCC's information.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee considers the content of the Executive's Forward Plan.

Contact Officer:- Charlotte Burnham – Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 087
Email: charlotte.burnham@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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



HARTLEPOOL

BOROUGH COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN

FEBRUARY 2007 – MAY 2007

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The law requires the executive of the local authority to publish in advance, a programme of its work in the coming four months including information about key decisions that it expects to make. It is updated monthly.
- 1.2 The executive means the Mayor and those Councillors the Mayor has appointed to the Cabinet.
- 1.3 Key decisions are those which significantly modify the agreed annual budget of the Council or its main framework of policies, those which initiate new spending proposals in excess of £100,000 and those which can be judged to have a significant impact on communities within the town. A full definition is contained in Article 13 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.4 Key decisions may be made by the Mayor, the Cabinet as a whole, individual Cabinet members or nominated officers. The approach to decision making is set out in the scheme of delegation which is agreed by the Mayor and set out in full in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

2. **FORMAT OF THE FORWARD PLAN**

- 2.1 The plan is arranged in sections according to the Department of the Council which has the responsibility for advising the executive on the relevant topic:

Part 1	Chief Executive's Department	CE
Part 2	Adult & Community Services Department	ACS
Part 3	Children's Services Department	CS
Part 4	Neighbourhood Services Department	NS
Part 5	Regeneration and Planning Department	RP

- 2.2 Each section includes information on the development of the main policy framework and the budget of the Council where any of this work is expected to be undertaken during the period in question.
- 2.3 It sets out in as much detail as is known at the time of its preparation, the programme of key decisions. This includes information about the nature of the decision, who will make the decisions, who will be consulted and by what means and the way in which any interested party can make representations to the decision-maker.

3. **DECISIONS MADE IN PRIVATE**

- 3.1 Most key decisions will be made in public at a specified date and time.
- 3.2 A small number of key decisions, for reasons of commercial or personal confidentiality, will be made in private and the public will be excluded from any sessions while such decisions are made. Notice will still be given about the intention

to make such decisions, but wherever possible the Forward Plan will show that the decision will be made in private session.

- 3.3 Some sessions will include decisions made in public and decisions made in private. In such cases the public decisions will be made at the beginning of the meeting to minimise inconvenience to members of the public and the press.

4. URGENT DECISIONS

- 4.1 Although every effort will be made to include all key decisions in the Forward Programme, it is inevitable for a range of reasons that some decisions will need to be taken at short notice so as to prevent their inclusion in the Forward Plan. In such cases a minimum of 5 days public notice will be given before the decision is taken.
- 4.2 In rare cases it may be necessary to take a key decision without being able to give 5 days notice. The Executive is only able to do this with the agreement of the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee or the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the local authority. (Scrutiny committees have the role of overseeing the work of the Executive.)

5. PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

- 5.1 All decisions which have been notified in the Forward Plan and any other key decisions made by the Executive, will be recorded and published as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision is taken.
- 5.2 The Council's constitution provides that key decisions will not be implemented until a period of 3 days has elapsed after the decision has been published. This allows for the exceptional cases when a scrutiny committee may 'call in' a decision of the Executive to consider whether it should be reviewed before it is implemented. 'Call in' may arise exceptionally when a Scrutiny Committee believes that the Executive has failed to make a decision in accordance with the principles set out in the Council's constitution (Article 13); or that the decision falls outside the Council's Policy Framework; or is not wholly in accordance within the Council's budget.

6. DETAILS OF DECISION MAKERS

- 6.1 Names and titles of those people who make key decisions either individually or collectively will be set out in Appendix 1 once they are determined.

7. TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

- 7.1 The timetable as expected at the time of preparation of the forward plan is set out in Appendix 2. Confirmation of the timing in respect of individual decisions can be obtained from the relevant contact officer closer to the time of the relevant meeting. Agenda papers are available for inspection at the Civic Centre 5 days before the relevant meeting.

PART ONE – CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

A report is to be submitted to Cabinet that begins the main budget consultation process with the Council's Scrutiny Committees, Political Groups, Hartlepool Trade Unions and Business representative and other groups. Cabinet will need to determine whom it wishes to consult with. Consultation will be undertaken by issuing the consultees with a copy of the Cabinet's report and through a series of presentation with the various groups.

A report will be produced to commence the budget process for 2007/08. This process will continue over the coming months and will be concluded in February 2007 when the Cabinet determines the final Budget and Policy framework proposals it wishes to submit to full Council for consideration. The report to be submitted in October will outline the financial position facing the Council and proposed measures to balance the budget for 2007/08. The report will include details of the proposed Council Tax increase for 2007/08, budget pressures, priorities, efficiencies and savings. In addition, the report will consider capital investment needs and how these might be funded.

CORPORATE (BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE) PLAN 2007/08

The production of the Corporate (Best Value Performance) Plan by 30 June each year is a national legal requirement.

The purpose of the Plan is to describe the Council's priorities for improvement for 2007/8, including how weaknesses will be addressed, opportunities exploited and better outcomes delivered for local people. It will include targets for future performance.

Preparation of the Corporate Plan for 2007/8 commenced in December 2006. The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will consider the proposed Council priorities identified in the Plan at its meetings on 19 January, 16 March, late April (to be arranged) and 18 May 2007 (to be confirmed). Cabinet will consider the Plan on 8 January, 19 February, 16 April and 14 May 2007 respectively. Final approval of the Plan will be by Council on 21 June 2006.

B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: CE23/06 – PAY AND GRADING STRUCTURE

Nature of the decision

To approve a pay and grading structure for employees employed under NJC for Local Government Employees and associated changes in terms and conditions to achieve single status and satisfy equal pay requirements

Who will make the decision?

The Council will make the decision, following considerations by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made after negotiations with trade union representatives are completed between November 2006 and February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

- Negotiations will be held with representatives of the recognised trade unions.
- A working group of Members from Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be briefed and consulted during the negotiation period.
- A report to the Performance Management Portfolio Holder will set out the negotiation programme

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Members will be provided with information and guidance on:

- Compliance with equality legislation. The Council's pay and grading structure and other terms and conditions must satisfy equal pay legislation. An assessment will be made at the time of recommendation together with a programme for future equal pay audits.
- Options for the best negotiated settlement, which will secure endorsement by local trade union representatives and their national officers.
- Options for implementing without trade union support, should a negotiated settlement not be achievable.
- Financial implications of a revised pay and grading structure, associated protection arrangements and any other changes to terms and conditions.

How to make representation

Representation should be made to Joanne Machers, Chief Personnel Officer, Level 3, Civic Centre, Hartlepool TS24 8AY. Telephone: (01429) 523003.

Email: Joanne.machers@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from Joanne Machers, as above.

PART TWO – ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Annual Library Plan 2007/8

The draft Annual Library Plan for 2007/8 will be presented for approval to consult at Cabinet on 14 May 2007. This is earlier than in previous years and will incorporate the opportunity for Library users and stakeholders to contribute as part of the draft.

The Consultation Draft will then be presented for review and amendment at the Neighbourhood Forums in June at the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum in July. The finalised plan will then return to Cabinet for endorsement.

The Annual Library Plan, as part of the Budget and Policy Framework of the Council, describes the proposed aims and objectives of the town's Library Service and the actions required for delivery.

B SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: SS40/06 FAIR ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES

Nature of the decision

To inform Cabinet of the outcome of consultations on the possible raising of the threshold for access to statutory care services.

To decide whether to raise the threshold from 'moderate' to 'substantial', in the context of the current budget round.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

Decision will be made at Cabinet meeting on 5 February 2007

Who will be consulted and how?

All partner agencies, service users and carers, voluntary bodies, service providers, and neighbourhood forums are being consulted on the options.

Proposed means of consultation

The means of consultation being used include established planning groups and relevant forums, presentations to meetings, individual letters, focus groups, and the H&C Scrutiny Forum.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The report will include information on the results of the consultation process, and an update on the impact of the potential change in terms of Council finances, public policy, personal risk, and diversity.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services), Adult & Community Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone (01429) 523912, email: alan.dobby@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information available from Cath Adams, Adult & Community Services, Level 3, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. Telephone (01429) 284020, email: cath.adams@hartlepool.gov.uk

PART THREE – CHILDREN’S SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

NONE

B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

NONE

PART FOUR - NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

NONE

B. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: NS100/06 MIDDLETON GRANGE SHOPPING CENTRE MULTI STOREY CAR PARK

Nature of the decision

To consider potential further phases of maintenance requirements of the Multi Storey Car Park and the possibility of future ownership and operation.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet with referral to Council in relation to funding and future arrangements.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

Full Council
Shopping Centre Owners

Information to be considered by the decision makers

At its meeting on 15 May 2006 Cabinet was advised of the Council's liability in respect of repairs at this property and the risk of substantial funding being required to remedy the situation. Urgent Phase 1 works amounting to £179,000 were agreed and subsequently approved by full Council. Cabinet now need to consider further works identified in the original report, together with a business case on the future of the multi-storey car park and its relationship with the shopping centre.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement & Property Services, Neighbourhood Services Department, Leadbitter Buildings, Stockton Street, Hartlepool. Tel 01429 523211. E Mail graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Graham Frankland, as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: NS101/06 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN II

Nature of the decision

To examine the complete SMP II document and consider whether to adopt the outcomes of the strategy document as they affect the Hartlepool coastline. Under Defra guidelines, SMP plans are updated and amended every five years.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in March 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation will be extensive:

- All Members
- Public Town wide
- All Statutory Consultees
- All interested Organisations and parties

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Background will be provided in respect of the SMP II and how it would affect Hartlepool. The SMP II will be a large document that looks at the overall strategic management of the coastal processes over the next hundred years and covers the area from the river Tyne in the north to the Humber estuary in the south. There will be a need to focus in on those parts of the document that only affects the Hartlepool coastline.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services, Neighbourhood Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool. Tel: 01429 523802. Email: alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Alan Coulson, Engineering Manager, Neighbourhood Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool. Tel: 01429 523242. Email: alan.coulson@hartlepool.gov.uk or Dave Thompson, Principal Engineer, Neighbourhood Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool. Tel: 01429 523245. Email: dave.thompson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: NS103/06 TEES VALLEY AND SOUTH DURHAM NHS LIFT.

Nature of the decision

To consider further the relevant land transactions on the Town Centre NHS LIFT site including methods of funding and the Council's involvement in this process.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet with possible referral to full Council if there are any budget and policy framework implications.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

NHS LIFT Company and Hartlepool PCT.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

At its meeting on 14 August 2006 Cabinet considered outstanding land transactions and potential funding options. This report will look at the progress of the land transactions, including the Hoardings site on the corner of Park Road and Waldon Street, the arrangements for the former Barlows and St Benedicts Hostel Site and consider how any potential funding options could work. The latest timetable for the development will also be presented.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement & Property Services, Neighbourhood Services Department, Leadbitter Buildings, Stockton Street, Hartlepool. Tel 01429 523211. E Mail graham.frankland@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Graham Frankland, as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: NS104/06 SELECTIVE LICENSING OF PRIVATELY RENTED HOUSES

Nature of the decision

To consider the merits of introducing selective licensing for landlords and managers of privately rented houses.

Who will make the decision?

The Cabinet will make the decision.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in March 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

- Residents in the North Central and West Central regeneration areas – individual questionnaires and drop-in sessions.
- Residents in appropriate areas of private housing outside those areas – individual questionnaires.
- Residents groups through presentations at their meetings plus completion of questionnaire on behalf of the group.
- Landlords – questionnaires.
- Agencies – NDC, Hartlepool Revival, Housing Hartlepool.
- HBC sections dealing with housing and anti-social behaviour.
- Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum is currently investigating the performance and operation of private sector rented accommodation and landlords. Recommendations are expected to be finalised by spring 2007.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

- The data concerning the criteria which must be met to designate selective licensing, i.e. to show that an area is in 'low demand' or likely to be in 'low demand', or that significant or persistent anti-social behaviour, requires action through licensing.
- The information collected from residents, landlords and officers on the extent of the problems and the suitability of selective licensing to tackle them.
- Formulate a guide as to which areas might be appropriate for licensing.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to John Smalley, Principal EHO (Housing), Neighbourhood Services Department, Level 3, Civic Centre, Hartlepool. Tel: 01429 523322. Email: john.smalley@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Joanne Burnley, Senior EHO (Housing), Neighbourhood Services Department, Level 3, Civic Centre, Hartlepool. Tel: 01429 523324. Email: joanne.burnley@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: NS106/06 REVIEW OF CONCESSIONARY FARE PAYMENTS TO BUS OPERATORS FOR 2007-2008

Nature of the decision

To agree a revised payment structure for the provision of free concessionary travel for the over 60's and disabled for the 2007-2008 period with the bus operators.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation will take place with the bus operators and will be coordinated on a Tees Valley level in the first instance with a local agreement determined from this dialogue.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Information from the bus operators on the number of passengers using free concessionary travel for the period from April 2006 will be used as a basis for negotiations.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone: 01429 523252. Email: mike.blair@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Mike Blair as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: NS107/06 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (APR) OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP).

Nature of the decision

To report the settlement figure for the 2006 APR return and agree the capital programme for 2007-2008 based on this settlement.

Who will make the decision?

The Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder will make the decision.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

Consultation was carried out as part of the development of the second Local Transport Plan, approved by Cabinet in March 2006, to inform the implementation programme.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The Portfolio Holder will be provided with the proposed capital expenditure figures for 2007-2008, based on the LTP settlement.

How to make representation

Representations should be made to Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone: 01429 523252. Email: mike.blair@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Mike Blair as above.

PART FIVE - REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES

DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

1. THE PLANS AND STRATEGIES WHICH TOGETHER COMPRISE THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North East is currently under preparation. A Public Examination was held between 7th March and 7th April, 2006. The Panel appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct the Examination in Public (EiP) has submitted its report, which is now published for information only. The report, which can be downloaded from the Government Office website (www.go-ne.gov.uk), has been printed and circulated to local authority officers and libraries by the Northeast Assembly, and was reported to Cabinet and the Hartlepool Partnership in October. Any proposed modifications which the Secretary of State wishes to make will subsequently be published, and there will then be a 8 week period of consultation on these changes from January 2007. It is anticipated that the RSS will be formally adopted in the spring of 2007.

The Hartlepool Local Plan review has now been completed, the new plan being adopted by Council on the 13th April 2006

With the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, a new development plan system has come into force. There are still two tiers of development plan, but in due course the Regional Spatial Strategy will replace the structure plan and development plan documents contained within a local development framework will replace the local plan. However, the new local plan will be saved for a period of at least three years after adoption.

The Local Development Framework will comprise a 'portfolio' of local development documents which will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for the borough. Local development documents will comprise:

- a) Development plan documents – (part of the development plan) which must include
 - o A core strategy setting out the long term spatial vision for the area and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver the vision
 - o Site specific allocations and policies
 - o Generic development control policies relating to the vision and strategy set out in the core strategy, and
 - o Proposals Map
- b) Supplementary planning documents

In addition, the Local Development Framework will include Minerals and Waste Development Plan documents. Cabinet on the 12th April 2006 endorsed the principle of the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Committee taking responsibility for the initial preparation of Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents on behalf of the Borough Council and the other four Tees Valley authorities. It is likely that the JSC will consider the initial Issues and Options Report in March, 2007, with public consultation on these in May.

Work has started on a supplementary planning document (SPD) on planning obligations and the Mayor (Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder) and the Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio Holder agreed on 26th July 2006 to the appointment of consultants to undertake Open Space and Sports Facilities Audits as part of the preparation of the evidence base for this SPD.

Initial preparatory work has also started on The Core Strategy DPD. Regular reports will be made to Cabinet on progress on this document.

The other documents within the local development framework which must be prepared but which do not form part of the development plan are:

- a) Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how and when the Council will consult on planning policies and planning applications;
- b) Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out a rolling programme for the preparation of local development documents, and
- c) Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) assessing the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which current planning policies are being implemented.

- a) The Statement of Community Involvement was adopted by the Council on the 26th October, 2006.
- b) The first Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved by Cabinet on 21st February 2005 and came into effect on 15th April 2005. The Scheme was updated and the revised LDS came into effect on 28th July 2006.

The Local Development Scheme will continue to be updated as necessary to take into account completion of documents, the need to revise timetables and the need to include new documents. The next update reflecting the adoption of the SCI, the revision to the timetable for the Planning Obligations SPD on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans will be reported to Cabinet in January 2007.

- c) The second Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), covering the period 2005/2006 was agreed by Cabinet and submitted to Government Office for the North East in December 2006.

2. THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Background

Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 places on principal Local Authorities a duty to prepare “Community Strategies” for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK.

Government guidance issued in December 2000 stated that Community Strategies should meet four objectives. They must:

- Allow local communities (based upon geography and/or interest to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities;
- Co-ordinate the actions of the Council, and of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally;
- Focus and shape existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs and aspirations; and
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely, with local goals and priorities relating, where appropriate, to regional, national and even global aims.

It also stated that a Community Strategy must have four key components:

- A long-term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes that are to be achieved;
- An action plan identifying shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes;
- A shared commitment to implement the action plan and proposals for doing so;
- Arrangements for monitoring the implementation plan, for periodically reviewing the Community Strategy and for reporting progress to local communities.

The Hartlepool Partnership, the town’s Local Strategic Partnership, and the Council agreed a draft Community Strategy in April 2001 and adopted a final version in April 2002.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Review 2006

The current Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is part of the Community Strategy though published as a separate 70 page document. The Strategy sets out the boundaries of Hartlepool’s disadvantaged neighbourhoods – and establishes a Neighbourhood Renewal Area. Neighbourhood Renewal is about narrowing the gap between conditions in the disadvantaged communities and the rest of the town. It is therefore important that the Neighbourhood Renewal Area is kept as tightly defined as possible and is based upon the statistical level of disadvantage.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy sets out the intention to prepare Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) in the Borough's disadvantaged Neighbourhoods and provides a policy framework for this development. These NAPs are now in place and provide a more detailed policy framework for improvements in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods than was available in 2002.

Review 2006

Hartlepool's Community Strategy set out a timetable for review in five years. In line with this agreement, the Community Strategy Review 2006 was launched on 5th May 2006.

The timetable and structure for the Community Strategy Review 2006 was agreed by the Regeneration & Liveability Portfolio Holder and the Hartlepool Partnership in April 2006:

	Timetable	Task
Phase 1	5 th May 06 – 31 st July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current Strategy and prepare a new Strategy • Members' Seminar
Phase 2	Sept – 17 November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet 11th September • Hartlepool Partnership 5th September • Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 15th September
Phase 3	Jan-March 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members' Seminar 12th Sept • Hartlepool Partnership 19th January • Cabinet 22nd January • Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 9th February • Cabinet 19th March • Hartlepool Partnership 23rd March • Council 19th April

Phase 2

The 1st consultation draft of the revised Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, was published in September 2006. Consultation on the draft ran until 17th November. The revised strategy builds on the 2002 strategy and sets out a revised policy framework for Hartlepool. Key revisions include:

- The strategy now incorporates the previously separately published Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (2002) and the Sustainable Development Strategy (2001);
- The vision has been revised along with many of the Priority Aims and Objectives;
- Housing and Environment are established as Priority Aims in their own right and as a result the number of priority aims has increased from 7 to 8;

- Changes to the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy boundary, including the addition of the disadvantaged part of Throston ward.

Phase 3

Consultation on the first draft has now closed with a wide range of responses being received including feedback from residents, Theme Partnerships, public bodies and statutory consultees. Initial analysis shows strong support for the revised vision, aims and objectives. More detailed analysis is currently being carried out.

The first draft set out the intention to carry out a number of appraisals on the draft strategy to highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and to remove or minimise any negative impacts. The appraisals outlined were:

- Sustainability Appraisal
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EC)
- Health Impact Assessment
- Section 17
- Rural Proofing
- Diversity Impact Assessment.

The European Directive 2001/42/EC requires assessments for plans which “set a framework for future development consent of projects”, “determine the use of small areas at a local level” or which “are minor modifications to plans only where they are determined to be likely to have a significant environmental effects”. At the time of writing the first draft Community Strategy, it was not clear if a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would be required and an undertaking was made to seek further advice as to potential compliance with the Directive.

This initial advice has now been sought, and it is clear that where a plan or policy sets a framework for future development consent of projects the Directive applies. The draft Community Strategy does indeed identify development areas including Hartlepool Quays and the Southern Business Zone and as a result, it is likely that the Directive will apply to the Strategy’s preparation.

Carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not a simple or quick process and as a result, it will not be possible to keep to the original timetable of adoption of the revised Community Strategy by April 2007. A more realistic timetable would now appear to be:

- Preparation of SEA Environmental Report May 2007
- Consultation on report May – July
- Testing of draft Community Strategy against SEA objectives August 2007
- Publication of revised draft Community Strategy September 2007
- Adoption of new Community Strategy December 2007

3. LOCAL AGENDA 21 STRATEGY

Hartlepool Borough Council agreed its Local Sustainable Development Strategy (Local Agenda 21 Strategy) in January 2001. The Strategy aimed to:

“achieve improvements in the quality of our lives without causing irreversible damage to the environment or preventing our children from being able to enjoy the benefits we have today”.

In 2005 the Government published Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy, updating the 1999 Strategy. The new Strategy outlines a pivotal role for local authorities and their partners, through Local Strategic Partnerships, in delivering sustainable communities. The Strategy states that:

Making the vision of sustainable communities a reality at the local level means sending the right signals to local Government about the importance of sustainable development, supporting strong local leadership and developing the right skills and knowledge. Government will work with its partners to develop toolkits and other materials to support Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in developing and delivering Sustainable Community Strategies which help deliver sustainable development in the UK.

In response to this guidance, the revised Community Strategy incorporates a revised local Sustainable Development Strategy. As a result it is proposed to remove the Local Agenda 21 Strategy from the Council's Budget and Policy Framework at the point when the revised Community Strategy is adopted by Council.

4. THE ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

We expect that the Annual Youth Justice Plan will be required to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by 30th April 2007, however at the end of 2006 no guidance had been received to confirm this requirement. The Youth Offending Service has begun the preparation for a draft plan, on the basis of a final approved version being required by 30th April 2007. Therefore, a draft plan will be reported to Cabinet in late January 2007. Consultation with statutory and other partner organisations, as well as referral to Scrutiny will be carried out during February and March 2007. Cabinet will consider the finalised Plan, which will have incorporated consultation comments. Final approval of the Plan will be sought from Council during April 2007.

B SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: RP89/05 DEVELOPMENT AT HARTLEPOOL COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Nature of the decision

Cabinet are requested to consider further details of the HCFE expansion and development plans, including the potential proposed land take at the Council owned, Albert Street Car Park, design issues, funding sources and project timetable. The report will also provide details of the most recent HCFE Property Strategy, due to be completed June 2006, which will shape the College's future development options.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in February 2007, or following the completion of the HCFE Property Strategy.

Who will be consulted and how?

Officers have been working closely with Hartlepool College of Further Education (HCFE) and other partner organisations including University of Teesside and the Learning and Skills Council.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The report will expand on information presented in two previous reports to Cabinet on the 04/04/05 and 22/07/05, and also extracts from the Town Centre Strategy, in order to progress the development of the College scheme.

How to make representation

Representations can be made in writing to Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services, Regeneration and Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone 01429 523401, email peter.scott@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Peter Scott as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RP104/06 HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2006-8

Nature of the decision

To confirm the scope of the housing market renewal programme 2006-8.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

Housing Market Renewal interventions currently being progressed in central Hartlepool have been developed through successive rounds of community consultations, and this engagement process remains ongoing.

Members will be aware of several previous reports relating to the various aspects of the programme as it has developed so far, including reports relating to the development of these schemes to date, planning applications relating to new housing proposals and the use of compulsory powers to progress redevelopment,

In summary, proposed housing clearance and redevelopment activity is currently being progressed in 3 blocks within west and north central Hartlepool where housing market failure was identified to have been most acute, ie in the Mildred/Slater Street area, the Mayfair/Gordon Street area (with NDC, Hartlepool Revival, and Yuill Homes), and in the Moore Street/Marston Gardens area (with Housing Hartlepool and George Wimpey). Ultimately this activity will see the clearance of around 600 primarily older terraced dwellings, and their replacement with a mix of around 330 modern family homes for sale, rent and shared ownership built to high standards of construction and environmental sustainability.

Additional consultation has recently been undertaken in other parts of central Hartlepool (the primary focus for housing market renewal interventions), including Belle Vue and other parts of North Central Hartlepool (predominantly Dyke House ward).

Information to be considered by the decision makers

Cabinet will consider future phases of housing market renewal work in view of funding resource availability, the outcome of recent community consultations activity, programme development issues, and financial and risk management considerations.

How to make representation

Representations can be made in writing to Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services, Regeneration and Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone 01429 523401, email peter.scott@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Mark Dutton, Housing & Regeneration Coordinator, Regeneration and Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Tel 01429 284308, email mark.dutton@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RP107/06 STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN HARTLEPOOL 2006 - 2008

Nature of the decision

To agree a strategy for the implementation of Anti-social Behaviour in Hartlepool to cover the period 2006- 2008.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

There was a half-day clinic of the Safer Hartlepool Executive on 3rd August 2006. Presentations were given to the North, Central and South Police and Community Safety meetings in September 2006. A draft of the document is currently available. A consultation event is taking place on 19th December with a view to a final document being in place by the end of January 2007.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

The strategy will set out how Anti-social Behaviour is to be tackled over the period until the current Community Safety Strategy is reviewed in 2008. The strategy will incorporate the policy that is under development on dealing with racially motivated incidents in Hartlepool.

How to make representation

Representations should be made in writing to Sally Forth, Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Regeneration and Planning Services Department, 65 Jutland Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1LP. Telephone 01429 296582, e-mail: sally.forth@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Sally Forth as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RP109/06 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Nature of the decision

To consider and endorse some revised governance arrangements for the Hartlepool Partnership, which is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Hartlepool. These recommended arrangements have been developed on the basis of the proposals in the Hartlepool Local Area Agreement (LAA) and will provide a framework for the future development of theme partnerships such as the Children's Partnership.

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet will be requested to endorse the recommended arrangements. The arrangements will have been considered for endorsement by the LSP Board in December 2006.

Timing of the decision

The decision will be made in February 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

The recommended arrangements have been developed on the basis of the proposals in the Hartlepool Local Area Agreement. The proposals have been developed and discussed with key members of the Theme Partnerships and the Local Strategic Partnership. The arrangements will be considered for approval by the LSP Board in December 2006.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

A report will be provided setting out the recommendations for the development of the LSP structure and particularly the recommended structure of thematic partnerships. The recent advice from the Audit Commission and Government on partnership working and the outcome of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum Partnerships Enquiry will be taken into account in preparing the report. In addition the consequences of the Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' (October 2006) is also taken into account and an analysis of the proposals in so far as they relate to LSPs is included with the report.

How to make representations

Representations can be made in writing to Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services, Regeneration and Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone 01429 523401, email peter.scott@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Peter Scott as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: RP113/06 RIFT HOUSE/BURN VALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (NAP) UPDATE

Nature of the decision

To endorse the Rift House/Burn Valley Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update.

Each of the Neighbourhood Action Plans across the town (Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, Burbank, Rift House/Burn Valley, Owton, Rossmere and North Hartlepool) are being updated, in the order in which they were developed. This is with the exception of the New Deal for Communities (NDC) NAP which is currently being developed by the NDC Staff Team.

The Rift House/Burn Valley Neighbourhood Action Plan is the third NAP to be updated following the completion of the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange NAP Update in November 2006, and the completion of the Burbank NAP Update in January 2007.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in April 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

The first draft of the Neighbourhood Action Plan Update will be developed following the initial community consultation event which is to be held in February 2007. The community consultation event will be crucial in identifying the community's priority concerns and the actions required to address the concerns. Household survey data (MORI 2004) and other baseline data and statistics will also be examined in order to provide an understanding of the conditions in the Rift House/Burn Valley area. These statistics will also be included within the plan.

To complement this, comprehensive consultation will also be undertaken to ensure comments are received from key stakeholders and residents on the first draft of the NAP. Further consultation will include:-

- Delivering a newsletter to every household in the area;
- Visiting Residents Associations in the Rift House/Burn Valley area;
- Visiting the Rift House/Burn Valley Forum;
- Visiting Youth Groups operating throughout the area;

- Holding community drop-in sessions at various community buildings; in both the Rift House Ward and the Burn Valley Ward;
- Visiting and working with pupils from local schools;
- Liaising with Hartlepool Community Network and Housing Hartlepool;
- Meeting with key service providers including; Hartlepool Borough Council Officers, Housing Hartlepool, Cleveland Police, Voluntary / Community Groups, Ward Councillors and representatives from the Theme Partnerships; and
- Taking the first draft of the plan to the Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder, Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum and the Hartlepool Partnership for comment.

The final draft will then be circulated for comment to ensure that all amendments have been incorporated and reflected accurately.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

A copy of the Rift House/Burn Valley Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update along with a summary document highlighting the priority concerns, and the actions to address these will be available for consideration by the Regeneration, Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder. The Rift House/Burn Valley NAP Update will also be considered for endorsement by the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum and the Hartlepool Partnership.

The document will be structured in a way that is intended to give a clear picture of the strong themes running through the Neighbourhood Action Plan back to the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

The introductory section will cover the background to Neighbourhood Action Plans, a brief description of the Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhood, how the Rift House/Burn Valley NAP Update has been developed, a summary of the community's main concerns and how the NAP will be monitored.

The plan will comprise the seven theme areas:- Jobs and Economy; Lifelong Learning and Skills; Health and Care; Community Safety; Environment and Housing; Culture and Leisure and Strengthening Communities. Each theme will include key statistics, the strengths and weaknesses, of the neighbourhood and the gaps in service delivery which need to be addressed. Alongside this will be a table which identifies the community's priority concerns, the actions that are required to address the concerns, a timescale to address each action, the organisations who need to be involved in delivering the actions, possible funding and resources, and, how the actions will contribute to addressing strategic targets (such as the Local Area Agreement Indicators).

The plan will also include a section which outlines the key resources and programmes delivered in the area/accessible to residents of the Rift House/Burn Valley area. The last section of the plan will be a Jargon Buster.

Neighbourhood Action Plans are important in encouraging local people and organisations to work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived wards and the rest of the country, and they should be influential in the future allocation of resources. The objective of

the (NAP) is to integrate policies at the local level to improve the way that services are provided.

How to make representation

Representations can be made in writing to Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services, Regeneration and Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Tel. 01429 523401, e-mail. peter.scott@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer, Regeneration and Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Tel. 01429 523598, e-mail. gemma.clough@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: RP 115/06 HARTLEPOOL COMPACT REVIEW

Nature of the decision

To agree a revised Compact between the Council and the Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector

The Compact will build on the Compact previously agreed by Cabinet in January 2003 and the findings of the Best Value Review of Strengthening Communities, the Strategic Improvement Plan for which was agreed by Cabinet in September 2006.

Who will make the decision?

The Compact is to be approved by Cabinet and will need to be prepared and agreed in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Timing of the decision

Early drafts of the revised Compact could be available by May 2007. However the formal Cabinet decision making process thereafter will formally be dictated by the Project Plan timetable (see below).

Who will be consulted and how?

A Project Plan for reviewing, revising and re-launching the Hartlepool Compact will be drawn up with the Voluntary and Community Sector including the proposed consultation mechanisms. Preliminary discussions on the proposed Compact Review have already commenced with the Hartlepool and Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA) and will be extended to the Community Network including involvement of Council Members and Officers.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

A draft version of the proposed new Compact will be prepared for consideration by Cabinet. The revised Compact will represent a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the voluntary & community sector in Hartlepool concerning working relations and priority commitments

How to make representation

Representations can be made in writing to Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration & Planning Services, Regeneration & Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone: 01429 523401, Email: peter.scott@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Geoff Thompson, Head of Regeneration, Regeneration & Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone: 01429 523597, Email: geoff.thompson@hartlepool.gov.uk

DECISION REFERENCE: RP116/06 TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED

Nature of the decision

To endorse the proposed decision-making structures for Tees Valley Unlimited.

In May 2006 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asked the Tees Valley Local Authorities to prepare a City Region Business Case based on the City Region Development Programme (CRDP) produced in 2005. The document was closely aligned to the requirements of the Northern Way Growth Strategy with the intention of improving economic competitiveness within the Tees Valley.

The Business Case, and then a more detailed supporting Tees Valley Investment Plan providing further details of the proposed programmes and projects and associated funding requirements, was agreed by Cabinet at its meetings on 11th September and 9th October 2006 respectively.

To help deliver the intended improved economic performance within the Tees Valley there are proposals for the creation of a Tees Valley Metropolitan Economic Partnership, with the current working title Tees Valley Unlimited. These new arrangements in the Tees Valley could also have a critical role in negotiating any future Metropolitan Area Agreement to set the resources available and the outcomes and outputs expected to be achieved.

Tees Valley Unlimited would then provide leadership and co-ordination to drive forward the CRDP and arrangements for the management and delivery of the projects within the Metropolitan Area Agreement. This would be done through a Leadership Board comprising Mayors and Leaders of the Tees Valley Authorities plus representatives from the private/third sector. Other supporting component groups of Tees Valley Unlimited may include an Executive/Programme Group, plus Member/Officer Groups for the functional areas of Planning & Economic Strategy, Transport, Employment & Skills, Housing and Tourism. There may also be a Private Sector Business Group and City Region Policy Forum to provide private sector input and shared policy direction with County Durham and North Yorkshire authorities respectively.

Who will make the decision?

The creation of Tees Valley Unlimited will need to be supported by Central Government and approved potentially by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Committee. Cabinet will be requested to endorse the proposed decision-making structures for Tees Valley Unlimited – along with other Tees Valley Authorities – as part of the overall adoption process.

Timing of the decision

The decision is expected to be made in April 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

The proposals for Tees Valley Unlimited are being prepared within the overall context of production and development of the Tees Valley Business Case and developed in consultation with the Tees Valley local authorities, the Joint Strategy Unit, ONE NorthEast, GO-NE and other relevant agencies.

Information to be considered by the decision makers

A draft version of the proposed new Tees Valley Unlimited Structures, including Terms of Reference, Composition and Accountability will be prepared for consideration by Cabinet.

How to make representation

Representations can be made in writing to Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration & Planning Services, Regeneration & Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone: 01429 523401, Email: peter.scott@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information can be obtained from Geoff Thompson, Head of Regeneration, Regeneration & Planning Services Department, Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT. Telephone: 01429 523597, Email: geoff.thompson@hartlepool.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

DETAILS OF DECISION MAKERS

THE CABINET

Many decisions will be taken collectively by the Cabinet.

- The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
- Councillor Cath Hill
- Councillor Ray Waller
- Councillor Pamela Hargreaves
- Councillor Victor Tumilty
- Councillor Robbie Payne
- Councillor Peter Jackson

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Members of the Cabinet have individual decision making powers according to their identified responsibilities.

Regeneration, Liveability and Housing	-	The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Without Portfolio	-	Councillor Cath Hill, Deputy Mayor
Adult and Public Health Portfolio	-	Councillor Ray Waller
Children's Services Portfolio	-	Councillor Pamela Hargreaves
Culture, Leisure and Transportation Portfolio	-	Councillor Victor Tumilty
Finance Portfolio	-	Councillor Robbie Payne
Performance Management Portfolio	-	Councillor Peter Jackson

APPENDIX 2

TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

Decisions are shown on the timetable at the earliest date at which they may be expected to be made.

1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN FEBRUARY 2007

1.1 5 FEBRUARY 2007

SS40/06 (Pg 8)	FAIR ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES	CABINET
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1.2 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED

CE23/06 (Pg 6)	PAY AND GRADING STRUCTURE	CABINET
SS40/06 (Pg 8)	FAIR ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES	CABINET
NS100/06 (Pg 11)	MIDDLETON GRANGE SHOPPING CENTRE MULTI STOREY CAR PARK	CABINET
NS103/06 (Pg 13)	TEES VALLEY AND SOUTH DURHAM NHS LIFT	CABINET
NS106/06 (Pg 15)	REVIEW OF CONCESSIONARY FARE PAYMENT TO BUS OPERATORS FOR 2007-2008	CABINET
NS107/06 (Pg 16)	ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP)	PORTFOLIO HOLDER
RP89/05 (Pg 23)	DEVELOPMENT AT HCFE	CABINET
RP104/06 (Pg 24)	HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2006-08	CABINET
RP107/09 (Pg 26)	STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN HARTLEPOOL 2006-2008	CABINET
RP109/06 (Pg 27)	LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE REVIEW	CABINET

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MARCH 2007

2.1 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED

NS101/06 (Pg 12)	SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN II	CABINET
NS104/06 (Pg 14)	SELECTIVE LICENSING OF PRIVATELY RENTED HOUSES	CABINET

3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN APRIL 2007

3.1 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED

RP113/06 (Pg 28)	RIFT HOUSE/BURN VALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (NAP) UPDATE	PORTFOLIO HOLDER
RP116/06 (Pg 32)	TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED	CABINET

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN MAY 2007

4.1 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED

RP115/06 (Pg 31)	HARTLEPOOL COMPACT REVIEW	CABINET
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SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

9 February 2007



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: STAGE TWO CONSULTATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of the nature and purpose of the second stage of consultation on Hartlepool's involvement in the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.
- 1.2 To enable the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to participate in the Stage Two consultation process.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The outcomes of BSF Stage One Consultation were reported to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 24 November 2006. Cabinet has now approved a second stage of consultation which will run from Monday 29 January 2007 until Friday 2 March 2007. The consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The second stage of consultation presents options for the compulsory stage of secondary education for young people between the ages of 11 and 16 and for provision of education for children and young people with special educational needs.
- 2.3 A number of meetings and events have been organised and began to take place from 29th January. These include:
 - Briefing meetings for ward councillors
 - Presentations at Neighbourhood Consultative Forum meetings
 - Meetings for staff and governors of primary and secondary schools
 - Meetings for parents, public and young people
 - Involvement of young people through Youth Service
 - Engagement with primary age children through their primary schools
 - Roadshow events at supermarkets, Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Central Library

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-

- (a) note the nature and purpose of the second stage of consultation in preparation for the Building Schools for the Future; and
- (b) participate in the consultation process.

Contact Officer:- Paul Briggs – Assistant Director of Children Services
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Children's Services Department

Every Child Matters



Building Schools for the Future

CAN YOU BUILD US A BRILLIANT FUTURE?



Your views are important

Join in the consultation and shape
the future for Hartlepool's children

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INTRODUCTION

This second stage of consultation on Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is important to **everyone** in Hartlepool, as it will help decide the future of education in the town for very many years to come. BSF is really about changing the way we think about teaching and learning and making sure we meet the needs of every single child and young person.

BSF is a Government initiative which will provide a huge amount of money (probably between £80 million and £90 million) for rebuilding, remodelling and refurbishing Hartlepool's secondary schools. This will help us to create new and exciting facilities to support new ways of teaching and learning. It is really important to anyone who will have anything to do with secondary schools over the next 25 years or more, such as:

- ✍ Families and carers with young people in secondary schools now
- ✍ Families and carers with children in primary schools now
- ✍ Families and future families who may have children of school age in the future
- ✍ People who may have grandchildren or other relatives in schools at any time in the future
- ✍ People living in local communities where new or refurbished schools may be able to provide them with better services and facilities.

The Government has now invited Hartlepool Borough Council to join the national BSF programme from Autumn 2007 and to begin to prepare what the Government calls a "Strategy for Change", stating how learning opportunities will be transformed in Hartlepool, through BSF investment.

Hartlepool Council's Mayor and his Cabinet have set up a **BSF Project Board** to help make sure that the right decisions are made on how this massive investment will be used to best shape future education in the town. The Project Board is made up of councillors, Council staff, headteachers, and other major partners. The Project Board has prepared this consultation booklet to ask you what you think about the various options

This document presents options for the compulsory stage of secondary education for young people between the ages of 11 and 16 and for provision of education for children and young people with special educational needs.

It is important to stress that no decisions have been made about any of these options. The Council wants to hear as many views as possible before it makes any formal proposals for change. The Council will also consider any suggestions for alternative options, if these are presented during the Stage Two Consultation.

So please read on and find out what options are being looked at for the future. Then please make sure you have your say. You can do this in a number of ways:

1. **Complete the response form at the back of this booklet**
2. **Send an email to bsf@hartlepool.gov.uk**
3. **Write to:**
Liz Eddy
Building Schools for the Future
Children's Services Department
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

The closing date for comments is Friday 2nd March 2007.

THE STAGE TWO CONSULTATION PROCESS

BSF Stage Two consultation begins on 29th January 2007 and will run until 2nd March 2007.

Who is being consulted and how?

The major activities planned for Stage Two consultation are as follows:

- ✍ Two meetings at each secondary school
 - One in the afternoon for staff and governors
 - One in the early evening for parents and carers, pupils (if accompanied by a parent or carer) and members of the public
- ✍ Two meetings at each of six primary schools. Each pair of meetings will be targeted at a group of primary schools
 - One in the afternoon for staff and governors
 - One in the early evening for parents and members of the public, although primary age pupils would be welcome if parents and carers feel it appropriate
- ✍ Meetings for primary age pupils at each primary school. These will probably take the form of school assemblies and be led by the headteacher or another senior member of staff from the school
- ✍ It will also be possible to engage with secondary age pupils through School Councils.
- ✍ Meetings for members of the public other than at school locations
- ✍ Roadshow events. These will probably take the form of a stand in a public place (e.g. shopping centre, library, supermarket) with officers present to receive comments and answer questions
- ✍ Meetings with key stakeholders

When will a final decision be made?

The Council hopes that the final decision on the organisation of 11-16 secondary education will be made by Autumn 2007, in time for the formal BSF launch. Decisions on aspects of provision for pupils with special educational needs will be made over the next eighteen months to two years. A provisional timetable for implementing BSF is shown on the next page.

An Update on Primary School Issues

Money to rebuild and refurbish primary schools in Hartlepool will be available from April 2009 onwards, under the Government's national Primary Capital Programme. It is expected that Government will provide funding for work at up to half of all primary schools. The Council will consult on which schools should benefit from this programme at a later date, probably in 2008.

THE BSF TIMETABLE

Activity	Target Date for Completion	Comment
BSF Stage Two consultation	2 nd March 2007	Meetings at each secondary school Meetings for primary schools in groups Other public meetings Activities for children and young people Roadshow events
Decision whether to move forward to statutory proposals	2 nd April 2007	Cabinet will decide whether to proceed to the formal legal stage of proposing change, or to consult again on revised or new options
Statutory proposals published (if agreed)	Mid April 2007	Proposals are published in newspapers and advertised widely. There follows a six week period to allow for comment
Decision on statutory proposals (if agreed)	Mid June 2007 or end August 2007	Decision date will depend on whether there are any formal objections to proposals. If so, decision is delayed as it is made by an independent adjudicator
Hartlepool is formally engaged in the BSF project	September 2007	Process begins with a formal meeting with Government officials
Completion of "Strategy for Change"	March 2008	All aspects of the vision for secondary education in Hartlepool have to be decided by this time
Development of "Outline Business Case"	Autumn / Winter 2008	This will involve detailed costings. Architects and other consultants will be involved at this stage
First projects begin	Autumn / Winter 2009 or 2010	This will depend on how building work is to be procured
All projects complete	Autumn 2012	Building work could be completed earlier, depending upon how building work is to be procured

More detail on this timetable will be available as the project progresses.

11-16 Education

BSF provides the opportunity to create new learning environments to meet the educational needs of young people in the new millennium. During the Stage One Consultation in Autumn 2006, the Council presented information on falling pupil numbers. Hartlepool's "Strategy for Change must deal with the falling pupil numbers, otherwise Hartlepool will not receive its share of the BSF funding, estimated at between £80m and £90m.

What are the latest pupil number predictions and why have these changed since Stage One?

The latest figures for each school are presented in Appendix 4. The main changes to pupil numbers occur in September each year, when the oldest pupils have left the schools and new pupils arrive from primary schools. In the Stage One consultation we presented January 2006 pupil numbers. We are now able to update that information, taking into account the September 2006 pupil intake.

We have also made a change in the figures for one particular school, English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College. In the Stage One consultation we presented figures for the entire school, i.e. including the sixth form. As Stage Two is concentrating on 11-16 education only, the sixth form numbers have been left out of the figures at this stage. The English Martyrs sixth form figures, along with figures for the colleges, will be looked at again in Autumn 2007, as we formally engage in the BSF programme and prepare the "Strategy for Change". The sixth form will continue at English Martyrs.

What other changes have been made to the figures?

When the Stage One consultation document was being prepared, some

GCSE results were still provisional. Appendix 4 presents the latest results, confirmed and published by DfES (the Government's Department for Education and Skills).

Because we now have final GCSE results for the end of Key Stage 4, we are also now able to update the figures which show the progress pupils make between the end of primary school and the age of 16, the Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 Contextual Value Added (CVA) scores. The background to CVA and the scores are shown in Appendix 4.

What changes to secondary schools are being suggested?

The BSF Project Board has agreed that, for 11-16 compulsory secondary education, three options should be considered:

- ✍ Option 1 – Keep six secondary schools at the size they are now
- ✍ Option 2 – Keep six secondary schools but make some of them smaller
- ✍ Option 3 – Reduce the number of secondary schools to five by closing Brierton

Whichever option is chosen, the schools would be extended schools with the potential of offering a wide range of community activities.

These options are described overleaf along with some of the advantages and disadvantages of each. The Council would welcome your views on these options, along with suggestions of other advantages and disadvantages of each option and suggestions for alternative options.

Option 1 – Keep six secondary schools at the size they are now

Advantages:

- ✍ All six schools will remain open, at their current locations.
- ✍ There will be no disruption to the education of children and young people.
- ✍ Staff in some schools may feel that their jobs are more secure.

Disadvantages:

- ✍ Within ten years there will be many surplus places in a number of schools, leading to concerns for parents, staff and pupils about possible school closures. It is also possible that one or more schools might become too small to provide a high quality education for pupils.
- ✍ The Government will not release sufficient, if any, BSF funding as the Council will be judged not to have tackled the issue of surplus places. This could mean a loss of £80m to £90m of funding for new school buildings and improvements.
- ✍ Staff in several schools will be concerned for their jobs as pupil numbers fall.

Option 2 – Keep 6 secondary schools but make some of them smaller

Advantages:

- ✍ All six schools will remain open, at their current locations
- ✍ The surplus places issue will be addressed
- ✍ There will be minimum disruption to pupils and staff

Disadvantages:

- ✍ In a six school model there is a danger that at least one school would not be viable
- ✍ Government may not release BSF funding and, even if it did, it would be difficult to make the funding stretch to meet all the needs of all six schools.

- ✍ Staff in several schools will be concerned for their jobs as pupil numbers fall and some schools become smaller.

Option 3 – Reduce the number of secondary schools to five by closing Brierton School

Advantages:

- ✍ The surplus places issue will be addressed and the Government will release BSF funding.
- ✍ It will be possible to review the admission arrangements of the five remaining schools, moving to a partner primary school arrangement where each primary school is linked to a particular secondary school and most of the pupils at the primary school go there when they reach age 11.
- ✍ There will be minimum disruption to pupils and staff in the five remaining schools.

Disadvantages:

- ✍ Brierton School would close; some parents, pupils and staff may have concerns; some staff will be concerned for their jobs.
- ✍ There is a risk that pupils and staff in Brierton School would face a period of disruption, unless the situation is carefully managed.
- ✍ Some pupils might have further to travel to secondary school.

Why has Brierton School been selected as the school that could close?

There are three reasons why Brierton has been selected as the school that would close if Option 3 is selected:

1. Pupil numbers are predicted to fall most at Brierton School.
2. Brierton School has the biggest overall problems in terms of the condition and suitability of existing buildings.
3. Pupil performance is not improving as rapidly at Brierton School as it is at other Hartlepool schools.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF OPTION 3: PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In most cases, current geographically-based admission zones for secondary schools are the same as the admission zones for a group of primary schools, although some primaries are “shared” by two secondary schools. The current arrangement for admission zones is as follows:

Brierton	Dyke House	High Tunstall
Kingsley	Brougham	Eldon Grove
Owton Manor	Golden Flatts (part)	Elwick
Rift House	Holy Trinity	Hart
Rossmere	Jesmond Road (part)	Jesmond Road (part)
St Aidan's	Lynnfield	Throston (part)
Stranton	Ward Jackson	West Park
Manor	St Hild's	
Fens	Barnard Grove	
Golden Flatts (part)	Clavering	
Grange	St Helen's	
Greatham	Throston (part)	
	West View	

In Options 1 and 2, geographically-based admission zones would be retained. If Option 3 were to be implemented, it is suggested that future admission arrangements should be based on the concept of partner primary schools as follows:

Dyke House	High Tunstall
Brougham	Eldon Grove
Holy Trinity	Elwick
Jesmond Road	Hart
St Aidan's	Lynnfield
Stranton	Rift House
Ward Jackson	Throston
	West Park
Manor	St Hild's
Fens	Barnard Grove
Golden Flatts	Clavering
Grange	St Helen's
Greatham	West View
Kingsley	
Owton Manor	
Rossmere	

In Option 3:

- ✗ Golden Flatts pupils would normally go on to Manor, rather than Dyke House
- ✗ Jesmond Road pupils would normally go on to Dyke House, rather than High Tunstall
- ✗ Lynnfield pupils would normally go on to High Tunstall, rather than Dyke House
- ✗ Throston pupils would normally go on to High Tunstall, rather than St Hild's
- ✗ Kingsley pupils would normally go on to Manor, rather than Brierton
- ✗ Owton Manor pupils would normally go on to Manor rather than Brierton
- ✗ Rift House pupils would normally go on to High Tunstall, rather than Brierton
- ✗ Rossmere pupils would normally go on to Manor, rather than Brierton
- ✗ St Aidan's pupils would normally go on to Dyke House, rather than Brierton
- ✗ Stranton pupils would normally go on to Dyke House, rather than Brierton

It is important to emphasise that parents will still be able to express their preferences for any school, whatever admissions system is chosen.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS: BACKGROUND

Hartlepool Council believes that all children should have an equal opportunity to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and to be included in all activities at school that are open to pupils of their age group. The Council aims to secure this equal opportunity for every child by promoting and supporting the development of an inclusive education within mainstream schools and by ensuring that ultimately every child is able to access a mainstream school and receive appropriate support in respect of any special educational needs they may have. This is a long term aim which will be worked towards over a number of years. The needs of individual children will remain paramount and Hartlepool special schools will form part of the provision both in relation to individual children and in a supporting role to mainstream schools.

A significant number of pupils now have “dual registration” which means they attend both a special and a mainstream school. Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School have developed their facilities so that pupils with some of the most complex needs can attend special schools in Hartlepool instead of having to travel to special schools elsewhere in the region. There are also special educational resource bases at two secondary schools and at five primary schools.

During the first stage of the BSF consultation, there was general agreement on the importance of providing excellent facilities and education for children and young people with Special Educational Needs. All developments within the BSF project will be based on the assumption that mainstream schools should be inclusive and able to meet the needs of a wide range of pupils with additional and/or special educational needs and/or disabilities. However, it is recognised that some pupils will continue to need specialist provision for all or part of their schooling.

There have been a number of discussions involving Catcote School, Springwell School and the parents of pupils who attend these two schools. As a result of these discussions and the Stage One consultations, the Project Board has agreed to present two options for the future organisation of specialist provision for Special Educational Needs.

Option 1 more or less keeps things as they are, with Catcote School and Springwell School on their separate sites; Option 2 introduces the possibility of a Learning Village on a new site. Catcote School and Springwell School would both move and be located in the Learning Village, either as entirely separate schools or as two federated schools.

A Learning Village model could provide education, extended services and community facilities for children and young people of all ages, which pupils from across the whole town could access on either a full-time basis or for part of the day alongside mainstream school attendance, depending on each pupil's individual needs. The Learning Village would be designed to ensure that groups of pupils of different ages and with very different types of Special Educational Needs could be educated appropriately and safely on the same campus. In this way, children who have Special Educational Needs because of emotional and behavioural difficulties and who are currently educated as part of the Access 2 Learning provision could become part of the Learning Village. The Council will need to consider further developments for this group. In addition, specialist provision will be more readily adapted to meet the changes in the types of special need which occur in the longer term, so reducing the need for any pupil to travel outside Hartlepool for schooling.

Special educational needs resource bases will continue to provide specialist facilities to support specific learning difficulties. For secondary age pupils

these are currently located at High Tunstall College of Science and Brierton Community School. If Brierton were to close, the resource base there would transfer to another school.

Other facilities and services could also be located within the Learning Village and ideas and suggestions about this would be particularly welcome.

Some of the advantages and disadvantages of each option are presented below. Remember that this provision is for those pupils with the most complex needs; the majority of pupils with additional needs will attend mainstream schools, as is currently the case. The Council would welcome your views on these options, along with suggestions on any other advantages and disadvantages of each option and suggestions for alternative options.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS: OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Option 1 – Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Special Primary School to remain on their present separate sites

Advantages:

- ✍ Both schools will remain open at their current locations.
- ✍ There will be no disruption to the education of children and young people.
- ✍ Staff in schools will feel that their jobs are more secure.

Disadvantages:

- ✍ As pupil numbers fall generally, there is likely to be a fall in demand for special school places.
- ✍ Schools will need to provide highly specialised facilities separately, without the benefit of sharing, unless pupils travel between sites.
- ✍ BSF funding will apply to Catcote School, but not Springwell. Springwell may be able to access Primary Capital Programme funding from the Government at a later date, but not all primary schools will be funded under this programme.

Option 2 – Catcote School and Springwell School to come together on a single site, with shared facilities designed to meet the needs of a wide range of special needs.

Advantages:

- ✍ Locating Catcote School and Springwell School on the same site would provide continuity of education experience for children and young people with the most acute Special Educational Needs
- ✍ Locating the two schools together would cut down costs of duplicating facilities at separate sites, reduce transport costs and could release more funding for front-line services
- ✍ If Catcote School and Springwell School provide adjacent facilities for primary and secondary age pupils with special educational needs, BSF funding may be available to both communities, subject to further discussion with the Government's Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Disadvantages:

- ✍ Some people may feel that this option could lead to more segregation of pupils with special educational needs
- ✍ Some people may worry about children and young people of different ages being educated on the same site
- ✍ DfES may not agree to the use of BSF funding for Springwell, as it is a primary school.

OUTCOMES OF THE STAGE ONE CONSULTATION

The first stage of consultation on BSF took place between 26th September and 3rd November 2006. The purposes of this first stage were to bring facts about the BSF programme and the context of Hartlepool secondary education to the attention of as many people as possible and to seek views on how the Council might approach the implementation of BSF in Hartlepool.

Approximately 13,000 consultation documents were distributed throughout the town, to families with children of pre-school, primary school and secondary school ages. Copies were made available in schools and in a significant number of public buildings and were sent to key partners and stakeholders. Availability of the consultation document and details of the consultation meetings were advertised widely in the press.

A number of key issues about the future of secondary education were raised in the Stage One consultation. These were:

- ✍ **Vision for the Future** - The focus here was on changing the way in which children and young people learn, concentrating on ensuring that the individual needs of all pupils are met. This is known as personalised learning.
- ✍ **Pupil Performance** - Information was provided about how secondary age pupils have performed at age 16 in recent years, across the town and in individual secondary schools.
- ✍ **Size of Schools** – This section explored whether there was an ideal size for a secondary school and whether there comes a point when a school is either too big or too small.
- ✍ **Admission Zones** - The Council wanted to know what people thought about the current system of geographical admission zones for

secondary schools, whether it would be better to change to a system of secondary schools working with partner primary schools or whether the system of admission zones should be abolished.

- ✍ **Education 14-19** – This explained the Government's drive towards encouraging young people to stay in education after the end of compulsory education at 16 and to ensure that what is on offer is suitable for all young people, by providing work-related learning opportunities alongside more traditional academic studies.

- ✍ **Primary Education Issues** – Although BSF is about secondary education the Council wanted to emphasize that there would be a need and opportunity to spend significant sums of money on replacement and refurbishment of primary schools through the Government's Primary Capital Programme, beginning in April 2009.

- ✍ **Special Educational Needs (SEN)** – The Council welcomed the opportunity to highlight its vision on inclusion and was looking for views and ideas on how the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs can best be met in the future.

- ✍ **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** – Approximately £9m is available to spend on ICT through the BSF programme and the Council was looking for views on how to get the very best from ICT investment.

- ✍ **Extended Schools and Extended Services** – Information was provided on the Government's expectation that extended services that go beyond the normal teaching and learning activities will be

available to all pupils, their families and their communities by 2010.

You can see the Stage One consultation document in full on the Council's website at:

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/schoolscapital/bsf

48 consultation meetings took place between 26th September and 3rd November 2006 and over 500 people attended these meetings. By the close of the consultation period, 52 individual responses had been received, as well as at least one collective response from each of the six mainstream secondary schools. Notes were taken at each of the consultation meetings. All individual and collective responses were analysed, along with the notes of all consultation meetings. You can see the Stage One consultation responses on the Council's website at:

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/schoolscapital/bsf

The results of the Stage One consultation suggest that there are different views on how secondary schools should be organised in future. Hartlepool's Cabinet agreed on 20th November 2006 to the preparation of a second stage of consultation and the BSF Project Board was asked to prepare options for this consultation.

The outcomes of the Stage One consultation also suggest that there is general agreement on the importance of providing excellent facilities and education for children and young people with Special Educational Needs. It was also agreed to explore how this might be organised during the second stage of consultation.

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN HARTLEPOOL

Introduction

When we look at the future of Education in Hartlepool, we are trying to think what education will be like in 10-25 years time. There are a lot of things happening which will have an impact on that and information about some of these is set out below.

It's Not About Bricks and Mortar

At this stage we must make sure that we concentrate on how we will meet the needs of children and young people and not so much on what schools might look like in ten years time. The main purpose of BSF is to allow us to change the way children and young people learn and are taught. The major emphasis is to be on meeting the individual needs of every single young person in Hartlepool, providing a personalised learning experience. Pupils will be individually guided throughout their time in school to ensure that their needs are being met and that they are progressing as expected.

Pupils will learn in a variety of ways and will be taught in a variety of different groupings. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) will play a major part in meeting learning needs, through Learning Platforms, an email account for each individual pupil and video conferencing, supported by the latest facilities and equipment (the term Learning Platform is used to describe a broad range of ICT systems used to deliver and support learning and teaching, including the facility for learners and teachers to share information).

Education Beyond the Compulsory Phase

The Stage Two consultation is focusing on education for children aged 11-16. Our BSF vision must look at all aspects of education if it is to get Government approval. This means that we will also have to think about education from age 16 onwards. In Hartlepool post-16 education is provided by

- ✍ English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College
- ✍ Hartlepool Sixth Form College
- ✍ Hartlepool College of Further Education
- ✍ Cleveland College of Art and Design

Schools and colleges, along with the Council and the Learning and Skills Council, are working together to plan how education beyond the age of 16 should be organised in future.

Education 14-19

Government expects schools and colleges to build a bridge between compulsory education to age 16 and further education and the world of work. Local authorities are expected to lead planning for integrated education for 14-19 year olds and a lot of work has already been done on this in Hartlepool. We expect to be able to consult on a detailed vision for education for 14-19 year olds in Autumn 2007, as part of the preparation of the "Strategy for Change".

Collaboration

Schools and colleges will need to work closely together in future, even more than they do already. An individual school or college will not be able to meet all the needs of all of its pupils or students. In Hartlepool there are already good examples of collaboration among schools and between schools and colleges. During Stage One consultation there was a lot of agreement on the need for collaborative approaches. Planning a BSF "Strategy for Change" will help us all to focus on exactly how the needs of all pupils can best be met and it will then help us to think about what our schools of the future will need to look like.

Extended Schools and Community Use of School Facilities

The Government expects that, by the time any schools are re-built or re-modelled, all schools will be "extended schools". This means that there will be

opportunities to create new facilities that will benefit children, young people, their families and their communities. Stage One consultation responses were in favour of schools being designed or re-designed to allow schools to make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of the communities in which they are located. Some examples of extended and community facilities include:

- ✍ High quality childcare from 8am to 6pm and all year round
- ✍ Activities for children and young people, their families and the community, eg:
 - Homework clubs and study support
 - Sporting activities
 - Music tuition, dance, drama, art and craft activities
 - Adult and community learning facilities
- ✍ Access on site to a range of health-related support for families and the community, for example:
 - Speech therapy
 - Mental health services
 - Baby clinics
 - Smoking cessation clinics
- ✍ Other community based activities and facilities, for example:
 - Information sessions
 - Police offices
 - Library services

It is not expected that all schools will offer all services on their school site. Further discussion, over the next eighteen

months, will ensure that there is a good understanding of the needs of each community where a school is sited and that any opportunity to provide better facilities is taken.

Transport to School

It is very important that we pay careful attention to how children and young people travel to and from school at the beginning and end of each school day. If schools become more heavily involved in collaboration, e.g. pupils at one school undertaking some of their studies at another school or college, there will be a need for some limited transport for pupils during the school day. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduces new requirements on councils to extend provision of free transport for children from disadvantaged families and to prepare and promote a strategy for sustainable school travel. Depending upon which options for 11-16 education and for Special Educational Needs provision are implemented, some children may have further to travel from home to school.

Work has already begun on aspects of school travel and the Council expects to have in place an integrated transport strategy that will address many of the transport issues facing children, young people and adults in Hartlepool, before any contracts are signed for new or refurbished schools in or about 2009.

TWENTY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT BSF

1. What is BSF?

BSF (Building Schools for the Future) is a major national scheme that will create state of the art secondary school buildings and facilities for future generations of children and young people through multi £billion investment. BSF aims to replace or renew every secondary school in England over a 10-15 year period. It has recently been confirmed that Hartlepool will join this programme during 2007. This means that new and re-modelled secondary schools should be ready by 2011 or 2012.

2. Why does the Council think BSF is a good thing?

The Council believes that BSF is a fantastic opportunity to provide many future generations of the children and young people of Hartlepool with state of the art school facilities, through multi-million pound investment. But even more importantly this investment will give us the opportunity to enable all children and young people to achieve their full potential by shaping their learning to meet their individual needs. Working together with schools, colleges and key partners we will ensure that our future schools are at the heart of their local communities, with a range of services to transform learning for all ages. Inspirational facilities will help raise aspirations and lead to even greater success, at school and throughout later life.

3. How much money will we have to spend on our secondary schools?

This will depend to a great extent upon the number of pupils to be educated and the number of schools that will be needed.

Information from the Government suggests that funding for the BSF programme in Hartlepool will be somewhere between £80m and £90m, including around £9m for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure and equipment. This should enable us to replace about half of our secondary schools and remodel and improve the others.

4. All that money! What's the catch?

There are some challenges to be faced, particularly the challenges presented by falling pupil numbers. The number of children being born in Hartlepool has been falling steadily over a number of years and available data shows that in ten years time there will be approximately 1,000 fewer young people aged 11-16 to be educated in our secondary schools.

5. What decisions will have to be made?

There are three important decisions that will eventually have to be taken:

- ✍ Which schools should be totally re-built and which schools should be remodelled (mixture of new-build and refurbishment)?
- ✍ With approximately 1,000 fewer secondary pupils in ten years time, do we need to make schools smaller or have fewer schools?
- ✍ What is the best way of meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs?

Stage Two consultation will help us move towards the answers to these questions.

6. When will decisions be made about the future of schools in Hartlepool?

Stage Two consultation takes place between the end of January and beginning of March 2007 and involves consideration of options for the reorganisation of 11-16 secondary school education and options for provision for children and young people with special educational needs. Following this current round of consultation, it is possible that the Council will make formal proposals in April 2007. Following a period for comments and possible objections, decisions are likely to be made during the Summer of 2007. These locally made decisions would then be written into a formal document called a 'Strategy for Change' which would have to be approved by a Government Minister in March 2008 before any changes could actually be implemented with BSF funding. Changes might begin to happen from Autumn 2008 onwards, although we do not expect to have all our building work complete before 2012 at the earliest.

7. Will any schools close?

No decisions have yet been taken about any school closures. We do, however, believe that in about ten years from now there will be more than 1,000 fewer young people aged over 11 to be educated in Hartlepool's secondary schools. This will inevitably mean that we will need fewer school places, resulting either in some schools becoming smaller, or school closure. Stage Two consultation presents three options for the future organisation of secondary schools in Hartlepool, one of which would involve the closure of Brierton School. Brierton has been identified in the options as the school that could close because:

1. Pupil numbers are predicted to fall most at Brierton School
2. Brierton School has the biggest problems when condition and suitability of existing buildings are taken together
3. Pupil performance is not improving as rapidly at Brierton School as it is at other Hartlepool schools

8. If a decision is made to close Brierton School, when is the earliest that this could happen?

The earliest possible closure date would be 31st August 2008. After the Stage Two consultation has concluded, the Project Board and Council's Cabinet will need to decide how to proceed in the light of the consultation responses. If the decision is made to seek to close Brierton School, this has to be formally proposed. A proposal would set out a timetable for change. There would be a number of possible ways of bringing about a school closure, including:

- ✍ Closing it on 31st August 2008
- ✍ Beginning to reduce year groups at the school from 1st September 2008, with full closure achieved by 31st August 2010
- ✍ Keeping the school open until all building work at the other schools is complete, in 2011 or 2012.

9. What would happen in the meantime, if a decision is made to close Brierton School?

It will be vitally important to ensure that every young person in Hartlepool gets the best possible education at all times. Hartlepool's secondary school headteachers have indicated that they will all work together as a family of schools to make sure that the education of Brierton pupils does not suffer as a result of any change that is agreed.

- 10. If a decision is made to close Brierton School, what would happen to the Community Sports Centre which is on the same site?**

It is expected that the Community Sports Centre will remain where it is and be linked to whatever other facilities are provided on this very large site. It is possible that a Learning Village could be located here, but no decisions have yet been taken.

- 11. If a decision is taken to close Brierton School, what would happen to the resource base for pupils with Autism?**

The resource base for pupils with autism is a very important and highly valued facility. It would transfer to one of the remaining mainstream schools. Other resource bases would continue (e.g. the resource base at High Tunstall College of Science).

- 12. Will any jobs be at risk because of BSF?**

The number of pupils in schools and colleges has a significant impact on the number of staff needed to teach and support the work of schools and colleges. It is not possible to be certain about future staffing levels at this time, but we can promise to make every effort to avoid the need for compulsory redundancies. We expect the decline in pupil numbers to be gradual over the next ten years, and that it should be possible to achieve staff reductions as individual staff members move on naturally, to new jobs, or into retirement. This change of pupil and staffing numbers will happen whether or not Hartlepool develops BSF programmes.

- 13. If we are building new schools, will it be possible to create new**

community facilities at the same time?

The Government expects that, by the time any schools are re-built or re-modelled, all schools will be "extended schools". This means that there will be opportunities to create new facilities that will benefit children, young people, their families and their communities. The Stage One consultation responses were in favour of schools being designed or re-designed to allow schools to make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of the communities in which they are located.

- 14. How will new schools and re-modelled schools be designed?**

Once Hartlepool is officially engaged on the Building Schools for the Future programme in the Autumn of 2007, the Council will begin to select a number of partners with particular expertise in relation to major projects. These partners will work alongside the Council's own staff and help to ensure that we get the very best outcomes from the programme. Among these partners will be design experts and we would want these to engage fully with children and young people, families and communities, schools and colleges, and a large number of groups and organisations, before new designs are created. We would expect to be ready to begin discussing the detail of school designs by mid 2008.

- 15. Do we have sites available for re-built schools?**

In most cases our existing schools occupy large sites with extensive playing fields. It may be possible, in some cases, to construct new buildings within the existing school sites, while the old buildings are still in use. We would then move staff and pupils across into

new buildings and demolish the old ones. If we think that a school is not in the right place we will have to think about whether there are any suitable alternative sites in the area. It must be emphasised that no decisions have yet been made about where schools need to be in future or how many there should be.

16. If my child's school is to be re-modelled, will there be a lot of disruption? Will my child's education be affected? Will my child be safe if there are builders on site?

Parents and carers will naturally be concerned about any possible disruption to their children's education and will particularly want to know that their children will be safe from harm at all times. Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum, although it may be necessary to move classes round in schools that are being re-modelled and we may need to use temporary accommodation at a school for a short period. All work will be carefully planned to try to make sure that teaching and learning are not disturbed.

The safety of children, young people and everyone working in our schools will be the number one priority. Every project will have a detailed safety plan and expert advice will be called upon to ensure that no-one is exposed to danger. This will include fencing off building site areas - either parts of schools or even whole schools where we create new school buildings within an existing school site.

17. I have heard that new schools and re-modelled schools will have "inspirational 21st Century facilities". What does this really mean?

This will be one of the most exciting aspects of the Building Schools for the Future Programme. There is no "off the shelf" model of what a new or transformed school should look like. What we do know is that we have an opportunity to make sure that our school buildings in the future are attractive places to work and learn. They will be designed to meet the needs of individual pupils; this is often referred to as "personalised learning". New qualifications called vocational diplomas will be introduced over the next few years and these will help young people to focus on the skills needed to do a wide range of jobs. Introducing these new qualifications will require new facilities, some of which do not exist in our schools at this time. Schools and colleges will be expected to work together and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) developments will be at the heart of making this possible, for example by using state of the art computer and television facilities.

All this suggests that, in the future, our schools will look different from the way they look now, with different kinds of spaces to meet different needs. We hope that as many people as possible, and particularly our children and young people, will help to design our new and re-modelled schools.

18. Is it possible to spend Building Schools for the Future money on primary schools?

No. The Government is introducing a major national scheme for primary school building renewal, called the Primary Capital Programme. The aim of this programme will be to replace or re-model at least half of all primary schools buildings over the next fifteen years. Hartlepool will be in

the Primary Capital Programme from April 2009. The only exception to this may be if we include Springwell Primary Special School in a Learning Village

19. What is a Learning Village?

There are several models of Learning Villages already operating in the country. Basically a Learning Village brings together a number of different education facilities on the same site. It allows a sharing of specialist facilities and expertise. By putting different things on the same site, you can get a lot more for your money and more people can make use of the same expensive facilities and equipment.

20. Where can I find out more information about BSF?

You can:

visit the Council's website:
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/schoolscapital/bsf

email:

bsf@hartlepool.gov.uk

Phone the BSF team:
01429 523733

Write to:

Liz Eddy
Building Schools for the Future
Children's Services Department
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

INFORMATION ON EACH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL
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It is important that any decisions about how to spend BSF funding are made with full knowledge of some of the key facts about each school. Wherever possible we have used data which is measured according to national guidelines. The information that follows was presented in Stage One of the BSF consultation process. Where appropriate the information has been updated to reflect the latest validated position:

1. **Capacity** of the school – how many 11-16 year old pupils does a school have room for at present? This basically tells us how big a school is (*Calculated using DfES methodology – January 2006*)
2. **Total 11-16 Pupils September 2006** – how many 11-16 year old pupils attended the school in September 2006? (*Calculated using DfES Census return September 2006*)
3. **Surplus 2006** – How many surplus places were there in the school in September 2006? (*Capacity minus total pupils September 2006*).
4. **Projected 11-16 Pupils 2016** – how many pupils do we expect to attend the school in 10 years time? (*Calculated using Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit figures provided in August 2006*)
5. **Projected surplus 2016** – How many spare places will the school have in 10 years time? (*Capacity minus projected 11-16 pupils 2016*)
6. **Percentage of Pupils Entitled to Free School Meals in September 2006** – This is often used as an indicator of deprivation in the area served by the school
7. **Percentage 5 A* - C grades at GCSE 2006** (*expressed as a percentage of the Summer 2006 Year 11*).
8. **KS2 – KS3 Contextual* Value Added 2005** – These measures show how schools have helped pupils at age 14 progress since they were 11. The national average figure is 100.0. If the Value Added score is above 100.0, pupils within the school are making better progress than those nationally. (*Figures are taken from 2005 DfES Performance and Assessment report*)
9. **KS2 - KS4 Contextual* Value Added 2006** – These measures show how schools have helped pupils at age 16 progress since they were 11. The national average figure is 1000.0. If the value added score is above 1000.0, pupils within the school are making better progress than those nationally. (*Figures are taken from DfES 2006 Performance Tables*)
10. **KS3 – KS4 Contextual* Value Added 2005** - These measures show how schools have helped pupils at age 16 progress since they were 14. The national average figure is 1000.0. If the value added score is above 1000.0, pupils within the school are making better progress than those nationally. (*Figures are taken from 2005 DfES Performance and Assessment report*)
11. **Condition** – What is the current condition of the school? (*Calculated using data sent to DfES. Schools are placed in order of condition need. The lower the number the worse the condition of the school buildings*).
12. **Suitability** – How suitable are the current buildings? (*Calculated using data sent to DfES. Schools are placed in order of suitability need. The lower the number the more unsuitable the current school buildings are*).
13. **Special Characteristics and Other Facilities** – what are the school's specialist subjects and are there any special additional facilities at this school?

* **Contextual** value added information means that the measure takes account of the circumstances of pupils, for example whether they are entitled to free school meals, their ethnicity, their gender, whether they have Special Educational Needs, or whether they are looked after by the Local Authority (in care), in addition to their prior attainment.

A. Brierton Community School

Capacity	1,119
Total Pupils September 2006	919
Surplus Places September 2006	200 (17.9% of the total places available)
Projected Pupils 2016	570
Projected Surplus Places 2016	549 (49.1% of the total places available)
% Pupils entitled to free school meals September 2006	28.2%
% 5 A* - C at GCSE 2006	32%
KS2 to KS3 contextual value added 2005	98.8
KS2 to KS4 contextual value added 2006	957.1
KS3 to KS4 contextual value added 2005	1006.3
Condition Ranking	3 (out of 7)
Suitability Ranking	1 (out of 7)
Special Characteristics and Additional Facilities	Brierton has a community Sports Centre attached, is a Specialist Sports College and hosts a centre for autistic children

B. Dyke House School

Capacity	1,030
Total Pupils September 2006	1,022
Surplus Places September 2006	8 (0.8% of the total places available)
Projected Pupils 2016	842
Projected Surplus Places 2016	188 (18.3% of the total places available)
% Pupils entitled to free school meals September 2006	29.6%
% 5 A* - C at GCSE 2006	72%
KS2 to KS3 contextual value added 2005	101.8
KS2 to KS4 contextual value added 2006	1050.7
KS3 to KS4 contextual value added 2005	1021.7
Condition Ranking	5 (out of 7)
Suitability Ranking	3 (out of 7)
Special Characteristics and Additional Facilities	Dyke House is a specialist Technology College. It is a full service extended school and has extensive community facilities. The Avondale centre hosts the Authority's City Learning Centre (CLC)

C. English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College

Capacity	1,290*
Total 11-16 Pupils September 2006	1,281
Surplus Places September 2006	9 (0.7% of the total places available)*
Projected 11-16 Pupils 2016	1,161
Projected Surplus 11-16 Places 2016	129 (10.0% of the total places available)*
% 11-16 Pupils entitled to free school meals September 2006	9.7%
% 5 A* - C at GCSE 2006	69%
KS2 to KS3 contextual value added 2005	99.7
KS2 to KS4 contextual value added 2006	1001.1
KS3 to KS4 contextual value added 2005	1021.6
Condition Ranking	4 (out of 7)
Suitability Ranking	2 (out of 7)
Special Characteristics and Additional Facilities	English Martyrs is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided school and is the only mainstream school in Hartlepool, with 6 th Form provision. It has a newly built sixth form centre. It is a Leading Edge school and a Specialist Arts College

* Based on estimated capacity of 1,290 excluding sixth form

D. High Tunstall School

Capacity	1,205
Total Pupils September 2006	1,179
Surplus Places September 2006	26 (2.2% of the total places available)
Projected Pupils 2016	1,134
Projected Surplus Places 2016	71 (5.9% of the total places available)
% Pupils entitled to free school meals September 2006	7.6%
% 5 A* - C at GCSE 2006	60%
KS2 to KS3 contextual value added 2005	100.3
KS2 to KS4 contextual value added 2006	999.0
KS3 to KS4 contextual value added 2005	988.8
Condition Ranking	2 (out of 7)
Suitability Ranking	7 (out of 7)
Special Characteristics and Additional Facilities	High Tunstall is a Specialist Science College, has health and fitness leisure facilities on site, has physiotherapy facilities and receives additional funding for pupils with physical and medical difficulties.

E. Manor College

Capacity	1,053
Total Pupils September 2006	1,046
Surplus Places September 2006	7 (0.7% of the total places available)
Projected Pupils 2016	920
Projected Surplus Places 2016	133 (12.6% of the total places available)
% Pupils entitled to free school meals September 2006	20.4%
% 5 A* - C at GCSE 2006	72%
KS2 to KS3 contextual value added 2005	100.3
KS2 to KS4 contextual value added 2006	1013.2
KS3 to KS4 contextual value added 2005	1036.9
Condition Ranking	1 (out of 7)
Suitability Ranking	4 (out of 7)
Special Characteristics and Additional Facilities	Manor is a Specialist College of Technology and has a new ICT (e-learning) centre.

F. St Hild's Church of England School

Capacity	900
Total Pupils September 2006	882
Surplus Places September 2006	18 (2.0% of the total places available)
Projected Pupils 2016	598
Projected Surplus Places 2016	302 (33.6% of the total places available)
% Pupils entitled to free school meals September 2006	22.9%
% 5 A* - C at GCSE 2006	39%
KS2 to KS3 contextual value added 2005	99.9
KS2 to KS4 contextual value added 2006	1001.1
KS3 to KS4 contextual value added 2005	1008.7
Condition Ranking	7 (out of 7)
Suitability Ranking	6 (out of 7)
Special Characteristics and Additional Facilities	St Hild's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school and occupies new buildings opened two years ago. It is a Specialist Engineering College, with new Engineering facilities under construction and is a centre for a small Education Action Zone (EAZ)

G. Catcote Secondary Special School

Total Pupils September 2006	72				
Projected totals – based on Springwell leavers	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	75	75	70	65	60
% Pupils entitled to free school meals September 2006	45.8%				
Condition Ranking	6 (out of 7)				
Suitability Ranking	5 (out of 7)				
Special Characteristics and Additional Facilities	Vocational facilities – hairdressing, café, office and business unit				

Catcote School is a secondary special school for pupils aged 11 -19 with a range of special educational needs (SEN). Overall numbers in the school have fallen from 102 in September 1999 to 72 in September 2006 but the role of the school has changed significantly over that period. Catcote supports pupils from mainstream schools by providing outreach support, dual registration and access to specific curriculum modules (particularly in vocational areas).

The range of needs of SEN pupils has changed over time; for example, there are now fewer pupils with moderate learning difficulties at the school but an increasing number with autistic spectrum disorders.

It is difficult to make reliable projections about special school pupil numbers. Numbers in special schools may fall in parallel with overall pupil numbers but there is some evidence nationally that there is an increasing number of pupils with the most profound and complex special needs, although this trend has not yet been seen in Hartlepool.

H. Access to Learning (A2L)

Access to Learning (A2L) is the Authority's provision for pupils who, for a range of reasons, some temporary and some longer term, are not able to attend a mainstream school.

It makes separate provision for pupils excluded from school, pupils who are in hospital or too ill to attend school and pupils with special educational needs associated with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The provision is located on Brierton Lane, near to Brierton School.

Government requirements about how the needs of excluded pupils are met are changing and from September 2007 local secondary schools will have greater responsibilities in deciding how and where these pupils should be educated. The Authority is therefore working in partnership with local schools to develop proposals about what the new arrangements should be.

Total number of pupils (Sept 2006)	63
%age Pupils entitled to free school meals	47.6%
Special characteristics and additional features	Service meets the needs of a number of distinct groups of pupils

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT	
Term Used	Explanation
Admission Zone	A geographical area around a school. Children living within this area are given priority for admission to the school
Building Schools for the Future (BSF)	15 year Government programme to replace or remodel and refurbish all secondary schools
BSF Project Board	Group made up of Councillors, officers, headteachers and local authority partners with responsibility for making sure BSF project is achieved
Cabinet	Executive decision making body of Hartlepool Borough Council
Capacity of School	The total number of pupils that a school can accommodate (normally based upon size of school)
Contextual Value Added	Means that the measure takes account of the circumstances of pupils, for example whether they are entitled to free school meals, their ethnicity, their gender, whether they have Special Educational Needs, or whether they are looked after by the Local Authority (in care), in addition to their prior attainment.
Education 14-19	Age range that includes the last 3 years of compulsory secondary education and the beginning of further education
Extended School	An extended school provides more than formal education within normal school hours (e.g. child care, health facilities, sport and leisure activities, family learning etc)
GCSE	Formal examinations normally taken at the end of compulsory education, at age 16
Information & Communications Technology (ICT)	Use of computers and other communications devices such as television to support teaching and learning
Key Stage 2	National curriculum study from age 7 to age 11 (the end of primary school education)
Key Stage 3	National curriculum study from age 11 to age 14 (beginning of secondary education)
Key Stage 4	National curriculum study from age 14 to age 16 (the end of compulsory secondary education)
Learning Village	A variety of education facilities brought together on a single site
Learning Platform	Computer system used to deliver and support learning, usually linked to network and internet
Mainstream School	Term often used to define schools which are not specialist schools for pupils with Special Educational Needs
Partner Primary School	School linked to a particular secondary school where the schools work together and the expectation is that the majority of pupils will transfer to the secondary school at age 11
Personalised Learning	Describes where the learning programme for an individual pupil is shaped to meet that pupil's individual needs, usually supported by a mentor
Primary Capital Programme	15 year Government national programme to rebuild or remodel and refurbish up to half of all primary schools
Sixth Form	Usually used to describe provision of education after the age of 16 in a secondary school
Special Educational Needs (SEN)	Children with SEN all have learning difficulties, or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age
Surplus Places	Where the number of pupils at a particular school is not as great as the capacity of the school
Strategy for Change	The first formal BSF document required by Government (for Hartlepool this will probably be March 2008)
Sustainable School Travel	Travel to school other than by private car (e.g. bus, cycle, walking)
Vocational Diploma	New work based qualifications to be introduced by 2013
5 A*-C	5 GCSE passes at the higher grades (often to used as a measure of how successful schools are)
11-16	The ages of compulsory secondary education

**HARTLEPOOL COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT
BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE - STAGE 2 CONSULTATION**

Please tick the box next to the 11-16 secondary school option that you think is the most suitable:

Option 1: Keep six secondary schools at the size they are now

☐

Option 2: Keep six secondary schools but make some of them smaller

☐

Option 3: Reduce the number of schools to five with Brierton closing

☐

I think this is the best option because:

.....

.....

.....

Please tick the box next to the Special Educational Needs option that you think is the most suitable:

**Option 1: Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell
Primary School to remain on their present separate sites**

☐

**Option 2: Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell
Primary Special School to come together on a single
site, with shared facilities**

☐

I think this is the best option because:

.....

.....

.....

**I also wish to make the following comments as part of Hartlepool Borough Council's
Building Schools for the Future Stage 2 consultation process:**

(please use additional sheet if necessary)

.....

.....

.....

Signed: Name:

Address:

.....

Please return this form by Friday 2nd March 2007 to: Liz Eddy, Children's Services
Department, Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Hartlepool TS24 8AY

If you would like information in another language or format, please ask us: Tel. 01429 523733
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如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料， 請與我們聯絡。
यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे
ئەگەر زانیاریت بە زمانیکی که یا بە فۆرمیکی که دەوی تکایه داوامان لی بکه
Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.
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SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

9 February 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Manager / Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: WITHDRAWAL OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDING TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WITHIN HARTLEPOOL SCRUTINY REFERRAL – EVIDENCE FROM COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Committee that representatives from Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA), Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA) (attendance subject to confirmation), Headland Development Trust (HDT), and Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre will be in attendance at today's meeting.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 24 November 2006 that the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry/Sources of Evidence for this Investigation were approved. Consequently, a number of key witnesses from the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) have been invited to attend today's meeting to help the Committee in its investigation into the Withdrawal of European Structural Funding to the Voluntary Sector. In particular these bodies have been invited to provide the Forum with verbal evidence regarding the local perspective in relation to this issue and the likely impact on the CVS.
- 2.2 Representatives from each of these bodies have indicated that they wish to provide verbal evidence to the Committee in relation to the issue under consideration. Consequently, Members may want to consider the terms of reference for this investigation as a useful prompt for discussions:
- a) To gain an understanding of how the voluntary sector are being / will be affected by the a major loss in European Funding;
 - b) To establish what has been done at national, regional and local levels in anticipation of this reduction in European Funding;

- c) To establish how the local authority, and its partners in the LSP, can maximise the investment to the voluntary sector in light of changes to European Funding; and
- d) To establish the likely impact of a loss of funding on services provided within the town.

2.3 In addition, to the verbal evidence provided during today's meeting further evidence from a Focus Group comprised of invited representatives from the 12 CVS bodies who have received European Funding in 2005/06 or 2006/07 will be tabled at this meeting. The Committee agreed that a Focus Group should be convened when it agreed the Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence on 24 November 2006. This Group will meet on Thursday 1 February 2007 and is, therefore, taking place following the deadline for the production of papers for today's meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members of the Committee consider:

- (a) The views of the external agencies, particularly in relation to paragraph 2.2, and question them accordingly, with a view to identifying areas for recommendations to go forward into the Committee's final report on this issue; and
- (b) The findings from the Focus Group of CVS representatives, which will be tabled at today's meeting, in conjunction with the views of the CVS representatives in attendance at today's meeting.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- a) Scrutiny Investigation into the Withdrawal of European Structural Funding to the Voluntary Sector (Scrutiny Manager / Scrutiny Support Officer) – Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 24 November 2006

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

9 February 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Manager / Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: WITHDRAWAL OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDING TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR WITHIN HARTLEPOOL SCRUTINY REFERRAL – EVIDENCE FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Committee that the Assistant Director (Community Services) Adult and Community Services and the Principal Economic Development Officer (Europe), in his capacity as Hartlepool Targeted Communities Package Partnership Co-ordinator, will be in attendance at today's meeting.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 24 November 2006 that the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Investigation were approved. Consequently, the officers identified above have been invited to attend today's meeting to help the Committee in its investigation into the Withdrawal of European Structural Funding to the Voluntary Sector. In particular these representatives have been invited to provide the Committee with evidence regarding the local perspective in relation to this issue.
- 2.2 At the meeting of this Committee on 20 October 2006 an *Audit of Community and Voluntary Groups in Hartlepool* was presented to, and discussed by, Members. The Audit has been attached for information at **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 During today's meeting the officers identified above will be in attendance to provide verbal evidence and answer any questions Members may have. The terms of reference for the investigation, outlined in paragraph 2.2 under item 9.2 on this agenda may provide a useful prompt for discussions. In addition, given the likely reduction in European funding between 2007 and 2013 to about half the money available to the UK between 2000 and 2006, and further developments such as the impact of co-financing on the Voluntary Sector, the issue of how the Local Authority can assist the groups who are delivering services for the benefit of local residents, which are considered to be of

strategic importance is a key consideration of this Committee's investigation. Consequently, the following key issues / discussion points were highlighted during a presentation at the meeting on 20 October 2006:

- (a) Further review Community Pool criteria;
- (b) Potentially fund fewer groups better;
- (c) Restrict funding to 'core costs contributions' only, not project work;
- (d) Increase nominal funding to a larger number of groups to enable LA support / 100% rates relief;
- (e) Encourage amalgamations of groups to reduce costs;
- (f) Joint sharing of premises to improve sustainability (regardless of ownership / lease / rent position); and
- (g) Significantly increase the Community Pool Budget

- 2.4 Members may wish to consider the points above (which are outlined more fully on page 11 *Planning for the Future* of **Appendix A**) in their discussions with the officers present at the meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members of the Committee consider the views of the officers, particularly in relation to paragraph 2.3, and question them accordingly, with a view to identifying areas for recommendations to go forward into the Committee's final report on this issue.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- a) Scrutiny Investigation into the Withdrawal of European Structural Funding to the Voluntary Sector (Scrutiny Manager / Scrutiny Support Officer) – Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 24 November 2006

AUDIT OF COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS **IN HARTLEPOOL** **JUNE 2006**

BACKGROUND

The Authority's Grants Committee made a referral to the Scrutiny function asking Scrutiny to undertake an examination of the withdrawal of European Regional Development Funding and the impact it would have across the voluntary sector in Hartlepool during 2006/2007.

In addition to this, Members requested that an audit of the voluntary/community sector be carried out, so that a baseline of information is available for the enquiry.

In order to gather this information, a questionnaire was formulated and sent out to 77 groups in Hartlepool, who had been identified as being appropriate to take part in the audit, that employ staff or that own/rent/lease property.

A mapping exercise has been carried out which shows the geographical locations of the groups that were asked to participate in the audit. The groups, who are currently in receipt of funding from the Community Pool, are plotted in red and other groups who were asked to participate are plotted in blue. The mapping exercise demonstrates a wide spread of groups.

The overall response has been encouraging with 55 out of the 77 groups who were "eligible" to take part in the audit – (70%) completing the questionnaire in part, if not in full.

A blank copy of the questionnaire is provided as **Appendix 1** with a list of the groups who were requested to participate in the audit as **Appendix 2**. The names of those groups that did not respond at all are highlighted.

The questionnaire information has been analysed and presented, where possible, in a pictorial style or in spreadsheet format with additional information being provided by way of a commentary in the body of this document.

Where the analysis is in spreadsheet format, it is clearly evident where responses to specific questions were provided, in whole or in part.

Additional information was gathered as part of the Audit to assist the process of the provision of financial support to the voluntary sector and to build up a picture of the financial landscape and an understanding of the financial climate in which the community/voluntary sector are working.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS**THE COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY SECTOR AS EMPLOYERS OF STAFF PAID AND VOLUNTEERS – Q29, Q30, Q31**

The number of full time staff employed by the 55 groups who responded is 235 and those employed on a part-time basis is 321. A total of 1,195 volunteers are also doing on average 4,020 hours of unpaid work per week.

Appendix 3 provides details of the numbers of full time, part time employees and volunteers and the number of volunteer hours that volunteers work in an average week.

ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY/VOLUNTARY SECTOR - Q32

Of the 55 groups who completed the questionnaire, responses were as follows:

Accommodation Arrangements	No of Groups
Groups who own their premises	20
Groups who have shared ownership	1
Groups renting premises	17
Groups Leasing Premises	11
Groups who have free use of premises	5
Other Arrangements (Sub let tenancy)	1

ORGANISATION OF GROUPS – Q13

The following table provides details relating to the organisation of the groups.

ORGANISATIONAL STATUS	No of Groups	%
Legal Status of Group:		
Constituted Groups	27	49%
Non Constituted Groups	1	2%
Company Limited by Guarantee	18	32%
Co-operative	1	2%
Community Business/Enterprise	2	4%
Others	2	4%
Registered Charities	37	67%
Governance of Group:		
Board of Trustees	27	52%
Management Committee	22	40%
Board of Trustees & Management Committee	3	5%
Steering Group & Committee	1	2%

In most cases, the Board of Trustees and Management Committees are made up of users, members and volunteers. There is usually a staff representative on the Committee and local Councillors also play an important role in representing the views of the local communities and service users as Trustees and Management Committee members.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS IN HARTLEPOOL – Q7, Q8, Q9, Q11

The main activities carried out by the community and voluntary groups in Hartlepool are detailed at **Appendix 4** which is a breakdown of each group's individual response to Question 7 and **Appendix 5** which depicts the number of groups who provide the same services/activities. It would seem that the groups responses to question 7 encompass everything they do and not just their main service provision.

22% of the groups provide services for all members of the community, 34% provide services for a specific target group in the community and 44% of groups provide some services for all members of the community and some for specific target groups.

Question 9 asked "who are the main groups for which you provide services?" for every category that was listed on the questionnaire there is a group in the town providing services for that client group. The groups who are benefiting more than others are children and young people, 27 groups are providing services for children and young people, 23 groups are providing services for unemployed/workless people and 21 groups are providing services for families. 3 groups did not provide this information.

47% (26) groups provide services in Hartlepool and beyond into outlying areas with 43% (24) groups providing town wide services only and 9% (5) groups providing their services in particular geographical communities.

In answer to Question 11, 14% of groups categorised the services they provide as primary support services e.g. provision of accommodation, care etc. 80% of groups categorised the services they provide as being secondary support services e.g. provision of advocacy, advice and guidance services and 5% of groups stated that they provided both types of services.

SERVICE BENEFICIARIES 2005/2006 – Q12

Appendix 3 provides details of the numbers of different people/groups benefiting from the services provided by the groups.

In the period April 2005 to March 2006 based on the information provided, a total of 132,709 different people and 680 groups benefited from the services provided by the groups who responded. The number of attendances in the same period totalled 347,158.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2005/2006 – Q18, Q19**INCOME 2006/2007 – Q20**

Appendix 6 relates to the answers given to Questions 18, 19 and 20 and includes details of the amounts of income generated and expended in 2005/2006 by each group. A total figure has been generated in relation to income and expenditure for 2005/2006.

For 2006/2007 (where info has been provided) the total **estimated** income is £7,048,000 in comparison, using the information provided in Q18, the total actual income for 2005/2006 was £6,886,500.

MAIN SOURCES OF FUNDING IN 2006/2007 – Q21

It is apparent from the information provided that groups in Hartlepool are tapping into numerous sources of funding. The main income streams are documented in **Appendix 7** which shows which groups are accessing each funding stream. It can be seen that 6 groups have accessed central government grants, 30 groups have accessed funding through regeneration initiatives, 26 groups have benefited from Local Authority funding, including the Community Pool and a total of 23 groups have secured service level agreements from the Local Authority and/or the Primary Care Trust.

Many groups also raise funding from other sources not just grants/contracts including local fundraising from charity shops and events, by selling their own products/services, and by charging admissions.

It would seem that the larger more sophisticated groups are more confident about tapping into the more substantial funding streams and that smaller groups tend to rely more on local fundraising and raising funds through trusts and charities as the application/ monitoring process are not as onerous as those relating to European funding and Lottery funding amongst others. However, it has been well documented that the availability of funding from trusts and charities is also reducing and that small groups will have to compete with the more sophisticated larger groups for available funding if they are to survive. This will put added pressure on those groups who provide capacity building support to smaller inexperienced groups as demand increases for capacity building support. However, the groups providing capacity building support are not without their own problems. The Change Up programme has been replaced by the Capacity Builders programme, which provides funding for infrastructure groups providing capacity building support to other vcs groups. It would seem that the funding available in the new programme is much reduced on the funding which was available via the Change Up programme. More information is provided in the body of this report.

REDUCTIONS IN FUNDING SOURCES 2006 ONWARDS

European Regional Development Funding, Regeneration Initiatives including The Single Programme, the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, the BIG Lottery Fund and Change Up funding has or will be reduced in 2007.

European Funding

The current Programme Funding 2000-2006 was £509,800,000, made up of £416,800,000 of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) and £93,000,000 of European Social Funds (ESF).

In 2005, 12 groups operating in Hartlepool benefited from ERDF/ESF the total value of the funding being £1,005,868. In 2006 the number of groups operating in Hartlepool and benefiting from ERDF/ESF dropped with the value of the grants also reducing to £236,674.

Priority 4 Targeted Communities

In the current programme, the voluntary/community sectors main route to European Funding is through Priority 4 "Targeted Communities". The total Priority 4 funding available was £104,470,000. This was made up of £58,560,000 of ERDF and £45,910,000 of ESF. From the Priority 4 funding the Hartlepool package has been offered £14,829,413, however, one project which covers the whole of the Tees Valley was awarded £4,361,485, leaving £10,467,928 for the other groups in the Hartlepool package. This amounts to 10.2% of the funding available for the North East, whereas the population of Hartlepool is only 3.54% of the total North East population. Thus, in the current programme, Hartlepool Targeted Communities Package has had almost 3 times the level of grants it would have received if the grants had been allocated on a population basis. This was achieved by good bids and hard work by the Hartlepool Targeted Communities Package Partnership.

Voluntary/community sector organisations in Hartlepool had grants of £4,795,643 in the period 2000-2006. This equates to 45.81% of the Hartlepool Package total of £10,467,928. Over the 7 year period this is an average of £685,902 per year.

Indications from Government Office North East (GONE) are that we can expect European Funding in the new programme 2007 to 2013 to be about half of the amount we currently receive as a result of the enlargement of the European Union.

Considering the position for the 2007 – 2013 programme the situation seems bleak. If the new Programme has an equivalent of the Targeted Communities Priority 4 and if it gets the same percentage of funding the situation could be as follows; North East Programme could amount to £250,000,000, if 20% was ring-fenced for a Communities Priority it would amount to £62,500,000 and so Hartlepool with a population of 3.54% could expect £2,212,500. If the voluntary/community sector were awarded 45.81% of this funding in line with the current programme this would amount to £1,013,546. On average £144,792 per year which is only 21% of what they are currently receiving.

Objective 3

The Objective 3 funding is all ESF which means it is largely used for vocational training. During the current programme the voluntary/community sector in Hartlepool accessed very little funding from Objective 3 because the Targeted Communities package was more suited to their needs.

The Objective 3 funding for most of the programme period has been run on a co-financing basis with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Job Centre+ providing 55% of the funding and ESF providing the other 45% enabling projects to get 100% of their funding from one source.

While co-financing sounds beneficial because 100% of the funding comes from one source it has not been a good source of funding for the voluntary sector because the LSC and Job Centre+ preferred to give only large contracts because of the costs associated with the administration of contracts. In the later part of the programme the Council has been able to put together consortium bids which have been successful in Objective 3 bidding rounds. The Council has then been able to allow the voluntary/community sector to be partners or sub-contractors and thus access Objective 3 funds which otherwise they might have not been able to access.

2007 – 2013 Programme

The UK Government has published the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for consultation. This document sets out the Government's plan for the operation of European Funding for the 2007 – 2013 Programme. While no decisions have been made at this time the NSRF does suggest that all ESF be distributed through Co-financing in a national programme administered by the regions. If the Co-financing is run along the same lines as the current programme then it is likely that the voluntary/community sector will again find it difficult to access the funding.

Appendix 8 details the groups who had benefited from ESF/ERDF and NRF.

SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET (SRB) – THE SINGLE PROGRAMME

The SRB began in 1994 to enhance the quality of life for local people in areas of need by reducing the gap between deprived and other areas and between different groups. The SRB was replaced by the Single Programme in March 2006. The Single Programme goals are to further the economic development and the regeneration of the region, promote business efficiency, investment and competitiveness in the region, generate employment, encourage and enhance the development and application of relevant work skills of the people living here.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) was introduced in 2001 for those neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived of areas in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. NRF is to be used to improve services in those neighbourhoods and to narrow the gap between those areas and the rest of the country. Hartlepool has received NRF since 2001 and has 7 neighbourhoods eligible for funding, Burbank, Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, North Hartlepool, Owton, Rift House/Burn Valley, Rossmere and the NDC. The Hartlepool Partnership has overall responsibility for agreeing the NRF programme and the allocation to each of the

eligible themes. There are a number of VCS groups delivering NRF projects on behalf of the Partnership. The annual allocation for Hartlepool has reduced since 2005/2006: the actual allocations from 2001/2002 to 2007/2008 are as follows:-

YEAR	ALLOCATION
2001/2002	£1,568,759
2002/2003	£2,353,139
2003/2004	£3,137,518
2004/2005	£4,029,589
2005/2006	£5,367,695
2006/2007	£4,830,926
2007/2008	£4,375,218

The current NRF programme will run until 31st March 2008 with on going funding subject to the National Spending Review in 2007.

BIG LOTTERY FUND

Formally known as the Community Fund, the purpose of the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) is “to bring real improvements to communities and the lives of those most in need”. The BLF will have £600m to distribute per year in the areas of health, education, environment, and charitable expenditure. Funding for the vcs should amount to 60-70% of overall BIG funding or approximately £400m per year.

BIG Funding for the North East: The North East Regional Board has agreed that regional allocations should be based on both population and deprivation. For the Reaching Communities programme the board have agreed that the allocation should be based on 50/50 on regional population and deprivation levels. This is likely to be the approach on other new programmes as they are launched. The INVEST2006 came to the conclusion that when BIG was launched that the funding available to the vcs would be less than the amount that was available through the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund. BIG have disputed this saying that it will provide more funding to North East voluntary organisations than the Community Fund did because it is a much larger organisation with a far higher annual grant. INVEST’s estimate is based on the VCS getting the same percentage share that it received from the combined Community Fund/New Opportunities Fund but the amount could be more or less depending on a number of factors, some of them unknown, changes to BIG’s policy, deprivation weighting and the sale of lottery tickets. BIG have stated that “for the sector to benefit fully, we need local organisations to submit high quality bids to the range of new programmes that BIG have launched”.

Regardless of the amount of funding available via BIG it would seem that there is a massive increase in demand from the region. BIG have reported that some current programmes are 88 times oversubscribed, this is most likely due to groups trying to replace other funding streams which are coming to an end.

CHANGE UP

The Change Up funding was designed by the Government to assist organisations which provide basic infrastructure to help other voluntary/community organisations. In 2005/2006 this amounted to £926,420 for the Tees Valley. Hartlepool organisations provided many of the services and outputs for this fund and accessed £314,092.

In 2006/2007 the Change Up programme has been replaced by grants from Capacity Builders and the budget is likely to be in the region of £410,788 less than half of what was available in 2005/2006. As a result in the reduction in funding it is unlikely that Hartlepool organisations will receive much more than £100,000.

The reduction in these 4 types of funding will cause more pressure on other funding streams, including local government funding, Community Pool included, as groups endeavour to replace the funding they have lost.

RESEARCH INTO “THE FUNDING CRISIS”**Invest 2006 Campaign**

The impact of the loss/reductions of these and other funding streams has been the subject of a campaign. The main aim of the Invest 2006 Campaign was to secure adequate funding in the North East for the contribution by voluntary and community groups to social and economic regeneration for 2006 and beyond. The Campaign estimated in that in June 2004 that there would be a £50 million deficit in funding to the VCS in the North East following reductions in European funding, the demise of SRB and changes to lottery funding (BLF). Further research was undertaken, using the latest information available, to ascertain whether the gap is still £50m. The findings suggest that the total predicted loss of funding from the three sources mentioned above, SRB/Single Pot, European Funding and BLF for the periods 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008 onwards are £38 - £40.2 m, £44.7-£46.7m and £47.5-£47.7m respectively.

Predicted Loss of Funding to VCS in North East 2006 and Beyond

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008 onwards
SRB Single Pot	£17m	£19.5m	£15.2 - £17m
EU Funding	£18.7m	£22.7m	£28m
BLF	£2.5m - £4.5m	£2.5m - £4.5m	£2.5 -£4.5m
Total Deficit	£38 - £40.2m	£44.7 - £46.7m	£47.5 - £47.7m

The research also suggests that this loss of funding could result in the loss of 1880 jobs in the North East and a reduction of 4,000 volunteers working with and for disadvantaged people and communities.

“The calculations are technical and precise estimates about future funding to the VCS depend upon too many factors to be accurate but we are confident that approximate estimates are useful.”

Invest 2006 campaign has been calling for recognition from all parts of government of the essential role of voluntary and community groups to social regeneration and well being in the North East and commitment from those funders to enable voluntary and community groups to deliver social and economic regeneration.

Invest 2006 Campaign produced a Case Study Report in July 2005, to highlight the value of work done by voluntary and community organisations throughout the region. One group from Hartlepool (West View Project) was used as a case study. However, the reductions in funding will affect groups wherever they are based in a similar manner and information can be gleaned from the experiences of others.

Facing the Future: Report of the University of Teesside

More recently in March 2006 a report was published by the University of Teesside entitled "Facing the Future: a study of the impact of a challenging funding environment on the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North East of England" it was written to inform the work of the Voluntary and Community Sector Task Force, which was established to address the issues of the loss of resources in the North East after 2006.

The three main aims of the study were:

- To explore the key characteristics of the voluntary and community sector (vcs) focusing on patterns of employment, types of governance, sources of income, beneficiaries and the functions of organisations
- To explore the funding expectations of voluntary and community organisations (vcos) in view of the predictions about the changing funding environment post 2006 – to assess the potential impact of funding on VCOS and investigate the consequences for their beneficiaries and for the well being of the region.
- To research the extent to which the vcs is preparing for a changed funding environment – to assess the extent to which the sector was realistic about its sustainability.

The findings of this report provide a valuable insight into the situation in the North East which also has a bearing on the local situation. However inferred, lack of preparation and willingness to face up to the immediate funding crisis is worrying, there is little reason to suggest that the Hartlepool position varies significantly from this North East study. It is worth highlighting in the body of this report the findings of the University of Teesside which relate to Planning for the Future can be found at paragraph 7.3 of the executive summary of the report which can be found for information as **Appendix 9**.

THE IMPACT OF LOSS OF FUNDING ON LOCAL SERVICES 2006/07 – Q24, Q27

In response to question 24:- "What part, if any of your activities may be affected by a reduction in funding from major sources?", one group reported a loss of funding of £211,000 another £195,500. Several groups responded that their services/projects would cease and closure was a possibility another group said they expected to have to make a third of their staff redundant and others reported that they expect to have to make staff cuts in the near future. Not all 55 groups answered question 24, but from information that has been provided it would seem that at least 24 fulltime jobs

and 48 part-time jobs are at risk as a result of known reductions in funding, if alternative funding streams cannot be found. Also, groups have indicated that the number of volunteers will reduce by 84 as a result in the demise of services/projects.

Question 25 asked of those groups who have benefited from European Structural Funds what strategies they have considered to ensure that beneficiaries are supported when funding was/is withdrawn and question 27 asked if the group had an action plan in place to pre-empt the withdrawal of any of the funding streams.

At **Appendix 6** the responses to Q24 and Q27 have been detailed. It would seem that many groups do not have an action plan for the future and those that do are reliant on securing contracts from the Local Authority or PCT to sustain their services.

From a local Hartlepool perspective, the limited response and failure to seriously plan for the future not only worryingly reflects the North East research, it would also suggest that many groups are burying their heads in the sand rather than planning for changed circumstances.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Community Pool is the council's main source of financial support to the vcs targeted to the core costs of an organisation with the main priority being the staffing costs of a group. The main aim of the Community pool is to support those aspects of the activities of the vcs that clearly reflect the aspirations of the Council's Community Strategy. The main objective of the Community Pool is to support the activity of Strengthening Communities, which is one of the 7 aims and themes of the Community Strategy.

Community Pool resources are targeted to vulnerable sectors of the community and to those organisations delivering effective and appropriate services that complement the Authorities strategic aims, "to empower individuals, groups and communities and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives".

Evidence suggests that Community Pool recipients are in a stronger position to lever in other funding as many funders look to the Local Authority to support an organisation before they themselves with commit any funding. The reduction in other funding streams is likely to put even more pressure on the Community Pool as groups seek to replace funding they have lost from other sources including funding which is cyclical and time limited.

Appendix 10 provides information relating to the value of the Community Pool over the last 3 years and the value of the bids that were made in those financial years. The Community Pool has been oversubscribed each year and the trend is likely to continue.

An award from the Community Pool also has added value because groups who are awarded a grant can also benefit from an additional 20% non domestic rate relief enabling the group to claim 100% rate relief. The scheme does not stipulate that the grant has to be of a certain value so any amount of support from the Community Pool will trigger this additional support from the Local Authority.

If the reduction in other funding sources does result in the Community Pool being substantially oversubscribed, as is expected, this could potentially mean that the criteria of the Community Pool would need to be reviewed in order to assist the process of targeting available funding to groups who form the major infrastructure of the vcs in Hartlepool and who are able to provide support to other groups.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This report has highlighted a number of changes in the financial landscape and a prevailing uncertainty relating to funding of the voluntary sector which will affect the sustainability of community and voluntary sector groups operating in Hartlepool and will put at risk the services they are providing. It is obvious that the Local Authority will not be in a position to replace funding that has been suggested will be lost and it is inevitable that demand on Local Authority funding will be increased. Therefore, consideration should be given to how the Local Authority can assist the groups who are delivering services for the benefit of local residents which are considered by the council to be of strategic importance. These could include:-

- (i) The criteria of the Community Pool could be reviewed to continue to target resources effectively, with the emphasis being the provision of providing funding for those groups who make up the major infrastructure of the community/ voluntary sector and who provide capacity building support to other groups. This process could reduce the number of groups eligible for funding from the Community Pool.
- (ii) Increased levels of funding could be made available to groups who fit the new criteria appropriate to need, for core activity, not service provision.
- (iii) Groups who are not currently in receipt of grant aid from the Community Pool or **other Local Authority support** cannot benefit from 100% non-domestic rate relief on their premises. If the current criteria of the Community Pool was amended to allow groups with NDR liabilities to apply for a nominal grant then this would trigger the additional 20% discretionary rate relief which could be of great benefit to the group with minimal cost to the Community Pool.
- (iv) Encourage future amalgamations of groups with similar objectives.
- (v) More joint sharing of premises and services where such facilities exist or can be created to secure sustainability.
- (vi) Support from Community Pool funds may be limited to core cost supply only, allowing groups to expand and contract in line with external grant or project development which may be time limited.

The lack of awareness of forthcoming changes to the funding environment is a worrying feature of these research findings and begs the question: Why are so many VCOs un-informed, ill-informed or ignoring the potential impacts of changes to the funding environment post 2006? This research suggests that many small and medium sized VCOs lack capacity and capability in terms of business planning and strategic planning because they have inadequate governance structures in place to provide the support the organisation needs. As a consequence, organisations run on a 'hand-to-mouth' basis in the belief that a new funding source will come along soon; and, of course, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that in the past, this is

precisely what has happened. Clearly, the VCS Task Force and umbrella organisations which represent the VCS regionally, sub-regionally and locally need to address this issue by exploring mechanisms to engage and inform and prepare the sector for change.

Contact Officer: John Mennear, Assistant Director Community Services

Background Papers:

Facing the Future: A study of the impact of a changing funding environment on the Voluntary & Community Sector in the North East

INVEST2006 Campaign website: www.invest2006.org.uk



AUDIT OF COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS
IN HARTLEPOOL
JUNE 2006

- 1. Name of Group:
- 2. Address:
.....
.....
- 3. Telephone Number, Email Address and Website Address:
.....
.....
- 4. Main Contact Name and Role:
.....
- 5. Person(s) Completing Form and Role(s):
.....
.....
- 6. Please summarise the main aims and objectives of the group.
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

7. Please indicate below, the main activities of the group: (Please circle)

Advice	Advocacy
Arts & Cultural Activities	Campaigning
Counselling	Environmental Activities
Education	Health Improvement/Support
Housing Advice & Provision	Play Activities
Resource Centre	Social Activities
Self Help & Mutual Support	Sports & Recreation
Training & Community Education	Other (please specify)

.....

8. Does your group provide services/activities for:

- (a) All members of the community?
- (b) Only a specific target group in the community, e.g. young people, older people etc.
-
- (c) Some services for all members of the community and some for specific target groups
-

9. If you provide services for specific groups of people in the community, please indicate below the main groups that you work with or provide services for. (Please circle any that apply)

Carers	Children and Young People
Families	Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual
Homeless	Low Income Groups
Lone Parents	Older People
Offenders/Ex Offenders	People with Physical Disabilities
Unemployed/Workless People	Victims of Crime
Women & Girls	Volunteers
People with Learning Disabilities	People with Mental Health Difficulties

Other voluntary/community groups, residents associations

.....

People with health concerns (please specify)

.....

Substance misuse, e.g. alcohol, drugs (please specify)

.....

Black and minority ethnic groups (please specify which ones)

.....

Other (please specify)

10. Which part of Hartlepool does your group serve? (please circle)

- (a) Town wide and beyond
- (b) Town wide only
- (c) Local neighbourhood(s) only (please specify)

11. What is the main thing you do for your beneficiaries? (please circle)

- (a) Provide primary support services (e.g. accommodation, care etc)
- (b) Provide secondary support service (e.g. advocacy, advice, guidance)

12. How many people benefited from your services between April 2005 and March 2006?

Total number of different people:

Total number of different attendances:

Total number of groups supported (if applicable:

Other:

Describe the benefits to the beneficiaries of the services you provide:

.....
.....
.....

13. Is your group: (please circle more than one if appropriate)

- (a) A community/voluntary group without constitution
- (b) A community/voluntary group with a constitution
- (c) A company limited by guarantee
- (d) A registered charity
- (e) A co-operative
- (f) Trading as a community business/enterprise
- (g) Other (please specify)

14. What kind of Governing Body does your organisation have? (please circle)

- (a) Board of Trustees
- (b) Management Committee
- (c) Other (please specify)

15. How many people are on your Board of Trustees/Management Committee?

16. What is the average attendance at your Board of Trustees/Management Committee meetings?

17. Please detail the makeup of the Board of Trustees/Management Committee

(Please provide numbers attending from each category)

- (a) Users/members/volunteers

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APPENDIX A
Appendix 1

- (b) Paid employees of the group
- (c) Council Officers
- (d) Local Councillors
- (e) Other professional from other organisations/agencies
- (f) Other (please specify)

18. What was the group's income from, April 2005 to March 2006? (Please circle)

- (a) £1,000 - £9,999
- (b) £10,000 - £24,999
- (c) £25,000 - £49,999
- (d) £50,000 - £99,999
- (e) £100,000 - £149,000
- (f) £200,000 - £249,999
- (g) £250,000 - £299,999
- (h) £300,000 plus

19. What was the group's expenditure from, April 2005 to March 2006? (Please circle)

- (a) £1,000 - £9,999
- (b) £10,000 - £24,999
- (c) £25,000 - £49,999
- (d) £50,000 - £99,999
- (e) £100,000 - £149,999
- (f) £200,000 - £249,999
- (g) £250,000 - £299,999
- (h) £300,000 - plus

20. What is the groups estimated income from, April 2006 to March 2007? (Please circle)

- (a) £1,000 - £9,999
- (b) £10,000 - £24,999
- (c) £25,000 - £49,999
- (d) £50,000 - £99,999
- (e) £100,000 - £149,999
- (f) £200,000 - £249,999
- (g) £250,000 - £299,999
- (h) £300,000 plus

21. What are the main sources of funding for your work this year April 2006 to March 2007? (Please circle all that apply) Grant aid/contracts etc:

- (a) Central government grant
- (b) Regeneration partnership (e.g. NRF, NDC, SRB)
- (c) One North East Single Programme
- (d) Local Authority grant aid (e.g. Community Pool)
- (e) Hartlepool Primary Care Trust
- (f) Contract/service level agreement with Local Authority
- (g) Contract/service level agreement with the PCT
- (h) European programme, ESF, ERDF
- (i) Sure Start/Extended Schools

- (j) Community Fund/Big Lottery Fund
- (k) Other lottery distributor (Heritage Lottery Fund, Sports Lottery etc)
- (l) Charitable trusts – local or regional
- (m) Charitable trusts – national
- (n) Company sponsorship or donation from companies
- (o) Individual donations
- (p) Own fundraising e.g. charity shops, raffles, events

Earned income:

- (q) Membership subscriptions
- (r) Local fundraising
- (s) From selling products or services
- (t) Admissions
- (u) Other sources of income (please specify)

.....

.....

22. If the group is in receipt of grant aid from the Council's Community Pool for March 2006 to April 2007 what percentage of the groups annual turnover does the grant represent?

.....

23. From March 2006 to April 2007, what percentage of the group's core costs does the Community Pool grant cover?

.....

24. What part, if any of your activities may be affected by a reduction in funding from major sources? Please provide details of reductions in major sources of funding including European Funding.

.....

.....

.....

.....

25. If the group has benefited from European Structural funds what strategies have you actively considered to ensure that beneficiaries are supported when funding was/is withdrawn?

.....

.....

.....

.....

26. Has the group been affected by the withdrawal of any other funding streams? Yes/No (If yes, please circle and specify)

.....

.....
.....
.....
27. Does the group have an action plan in place to pre-empt the withdrawal of any of the funding streams such as seeking contracts/service level agreements?

.....
.....
.....
28. (i) As a result of funding being reduced have you had to reduce or discontinue the service(s) you deliver to the community from those delivered in 2005/06 for this current year 2006/07? Yes/No (If yes, please provide details)

.....
.....
.....
If the answer to question 28 is yes, please specify reductions in any of the following:

(a) Number of staff: Full time..... Part time.....

(b) Number of volunteers:.....

(ii) If you are in receipt of “major” core funding which is time limited please state the amount you will lose and in what year.

.....
.....
.....
29. How many paid staff, if any, does your group have? (If you have no paid staff, do not answer this question).

(a) Total number of paid employees

(b) Number of full-time

(c) Number of part-time

(d) Number of sessional staff

30. How many volunteers does your group have?

(a) The Board of Directors/Management Committee

- (b) Other volunteers
- 31. In an average week, what is the total number of voluntary hours worked by volunteers?**.....
- 32. What arrangements for using premises does the group have? (please circle)**
- (a) Ownership of a building
 - (b) Shared ownership of a building
 - (c) Renting a building – please go to question 33
 - (d) Leasing a building – please go to question 33
 - (e) Free use of a building – please go to question 33
 - (f) Other (please specify)
- 33. If the group owns or rents a building, is the group paying Rates to Hartlepool Borough Council? Yes/No (please circle)**
- If so, how much is due for 2006/2007? £.....
- 34. Is the group claiming Non Domestic Rate Relief?**
- If so, at what level? (e.g. 80% or 100%)
- 35. What level of satisfaction does your group have with its arrangements for using premises? (Please circle)**
- (a) High satisfaction
 - (b) Medium satisfaction
 - (c) Low satisfaction
- 36. Are the premises you use compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act? (Please circle)**
- (a) Yes, all premises used
 - (b) Yes, part of the premises used
 - (c) No, none of the premises used
 - (d) Don't know
- 37. Does your group have any of the following facilities or resources available for use by other community groups? (Please circle)**
- (a) Telephone/fax
 - (b) Computer/printer/internet
 - (c) Photocopier
 - (d) Meeting rooms
 - (e) Transport
 - (f) Other (please specify)
- 38. How does your group plan its future work? Does the group have an action or business plan? (Please circle)**
- (a) Yes
 - (b) No
- 39. How many years does the current action or business plan cover? (Please circle)**

- (a) One to three years
- (b) Three to five years

40. Has the group undertaken a quality assurance assessment i.e. PQASSO, Matrix, Investors in People? Please detail any progress/achievement in the chosen assessment framework.

.....

.....

.....

.....

41. In the past three years, has the group had any outside help/advice or support? (Please circle any that apply)

- (a) Setting up of new projects
- (b) Management of people
- (c) Funding advice
- (d) Business/forward planning
- (e) Financial management advice/support
- (f) Recruiting and supporting volunteers
- (g) Legal status (e.g. constitution, charity status, company status)
- (h) Legal responsibilities e.g. employment law, leasing property, tax, insurance
- (i) Skills development and training
- (j) Publicity and media
- (k) Personnel and staff issues
- (l) Quality assurance
- (m) ICT
- (n) Help with surveys
- (o) Policies and procedures
- (p) Other, please specify (e.g. technical help)

42. From where did you receive this advice/help/support? Please list the three most significant providers of advice/help support to your group in order of importance and value over the last three years.

(1 – high, 3 – low)

(1)

(2)

(3)

43. Over the last year, has the group needed outside support, but not been able to get it? If yes, why was this?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If yes, what was the support that was required?

44. Is the group a member of any formal networks? (Please circle)

- (a) Yes
(b) No

45. Please list the formal networks that the group belongs to.

46. How are you supported in getting involved in links with other community/voluntary local service delivery groups?

47. If you feel that there was any barriers to your groups fuller participation in these networks, please describe them:

Is there anything else you would like to add? Please make any additional comments below, please add an additional sheet if you would to expand on any of your answers identifying each question for which you have supplied additional information.

.....

Thank you very much for taking time to complete this questionnaire.

Please return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

If you have any questions relating to the content of the questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact:

Susan Rybak
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Hartlepool Borough Council
Adult & Community Services Department
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Municipal Buildings
Church Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7EQ

Telephone Direct Line: 01429 523474

Fax No: 01429 523450

Email address susan.rybak@hartlepool.gov.uk

AUDIT OF COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS KNOWN TO BE EMPLOYERS OF PAID STAFF OR OWNERS/LESSORS OF PROPERTY IN HARTLEPOOL JUNE 2006

GROUPS INCLUDED IN THE AUDIT:

THOSE THAT ARE HIGHLIGHTED DID NOT RESPOND BY THE DEADLINE

COMMUNITY POOL RECIPIENTS:

1. WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE
2. HARTLEPOOL CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
3. NORTH TEES WOMENS AID
4. RELATE NORTH EAST
5. HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP
6. VICTIM SUPPORT & WITNESS SERVICE TEESSIDE
7. HEADLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST
8. OWTON FENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
9. MANOR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
10. HARTLEPOOL VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
11. THE WHARTON TRUST
12. HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE CENTRE
13. WEST VIEW PROJECT
14. BELLE VUE COMMUNITY SPORTS & YOUTH CENTRE
15. OXFORD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH: THE ORB CENTRE
16. HEADLAND FUTURE
17. THE STUDIO
18. HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST
19. EPILEPSY OUTLOOK
20. HARTLEPOOL DEAF CENTRE
21. BLAKELOCK ELDERLY DAY CARE COOPERATIVE

HVDA DIRECTORY:

22. HARTLEPOOL & DISTRICT HOSPICE
23. HARTLEPOOL PATCH
24. HARTLEPOOL MIND
25. HARTLEPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP
26. HARTLEPOOL YOUTH LTD CAFÉ 177.
27. HEUGH GUN BATTERY TRUST
28. HMS TRINCOMALEE TRUST
29. HOPE PROJECT
30. THE HORIZON CENTRE
31. THE HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM
32. KIDDIKINS CHILDCARE
33. HART GABLES
34. HARTLEPOOL & DISTRICT DYSPRAXIA SUPPORT GROUP
35. HARTLEPOOL & EAST DURHAM ALZHEIMERS TRUST
36. HARTLEPOOL ART STUDIO LTD.
37. HARTLEPOOL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

- 38. HARTLEPOOL BLIND WELFARE ASSOCIATION
- 39. HARTLEPOOL CARERS
- 40. HARTLEPOOL CREDIT UNION
- 41. HARTLEPOOL MENCAP
- 42. ADVANCE
- 43. ANCHOR TRUST
- 44. B76 YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECT
- 45. BARNARDOS HARTBEAT
- 46. DISC
- 47. ENDEAVOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY
- 48. FAMILIES MATTER
- 49. GRANGE ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
- 50. OWTON MANOR WEST NW & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
- 51. MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
- 52. NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION
- 53. OWTON ROSSMERE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE LTD.
- 54. PARENTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT
- 55. THE POTTING SHED NORTH EAST LTD.
- 56. RESPECT
- 57. ROARING MOUSE DRAMA GROUP
- 58. SAMARITANS (ORGANISATION NOW DEFUNCT)
- 59. SETTLEMENT FURNITURE SERVICES
- 60. SKILLSHARE NORTH EAST
- 61. STONEHAM COMMUNITY SERVICES
- 62. VOLUNTARY WHEELS (NOT APPLICABLE)
- 63. WEST VIEW EMPLOYMENT ACTION CENTRE
- 64. HARTLEPOOL MS GROUP
- 65. ST. PAULS PROJECT TEES VALLEY TRUST

**ADDITIONAL GROUPS FOLLOWING RESEARCH WITH HVDA, OFCA
HEADLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST & NDC**

- 66. HORSLEY CENTRE
- 67. SOLID ROCK CAFE – CAFE
- 68. HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
- 69. HARTLEPOOL CANCER SUPPORT
- 70. OZ CENTRE
- 71. B.A.R.A.(CORNER HOUSE PROJECT)
- 72. ST JOHN AMBULANCE
- 73. ELWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
- 74. HART VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION
- 75. FRIENDS OF THE ATHENAEUM
- 76. HARTLEPOOL ALZHEIMERS CENTRE (DUPLICATE)
- 77. HEADLAND BOXING CLUB
- 78. MAKING A DIFFERENCE (HAVEN)
- 79. NACRO
- 80. YES FOUNDATION
- 81. FOOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

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Appendix 3

	Q12	Q12	Q12	Q15	Q28	Q28	Q28	Q29	Q29	Q30	Q31
	NO OF DIFFERENT	NO OF	NO OF GROUPS	NO OF	REDUCTION IN			NO OF PAID		NO OF	NO OF VOL
	PEOPLE	ATTENDANCES	SUPPORTED	TRUSTEES	STAFF F/TE	P/T	VOLS	STAFF f/t	p/t	VOLS	HRS PER WEEK
COMMUNITY POOL RECIPIENTS											
CATEGORY 1:											
1.WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE	1112	2444		6	0	0	0	3	7	13	7
2.CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	10100	35605	0	11	0	0	0	11	10	22	8
3.NORTH TEES WOMENS AID	55	626	5	16	0	2	0	0	2	16	8
4.RELATE NORTH EAST											
5.HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP	2000		10	12	0	0	0	2	4	23	71
6.VICTIM SUPPORT & WITNESS SERVICE	2500		0	10	0	1	0	3	2	11	7
CATEGORY 2:											
7.HEADLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST	1599		20	9				5	4	15	30
8.OWTON FENS COMMUNITY ASN	5000	5000	15	7	0	0	0	9	20	46	800
9.MANOR RESIDENTS ASN	6446	29379	20	10	0	0	0	13	2	17	96
10.H. V. D. A.	726		200	17	1.8		0	17	7	17	
11.WHARTON TRUST				10	0	0	0	2	2	15	38
12.HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE		25877	39	10	1	2	2	3	5	23	108
CATEGORY 4:											
13.WEST VIEW PROJECT	3200	22500	50	14	0	0	18	8	0	18	60
14.BELLE VUE COMMUNITY SPORTS & Y C	8000	140000	50	14	0	0	0	19	35	24	40
15.ORB CENTRE	785		2	8	0	0	0	1	1	28	
16.HEADLAND FUTURE	600	8000	3	9	1	0	0	2	6	14	26
17.THE STUDIO	6768	15157	0	7	1	0	0	3	9	15	25
18.HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST	14112			10	0	4	2	7	27	10	100
19.EPILEPSY OUTLOOK	392	3422	0	11	0	0	0	1	0	42	242
20.HARTLEPOOL DEAF CENTRE	275 ?		3	11	0	0	0	1	2	28	35
21.BLAKELOCK DAY CARE COOPERATIVE	250		0	3	0	0	0	6	26	5	10
22.HARTLEPOOL & DISTRICT HOSPICE	600		0	12	0	0	0	30	47	264	1200
23.HARTLEPOOL PATCH	170		16	11	0	0	0	0	9	51	106
24.HARTLEPOOL MIND	100	800	0	7				8	8	7	5

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25.HPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP		15600	0	6	1	24	25	4	1	5	50
26.HARTLEPOOL YOUTH LTD			8	6	0	0	0	3	8	9	20
27.HEUGH GUN BATTERY TRUST	7500		0	7	0	0	0	0	0	67	160
28.HMS TRINCOMALEE TRUST	49355			18	0	0	0	5	9	38	20
29.HOPE PROJECT											
30.THE HORIZON CENTRE	500	1000	4	8	0	0	0	1	2	9	4
31.THE HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM											
32.KIDDIKINS CHILDCARE				7	12	14	10	12	14	24	
33.HART GABLES	400	300	0	13	0.25	0	0	0	2	13	12
34.HPOOL & DIST DYSPRAXIA SUPPORT GRP	40	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	9	30
35.HPOOL & E. DURHAM ALZHEIMERS TRUST	200	4032	0	7	0	0	0	6	1	9	16
36.HARTLEPOOL ART STUDIO	40	2800	0	12	0	0	0	1	5	19	45
37.HARTLEPOOL ASIAN ASSOCIATION											
38.HARTLEPOOL BLIND WELFARE ASN		5984	0	11	0	0	0	1	3	20	20
39.HARTLEPOOL CARERS	3000		6	11	0	0	0	4	6	43	102
40.HARTLEPOOL CREDIT UNION											
41.HARTLEPOOL MENCAP											
42.ADDVANCE	125	1962	0	10	0	0	0	2	2	10	27
43.ANCHOR TRUST	1000		35		0	0	0	2	1	2	10
44.B76 (07/08 4 posts)	68	136	7		0	0	0	7	4	3	9
45.BARNARDOS HARTBEAT											
46.DISC											
47.ENDEAVOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT	?	?	?	?	2	0	0	11	1	0	n/a
48.FAMILIES MATTER											
49.GRANGE ROAD RESOURCE CTRE	600	19160	17	9	0	0	0	1	6	5	20
50.OWTON MANOR WEST NW & RES ASN	3000	4700		17	2	1	0	2	11	21	200
51.MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS											
52.NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION											
53.OWTON ROSSMERE RESOURCE CENTRE	?	?	?	13	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	4	3	14
54.PARENTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT	235			8	0	0	0	2	0	17	20
55.THE POTTING SHED NORTH EAST											
56.RESPECT	?	?	?	10	1	0	25	4	1	55	78
57.ROARING MOUSE DRAMA GROUP				13	0	0	0	4	1	3	5
58.SAMARITANS (defunct)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
59.SETTLEMENT FURNITURE SERVICES											
60.SKILLSHARE NORTH EAST	420	1042	158	13	0	0	0	4	0	14	8

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61.STONEHAM	75	?	?	?	0	0	0	?	?	0	0
62.VOLUNTARY WHEELS											
63.WEST VIEW EMPLOYMENT ACTION CTRE	240			7	1	0	0	2	0	7	0
64.HARTLEPOOL MS GROUP											
65.ST PAULS PROJECT TEES VALLEY TRUST											
66.HORSLEY CENTRE											
67.SOLID ROCK CAFÉ	311	1332	0	7	0	0	2	0	2	12	108
68.HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL	450		6	21	0	0	0	0		21	?
69.HARTLEPOOL CANCER SUPPORT											
70.OZ CENTRE											
71.B.A.R.A. CORNER HOUSE PROJECT											
72.ST JOHN AMBULANCE											
73.ELWICK WOMENS INSTITUTE	?	?	?	12	0	0	0	0	0	12	?
74.HART VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION											
75.FRIENDS OF THE ATHENAEUM	225	300	6	16	0	0	0	1	1	16	12
76.HEADLAND BOXING CLUB	135		0	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	8
77.MAKING A DIFFERENCE (HAVEN)											
78.NACRO											
79.YES FOUNDATION											
80.FOOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE											
	132709	347158	680	510	24.05	48	84	235	321	1195	4020

	Q7: THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP																								
	A	A&C	C	ED	HA	HP	RC	SH	T&CE	ADV	CAM	EA	HIS	PA	SA	S&R	C&YW	SVCSV	DC	CD	ACC	DT	MH		
COMMUNITY POOL RECIPIENTS																									
CATEGORY 1:																									
1.WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE	O				O		O		O	O			O												
2.CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	O				O					O	O														
3.NORTH TEES WOMENS AID			O					O																	
4.RELATE NORTH EAST																									
5.HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP													O												
HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP:SHOPMOBILITY													O												
6.VICTIM SUPPORT & WITNESS SERVICE	O																								
CATEGORY 2:																									
7.HEADLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST	O	O							O							O	O								
8.OWTON FENS COMMUNITY ASN	O			O			O		O	O		O				O	O	O							
9.MANOR RESIDENTS ASN	O			O			O	O	O				O	O		O	O								
10.H. V. D. A.	O									O	O							O							
11.WHARTON TRUST	O			O			O		O					O	O										
12.HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE				O			O	O	O				O	O	O										
CATEGORY 3:																									
13.WEST VIEW PROJECT	O			O				O	O					O	O	O						O			
14.BELLE VUE COMMUNITY SPORTS & Y C							O		O				O	O	O	O									
15.ORB CENTRE	O						O									O	O								
16.HEADLAND FUTURE			O	O				O	O							O	O								
17.THE STUDIO		O							O																
18.HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST	O		O					O		O			O	O											
19.EPILEPSY OUTLOOK	O								O				O												
20.HARTLEPOOL DEAF CENTRE	O			O			O	O	O	O	O		O			O									
21.BLAKELOCK DAY CARE COOPERATIVE								O								O									
	A: ADVICE A&C: ARTS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES C:COUNSELLING ED: EDUCATION HA: HOUSING ADVICE HP: HOUSING PROVISION																								
	RC:RESOURCE CENTRE SH: SELF HELP & MUTUAL SUPPORT T&CE:TRAINING & COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADV: ADVOCACY																								
	CAM:CAMPAIGNING EA:ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES HIS:HEALTH IMPROVEMENT/SUPPORT PA: PLAY ACTIVITIES SA:SOCIAL ACTIVITIES																								
	S&R: SPORTS & RECREATION C&YW: COMMUNITY & YOUTH WORK SVCSV: SUPPORT TO VCS GROUPS & VOLUNTEERS DC: DAY CARE																								
	CD: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACC: ACCOMODATION FOR OTHER GROUPS DT: DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MT: MARITIME HERITAGE																								

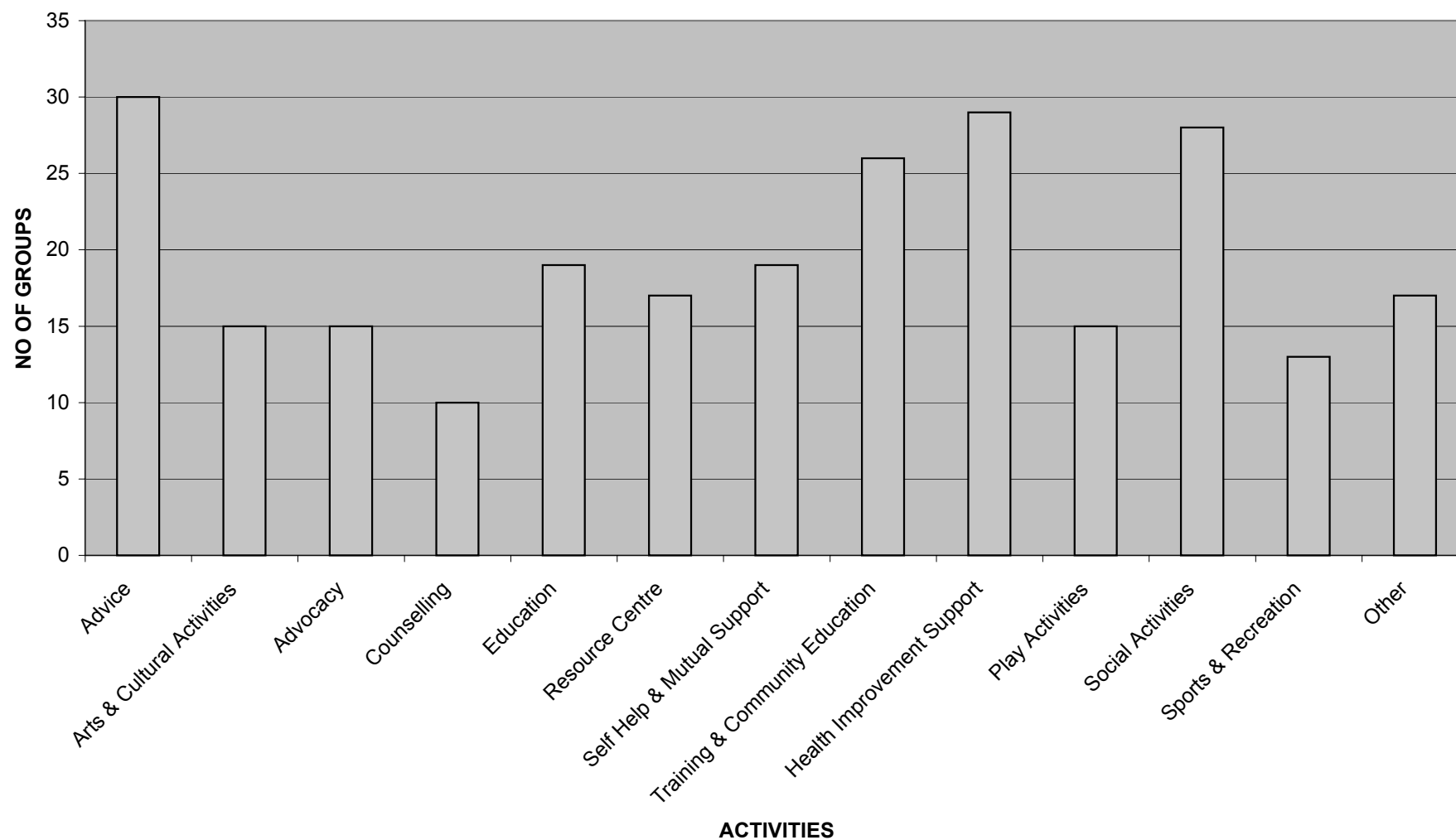
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	A	A&C	C	ED	HA	HP	RC	SH	T&CE	ADV	CAM	EA	HIS	PA	SA	S&R	C&YW	SVCSV	DC	CD	ACC	DT	MT
22.HARTLEPOOL & DISTRICT HOSPICE				O									O										
23.HARTLEPOOL PATCH								O	O				O	O									
24.HARTLEPOOL MIND	O		O	O			O	O	O	O			O		O								
25.HPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP	O						O	O		O				O	O								
26.HARTLEPOOL YOUTH LTD	O	O											O	O	O								
27.HEUGH GUN BATTERY TRUST		O		O					O														
28.HMS TRINCOMALEE TRUST																							O
29.HOPE PROJECT																							
30.THE HORIZON CENTRE							O						O										
31.THE HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM																							
32.KIDDIKINS CHILDCARE									O					O									
33.HART GABLES	O		O	O			O	O			O		O		O								
34.HPOOL & DIST DYSPRAXIA SUPPORT GRP	O			O						O			O		O	O							
35.HPOOL & E. DURHAM ALZHEIMERS TRUST	O		O						O				O		O				O				
36.HARTLEPOOL ART STUDIO		O						O					O		O								
37.HARTLEPOOL ASIAN ASSOCIATION																							
38.HARTLEPOOL BLIND WELFARE ASN	O						O	O	O	O			O		O								
39.HARTLEPOOL CARERS	O	O	O	O			O	O		O	O		O	O	O	O							
40.HARTLEPOOL CREDIT UNION																							
41.HARTLEPOOL MENCAP																							
42.ADDVANCE								O		O				O									
43.ANCHOR TRUST	O	O		O				O	O		O		O		O					O			
44.B76	O	O		O	O					O			O										
45.BARNARDOS HARTBEAT																							
46.DISC																							
47.ENDEAVOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT AGCY	O																						
48.FAMILIES MATTER									O				O	O	O								
49.GRANGE ROAD RESOURCE CTRE		O		O			O						O	O	O								
50.OWTON MANOR WEST NW & RES ASN	O	O		O			O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O							
51.MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS				O					O				O										
A: ADVICE A&C: ARTS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES C:COUNSELLING ED: EDUCATION HA: HOUSING ADVICE HP: HOUSING PROVISION																							
RC:RESOURCE CENTRE SH: SELF HELP & MUTUAL SUPPORT T&CE:TRAINING & COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADV: ADVOCACY																							
CAM:CAMPAIGNING EA:ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES HIS:HEALTH IMPROVEMENT/SUPPORT PA: PLAY ACTIVITIES SA:SOCIAL ACTIVITIES																							
S&R: SPORTS & RECREATION C&YW: COMMUNITY & YOUTH WORK SVCSV: SUPPORT TO VCS GROUPS & VOLUNTEERS DC: DAY CARE																							
CD: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACC: ACCOMODATION FOR OTHER GROUPS DT: DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MT: MARITIME HERITAGE																							

9.3(a)
APPENDIX A
Appendix 4

	A	A&C	C	ED	HA	HP	RC	SH	T&CE	ADV	CAM	EA	HIS	PA	SA	S&R	C&YW	SVCSV	DC	CD	ACC	DT	
52.NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION																							
53.OWTON ROSSMERE COMM ENTERPRISE				O			O		O				O										
54.PARENTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT			O					O					O										
55.THE POTTING SHED NORTH EAST																							
56.RESPECT			O						O				O		O								
57.ROARING MOUSE DRAMA GROUP	O									O						O							
58.SAMARITANS (NOW DEFUNCT)																							
59.SETTLEMENT FURNITURE SERVICES																							
60.SKILLSHARE NORTH EAST									O														
61.STONEHAM	O				O	O				O													
62.VOLUNTARY WHEELS (NOT APPLICABLE)																							
63.WEST VIEW EMPLOYMENT ACTION CTRE	O		O																				
64.HARTLEPOOL MS GROUP																							
65.ST PAULS PROJECT TEES VALLEY TRUST																							
66.HORSLEY CENTRE																							
67.SOLID ROCK CAFÉ		O							O						O	O							
68.HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL																							
69.HARTLEPOOL CANCER SUPPORT																							
70.OZ CENTRE																							
71.B.A.R.A. CORNER HOUSE PROJECT																							
72.ST JOHN AMBULANCE																							
73.ELWICK WOMENS INSTITUTE		O													O								
74.HART VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION																							
75.FRIENDS OF THE ATHENAEUM		O													O	O					O		
76.HEADLAND BOXING CLUB													O			O							
77.MAKING A DIFFERENCE (HAVEN)																							
78.NACRO																							
79.YES FOUNDATION																							
80.FOOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE																							
	A: ADVICE A&C: ARTS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES C:COUNSELLING ED: EDUCATION HA: HOUSING ADVICE HP: HOUSING PROVISION																						
	RC:RESOURCE CENTRE SH: SELF HELP & MUTUAL SUPPORT T&CE:TRAINING & COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADV: ADVOCACY																						
	CAM:CAMPAIGNING EA:ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES HIS:HEALTH IMPROVEMENT/SUPPORT PA: PLAY ACTIVITIES SA:SOCIAL ACTIVITIES																						
	S&R: SPORTS & RECREATION C&YW: COMMUNITY & YOUTH WORK SVCSV: SUPPORT TO VCS GROUPS & VOLUNTEERS DC: DAY CARE																						
	CD: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACC: ACCOMODATION FOR OTHER GROUPS DT: DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MT: MARITIME HERITAGE																						

Q7 THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUPS



ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONS 18, 19, 20, 24, 27					
	Q18:	Q19:	Q20:	Q24: reductions	Q27: is
	income	expenditure	estimated	in funding £'s and or loss of	action plan
GROUPS	2005 - 2006	2005 - 2006	income 2006/07	services	in place y/n
COMMUNITY POOL RECIPIENTS					
CATEGORY 1:					
1.WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	no effect on services	y
2.CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	all activities would be affected	n
3.NORTH TEES WOMENS AID: S.E.A.R.C.H.	£ 17,500.00	£ 17,500.00	£ 17,500.00	loss of service	n
4.RELATE NORTH EAST					
5.HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	all activities would be affected	n
HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP:SHOPMOBILITY				loss of service	n
6.VICTIM SUPPORT & WITNESS SERVICE	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	closure	n
CATEGORY 2:					
7.HEADLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	£ 175,000.00	£25,000 Northern Rock	n
8.OWTON FENS COMMUNITY ASN	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	loss of key staff	y
9.MANOR RESIDENTS ASN	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	projects cease	y
10.H. V. D. A.	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£211,000 ERDF	n
11.WHARTON TRUST	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 125,000.00	loss of staff	n
12.HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	loss of services/staff	n
CATEGORY 3:					
13.WEST VIEW PROJECT				£120,000 ESF NSF & NYA	y
14.BELLE VUE COMMUNITY SPORTS & Y C	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	will affect service provision	y
15.ORB CENTRE	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	loss of staff	n
16.HEADLAND FUTURE	£ 150,000.00	£ 175,000.00	£ 125,000.00	33% staff loss	y
17.THE STUDIO	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	all activities affected	n
18.HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST	?	£ 300,000.00	£ 275,000.00	all activities affected	y
19.EPILEPSY OUTLOOK	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	PCT funding reduced	y
20.HARTLEPOOL DEAF CENTRE	£ 74,500.00	£ 74,500.00	£ 74,500.00	PCT funding reduced	y
21.BLAKELOCK DAY CARE COOPERATIVE	£ 275,000.00	£ 275,000.00	£ 275,000.00	forced to increase charges	y

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APPENDIX A
Appendix 6

	Q18:	Q19:	Q20:	Q24: reductions	action plan
	income	expenditure	estimated	in funding £'s and or loss of	in place y/n
GROUPS	2005 - 2006	2005 - 2006	income 2006/07	services	
24.HARTLEPOOL MIND	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	all activities affected	y
25.HARTLEPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	all activities affected	n
26.HARTLEPOOL YOUTH LTD	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	NDC funding ceases 2008	n
27.HEUGH GUN BATTERY TRUST	?	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	not affected	n
28.HMS TRINCOMALEE TRUST	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	reliant on earned income	n
29.HOPE PROJECT					
30.THE HORIZON CENTRE	£ 75,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	NDC funding ceases 2006	n
31.THE HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM					
32.KIDDIKINS CHILDCARE	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 37,000.00	60% reduction in funding	n
33.HART GABLES	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	staff cuts/loss of services	n
34.HPOOL & DISTRICT DYSPRAXIA SUPPORT GROUP	£ 17,500.00		£ 17,500.00	n/a	n
35.HPOOL & E. DURHAM ALZHEIMERS TRUST	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	n/a	y
36.HARTLEPOOL ART STUDIO	£ 37,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 17,500.00	PCT funding reduced	n
37.HARTLEPOOL ASIAN ASSOCIATION					
38.HARTLEPOOL BLIND WELFARE ASN	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	possible reduction in PCT funding	n
39.HARTLEPOOL CARERS	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	£ 275,000.00	50% reduction in funding/services	y
40.HARTLEPOOL CREDIT UNION					
41.HARTLEPOOL MENCAP					
42.ADDVANCE	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	n/a	n
43.ANCHOR TRUST	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	n/a	n
44.B76	£ 275,000.00	£ 275,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£195,500 4 fte jobs	n
45.BARNARDOS HARTBEAT					
46.DISC					
47.ENDEAVOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	PCT & NDC £22,000 staff cuts	n
48.FAMILIES MATTER	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 37,000.00	reduction in services	n
49.GRANGE ROAD RESOURCE CTRE	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	reduction in courses	n
50.OWTON MANOR WEST NW & RES ASN	?	?	?	all services affected possible closure	y
51.MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	£ 300,000.00	1 ft post lost	y
52.NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION					
53.OWTON ROSSMERE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE	£ 125,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	n/a	n
54.PARENTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT	£ 75,000.00	£ 37,000.00	£ 75,000.00	all services affected	n
55.THE POTTING SHED NORTH EAST					

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APPENDIX A
Appendix 6

	Q18:	Q19:	Q20:	Q24: reductions	action plan
	income	expenditure	estimated	in funding £'s and or loss of	in place y/n
GROUPS	2005 - 2006	2005 - 2006	income 2006/07	services	
56.RESPECT	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	n/a	y
57.ROARING MOUSE DRAMA GROUP	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00		n/a	y
58.SAMARITANS (DEFUNCT)	x	x	x	x	
59.SETTLEMENT FURNITURE SERVICES					
60.SKILLSHARE NORTH EAST	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	£ 225,000.00	closure	y
61.STONEHAM	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	£ 125,000.00	n/a	n
62.VOLUNTARY WHEELS					
63.WEST VIEW EMPLOYMENT ACTION CTRE	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00	closure	n
64.HARTLEPOOL MS GROUP					
65.ST PAULS PROJECT TEES VALLEY TRUST					
66.HORSLEY CENTRE					
67.SOLID ROCK CAFÉ	£ 17,000.00	£ 17,000.00	£ 17,000.00	possible reduction in services	n
68.HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	n/a	n
69.HARTLEPOOL CANCER SUPPORT					
70.OZ CENTRE					
71.B.A.R.A. CORNER HOUSE PROJECT					
72.ST JOHN AMBULANCE					
73.ELWICK WOMENS INSTITUTE	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	n/a	n
74.HART VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION					
75.FRIENDS OF THE ATHENAEUM	£ 17,500.00	£ 17,500.00	£ 17,500.00	n/a	n
76.HEADLAND BOXING CLUB	£ 17,500.00	£ 17,500.00	£ 17,500.00	n/a	n
77.MAKING A DIFFERENCE (HAVEN)					
78.NACRO					
79.YES FOUNDATION					
80.FOOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE					
	£ 6,361,500.00	£ 6,075,500.00	£ 6,573,000.00		

QUESTION 21: FUNDING SOURCES	CGG	REGEN	ONE	LA	HPCT	SLALA	SLAPCT	ESF/ERDF	SS	BIG	LOTT	CTL/R	CTN	CSPON	DON	FUND	SUBS	LF	SP/S	AD	
COMMUNITY POOL RECIPIENTS																					
CATEGORY 1:																					
1.WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE																					
2.CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU																					
3.NORTH TEES WOMENS AID																					
4.RELATE NORTH EAST																					
5.HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP																					
HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP:SHOPMOBILITY																					
6.VICTIM SUPPORT & WITNESS SERVICE																					
CATEGORY 2:																					
7.HEADLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST																					
8.OWTON FENS COMMUNITY ASN																					
9.MANOR RESIDENTS ASN																					
10.H. V. D. A.																					
11.WHARTON TRUST																					
12.HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE																					
CATEGORY 3:																					
13.WEST VIEW PROJECT																					
14.BELLE VUE COMMUNITY SPORTS & Y C																					
15.ORB CENTRE																					
16.HEADLAND FUTURE																					
17.THE STUDIO																					
18.HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST																					
19.EPILEPSY OUTLOOK																					
20.HARTLEPOOL DEAF CENTRE																					
21.BLAKELOCK DAY CARE COOPERATIVE																					
	CGG: CENTRAL GVT GRANT REGEN: REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP ONE: ONE NE SINGLE PROG LA: LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT AID																				
	HPCT: HARTLEPOOL PRIMARY CARE TRUST SLALA: CONTRACT SLA WITH LA SLAPCT: CONTRACT SLA WITH PCT																				
	ESF/ERDF: EUROPEAN PROGRAMME SS: SURE START BIG: BIG LOTTERY FUND LOTT: OTHER LOTTERY																				
	CTL/R: CHARITABLE TRUSTS LOCAL/REGIONAL CTR: CHARITABLE TRUSTS NATIONAL CSPON: COMPANY SPONSORSHIP/DONATIONS																				
	DON: DONATIONS FUND: OWN FUNDRAISING SUBS: SUBSCRIPTIONS LF: LOCAL FUNDRAISING SP/S SELLING PRODUCTS/SERVICES																				
	AD: ADMISSIONS																				
	CGG	REGEN	ONE	LA	HPCT	SLALA	SLAPCT	ESF/ERDF	SS	BIG	LOTT	CTL/R	CTN	CSPON	DON	FUND	SUBS	LF	SP/S	AD	

22.HARTLEPOOL & DISTRICT HOSPICE																				
23.HARTLEPOOL PATCH																				
24.HARTLEPOOL MIND																				
25.HPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP																				
26.HARTLEPOOL YOUTH LTD																				
27.HEUGH GUN BATTERY TRUST																				
28.HMS TRINCOMALEE TRUST																				
29.HOPE PROJECT																				
30.THE HORIZON CENTRE																				
31.THE HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM																				
32.KIDDIKINS CHILDCARE																				
33.HART GABLES																				
34.HPOOL & DIST DYSPRAXIA SUPPORT GRP																				
35.HPOOL & E. DURHAM ALZHEIMERS TRUST																				
36.HARTLEPOOL ART STUDIO																				
37.HARTLEPOOL ASIAN ASSOCIATION																				
38.HARTLEPOOL BLIND WELFARE ASN																				
39.HARTLEPOOL CARERS																				
40.HARTLEPOOL CREDIT UNION																				
41.HARTLEPOOL MENCAP																				
42.ADDVANCE																				
43.ANCHOR TRUST																				
44.B76																				
45.BARNARDOS HARTBEAT																				
46.DISC																				
47.ENDEAVOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT AGCY																				
48.FAMILIES MATTER																				
49.GRANGE ROAD RESOURCE CTRE																				
50.OWTON MANOR WEST NW & RES ASN																				
	CGG: CENTRAL GVT GRANT REGEN: REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP ONE: ONE NE SINGLE PROG LA: LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT AID																			
	HPCT: HARTLEPOOL PRIMARY CARE TRUST SLALA: CONTRACT SLA WITH LA SLAPCT: CONTRACT SLA WITH PCT																			
	ESF/ERDF: EUROPEAN PROGRAMME SS: SURE START BIG: BIG LOTTERY FUND LOTT: OTHER LOTTERY																			
	CTL/R: CHARITABLE TRUSTS LOCAL/REGIONAL CTR: CHARITABLE TRUSTS NATIONAL CSPON: COMPANY SPONSORSHIP/DONATIONS																			
	DON: DONATIONS FUND: OWN FUNDRAISING SUBS: SUBSCRIPTIONS LF: LOCAL FUNDRAISING SP/S SELLING PRODUCTS/SERVICES																			
	AD: ADMISSIONS																			
	CGG	REGEN	ONE	LA	HPCT	SLALA	SLAPCT	ESF/ERDF	SS	BIG	LOTT	CTL/R	CTN	CSPON	DON	FUND	SUBS	LF	SP/S	AD

51. MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS																						
52. NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION																						
53. OWTON ROSSMERE COMM ENTERPRISE																						
54. PARENTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT																						
55. THE POTTING SHED NORTH EAST																						
56. RESPECT																						
57. ROARING MOUSE DRAMA GROUP																						
58. SAMARITANS (NOW DEFUNCT)																						
59. SETTLEMENT FURNITURE SERVICES																						
60. SKILLSHARE NORTH EAST																						
61. STONEHAM																						
63. WEST VIEW EMPLOYMENT ACTION CTRE																						
64. HARTLEPOOL MS GROUP																						
65. ST PAULS PROJECT TEES VALLEY TRUST																						
66. HORSLEY CENTRE																						
67. SOLID ROCK CAFÉ																						
68. HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL																						
69. HARTLEPOOL CANCER SUPPORT																						
70. OZ CENTRE																						
71. B.A.R.A. CORNER HOUSE PROJECT																						
72. ST JOHN AMBULANCE																						
73. ELWICK WOMENS INSTITUTE																						
74. HART VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION																						
75. FRIENDS OF THE ATHENAEUM																						
76. HEADLAND BOXING CLUB																						
77. MAKING A DIFFERENCE (HAVEN)																						
78. NACRO																						
79. YES FOUNDATION																						
80. FOOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE																						
	CGG: CENTRAL GVT GRANT REGEN: REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP ONE: ONE NE SINGLE PROG LA: LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT AID																					
	HPCT: HARTLEPOOL PRIMARY CARE TRUST SLALA: CONTRACT SLA WITH LA SLAPCT: CONTRACT SLA WITH PCT																					
	ESF/ERDF: EUROPEAN PROGRAMME SS: SURE START BIG: BIG LOTTERY FUND LOTT: OTHER LOTTERY																					
	CTL/R: CHARITABLE TRUSTS LOCAL/REGIONAL CTR: CHARITABLE TRUSTS NATIONAL CSPON: COMPANY SPONSORSHIP/DONATIONS																					
	DON: DONATIONS FUND: OWN FUNDRAISING SUBS: SUBSCRIPTIONS LF: LOCAL FUNDRAISING SP/S SELLING PRODUCTS/SERVICES																					
	AD: ADMISSIONS																					

GROUPS IN RECEIPT OF ERDF/ESF NRF							
COMMUNITY POOL RECIPIENTS 2006/07	2005/2006	2005/2006	2006/2007	2006/2007	2007/2008	2007/2008	
CATEGORY 1:	ERDF/ESF	NRF	ERDF/ESF	NRF	ERDF/ESF	NRF	
1.WEST VIEW ADVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE							
2.CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU							
3.NORTH TEES WOMENS AID							
4.RELATE NORTH EAST							
5.HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP							
HARTLEPOOL ACCESS GROUP:SHOPMOBILITY							
6.VICTIM SUPPORT & WITNESS SERVICE							
CATEGORY 2:							
7.HEADLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST							
8.OWTON FENS COMMUNITY ASN						TBC	
9.MANOR RESIDENTS ASN							
10.H. V. D. A.						TBC	
11.WHARTON TRUST						TBC	
12.HARTLEPOOL PEOPLE							
CATEGORY 3:							
13.WEST VIEW PROJECT						TBC	
14.BELLE VUE COMMUNITY SPORTS & Y C							
15.ORB CENTRE							
16.HEADLAND FUTURE							
17.THE STUDIO							
18.HARTLEPOOL FAMILIES FIRST							
19.EPILEPSY OUTLOOK							
20.HARTLEPOOL DEAF CENTRE							
21.BLAKELOCK DAY CARE COOPERATIVE							

	2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008		
	ERDF/ESF	NRF	ERDF/ESF	NRF	*ERDF/ESF	NRF	
22.HARTLEPOOL & DISTRICT HOSPICE							
23.HARTLEPOOL PATCH							
24.HARTLEPOOL MIND							
25.HARTLEPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP							
26.HARTLEPOOL YOUTH LTD							
27.HEUGH GUN BATTERY TRUST							
28.HMS TRINCOMALEE TRUST							
29.HOPE PROJECT							
30.THE HORIZON CENTRE							
31.THE HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM							
32.KIDDIKINS CHILDCARE							
33.HART GABLES							
34.HPOOL & DISTRICT DYSPRAXIA SUPPORT GROUP							
35.HPOOL & E. DURHAM ALZHEIMERS TRUST							
36.HARTLEPOOL ART STUDIO							
37.HARTLEPOOL ASIAN ASSOCIATION							
38.HARTLEPOOL BLIND WELFARE ASN							
39.HARTLEPOOL CARERS						TBC	
40.HARTLEPOOL CREDIT UNION							
41.HARTLEPOOL MENCAP							
42.ADDVANCE							
43.ANCHOR TRUST							
44.B76							
45.BARNARDOS HARTBEAT							
46.DISC						TBC	
47.ENDEAVOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY							
48.FAMILIES MATTER							
49.GRANGE ROAD RESOURCE CTRE						TBC	
50.OWTON MANOR WEST NW & RES ASN						TBC	
51.MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS							
52.NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION							
53.OWTON ROSSMERE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE							
54.PARENTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT							
55.THE POTTING SHED NORTH EAST							

	2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008		
	ERDF/ESF	NRF	ERDF/ESF	NRF	ERDF/ESF	NRF	
56.RESPECT						TBC	
57.ROARING MOUSE DRAMA GROUP							
58.SAMARITANS (DEFUNCT)							
59.SETTLEMENT FURNITURE SERVICES							
60.SKILLSHARE NORTH EAST							
61.STONEHAM							
62.VOLUNTARY WHEELS							
63.WEST VIEW EMPLOYMENT ACTION CTRE						TBC	
64.HARTLEPOOL MS GROUP							
65.ST PAULS PROJECT TEES VALLEY TRUST							
66.HORSLEY CENTRE							
67.SOLID ROCK CAFÉ							
68.HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL							
69.HARTLEPOOL CANCER SUPPORT							
70.OZ CENTRE							
71.B.A.R.A. CORNER HOUSE PROJECT							
72.ST JOHN AMBULANCE							
73.ELWICK WOMENS INSTITUTE							
74.HART VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION							
75.FRIENDS OF THE ATHENAEUM							
76.HEADLAND BOXING CLUB							
77.MAKING A DIFFERENCE (HAVEN)							
78.NACRO							
79.YES FOUNDATION							
80.FOOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE							
TOTAL FUNDING	£ 1,005,868.00	£ 464,311.00	£ 236,674.00	£ 1,138,341.00	?	£ 490,733.00	
						plus TBC £'s Jobs & Economy Theme	

SOCIAL FUTURES
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**Facing the Future: a Study of the Impact
of a Changing Funding Environment
on the Voluntary and Community Sector
in the North East of England**



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Executive Summary

The findings of this research are based on a study of over 350 voluntary and community sector organisations in the North East of England undertaken in the summer of 2005 by a team of researchers at the Social Futures Institute, University of Teesside. The research was funded by Government Office for the North East to facilitate the work of the Voluntary and Community Sector Task Force. The Task Force is assessing the potential impact of changes to the funding environment which may reduce funding to the VCS by £50m post 2006. The key changes are the reduction / loss of European Union funding in the North East and an anticipated reduction in the level of lottery funding and Single Pot funding to the VCS.

This research project has explored three issues.

- Firstly, the key characteristics of the VCS have been investigated in order to help the Voluntary and Community Sector Task Force (VCSTF) get a clearer picture of the structure, governance and functions of the VCS in the North East.
- Secondly, the expected impact of changes in the funding environment which will take effect after 2006 has been explored in order to find out which parts of the sector are most vulnerable to funding shortfalls and which parts of the sector expect their income to remain static or rise over the next few years.
- Finally, the study has researched the extent to which the VCS as a whole is preparing for change in the funding environment in the future.

1 Structure and function of the VCS in the North East

The VCS, as a whole, is a relatively stable sector with 85 per cent of organisations having been established for more than five years. The sector is optimistic about its future with 94 per cent of VCOs expecting to be sustainable in the long term.

The sector is not homogenous in its structure. Instead, it is characterised by a wide variety of organisations which range from small locally based VCOs with no paid employees and limited income to very large regional and national organisations which employ full and part-time staff, together with volunteers, and have significant levels of income.

The key characteristics of the sector can be summarised as follows:

- 80 per cent of VCOs in the North East are registered charities. In terms of legal status, 32 per cent are unincorporated associations and 47 per cent were companies limited by guarantee.
- Organisations operate at different levels spatially. 17 per cent work within a single postcode area contrasting with 9.7 per cent which work nationally or internationally.
- Over 25 per cent of VCOs have an income above £250,000 a year, 35 per cent of VCOs are medium sized with income ranging from £50,000 - £250,000 and about 35 per cent of VCOs are smaller concerns with incomes lower than £50,000 a year.
- Most VCOs have multiple sources of income. However, the principal source of income for VCOs are government grants and contracts (distributed by local authorities, government departments, Primary Care

Trusts, Learning and Skills Councils, etc.) Over 13 per cent of funding comes from the national lottery, 24 per cent from charitable trusts and foundations, and the remaining 17 per cent from donations, company sponsorships and other earned income.

- In terms of their functions, the principal aim of 37 per cent of VCOs is to provide 'primary support services' to beneficiaries (such as accommodation, health care, childcare, training), 48 per cent provide 'secondary' support (such as information, advice and guidance, advocacy) and 12 per cent 'tertiary support' (such as campaigning and research).
- The VCS as a whole serves a wide range of beneficiaries. Often individual VCOs serve different beneficiaries. VCOs which support people with disabilities, disadvantaged people in urban areas, people with mental health problems, unemployed and workless people, and BME groups are relatively equally divided between primary and secondary functions

As the sector is very diverse in its structure, it is clear from this research that 'blanket statements' on what the needs of the VCS are may be of limited use in policy terms. Instead, it is important to recognise its diversity and to tailor policy to meet the needs of particular areas of the VCS.

2 Expectations about funding post 2006

The results of this research show that the VCS is more confident than may be expected about its future sustainability in terms of financial security. This confidence arises from a belief amongst VCOs that there is significant scope to raise its level of earned income. However, this general finding sits in opposition to other findings (summarised in Section 3 below) which strongly suggest that the sector is not yet prepared for changes in the funding environment. The principal findings of the research can be summarised as follows:

- Taking all factors into account, 54 per cent of the organisations believed that their income would decrease from 2006. 17 per cent expected it to increase.
- The sector as a whole has confident expectations about raising 'earned' income. 37 per cent of organisations aimed to raise income this way compared with only 11 per cent which are currently achieving this.
- Of those VCOs which anticipate an increase in overall funding, 52 per cent expect to increase their earned income, 52 per cent to increase donations, and 28 per cent to gain sponsorships.
- While much government emphasis is currently placed on VCOs tendering for contracts rather than grants, more than half of organisations still expected that grants would be amongst the most important sources of income in two years time.
- Expectations about future income levels vary to some extent between VCOs depending on their individual characteristics. In terms of their principal organisational activities, it is clear that those VCOs which are engaged in secondary support to beneficiaries (such as advice and guidance, advocacy, etc.) are significantly more pessimistic about the future than those which are engaged in primary support (such as the provision of accommodation,

healthcare support, training, etc.). Almost a quarter of VCOs which deliver primary support are optimistic about increasing income.

- Larger organisations are very much more optimistic about the future than their smaller counterparts, although smaller VCOs are not as pessimistic as medium sized organisations about the future: indeed, 37 per cent expected that their income would remain the same. Medium sized organisations which deliver secondary services are the most vulnerable in the sector.
- VCOs which have a wider area of operation (which tend to be larger VCOs) are generally more confident about the future than those which operate locally.
- Companies limited by guarantee (which tend to be larger organisations) are more optimistic about increasing income in the future than those VCOs with other governance arrangements. Amongst those VCOs which expect to lose income, however, governance does not seem to have any real relevance.
- VCOs anticipate many direct and indirect impacts on beneficiaries if funding levels fall. Direct effects include the reduction or cessation in the delivery of services to socially excluded people. Many VCOs anticipated that the indirect impact would be increased levels of social exclusion.
- It is anticipated that funding cuts may impact on volunteers, including loss of opportunities to volunteers which may have consequences for their personal motivation, self esteem and community engagement.

7.3 Planning for the future

While there are signs of change in the sector, the overall impression of this research is that most organisations have either not changed their practices or do not plan to change their practices at present.

- There is a low level of planning for forthcoming changes in the funding environment. 20 per cent of VCOs did not anticipate significant changes after 2006. Almost a quarter of VCOs did not know about possible changes, or if they did, have only begun discussing the issue in a preliminary way, over a half of organisation had no specific plans in place. At the other end of the spectrum, 9 per cent had already changed their strategy and a further 19 per cent now had a strategy in place.
- Medium sized organisations appear to be more active in planning for the future than large and smaller VCOs. However, the extent of preparation in this more vulnerable sub-set of the sector is patchy.
- About a half of VCOs expect that grants from government, foundations or lottery sources will remain vital for the sustenance of core activity. Questions need to be raised on the viability of the sector if this remains to be the dominant view on future funding given government emphasis on the move to a market place model of delivery of services through changed procurement practices in government departments, agencies and local authorities.
- Most VCOs are unaware of, unwilling to or ill-prepared to engage in contract work. While government wishes to encourage VCOs increasingly to engage

in contract work rather than relying on grant aid, 22 per cent of organisations are unaware of such opportunities. 17 per cent reject the idea because it runs against their core values. 40 per cent are aware of the option but require more information, support, or feel that there are too many barriers to do such work. About 22 per cent intend to tender for such work or are already doing so.

- It may be the case that resistance to contract work is based on a view that contracts may stifle innovation in the sector in comparison with grant-aided activity. Such a presumption could be based on the notion that the level of performance management employed in contract work necessarily constrains VCOs from trying out new practices. This assertion remains untested and there is room to explore this issue in more detail in future research.
- Commentators have observed that the VCS may be more successful if their efforts were combined. This research suggests little interest in merging with other organisations at present. Furthermore, only 20 per cent of VCOs are contemplating the possibility of working more closely with other VCOs or not-for-profit organisations. It is apparent from this research that VCOs strongly value their independence but that this may weaken the sector as a whole if competition over resources becomes too fierce once European and other sources of funding are significantly reduced.

The lack of awareness of forthcoming changes to the funding environment is a worrying feature of these research findings and begs the question: Why are so many VCOs un-informed, ill-informed or ignoring the potential impacts of changes to the funding environment post 2006? This research suggests that many small and medium sized VCOs lack capacity and capability in terms of business planning and strategic planning because they have inadequate governance structures in place to provide the support the organisation needs. As a consequence, organisations run on a 'hand-to-mouth' basis in the belief that a new funding source will come along soon; and, of course, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that in the past, this is precisely what has happened. Clearly, the VCS Task Force and umbrella organisations which represent the VCS regionally, sub-regionally and locally need to address this issue by exploring mechanisms to engage and inform and prepare the sector for change.

4 Policy implications¹

This research has demonstrated that the vast majority of VCOs expect to be sustainable in the long term in spite of the economic threats which face the sector as a whole. Many VCOs wish to increase earned income substantially over the next few years to counteract falling income from European sources, lottery funding and other government sources. The mechanisms by which the sector will achieve its aims are less clear. **This research casts serious doubt upon the preparedness of the VCS as a whole for change and instead suggests that the general sense of optimism about sustainability in the longer term may be misplaced.**

Arising from the policy analysis underpinning this research and the empirical findings presented in this research report, we make the following observations

¹ The views expressed in this section are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the VCS Task Force as a whole or of its individual members.

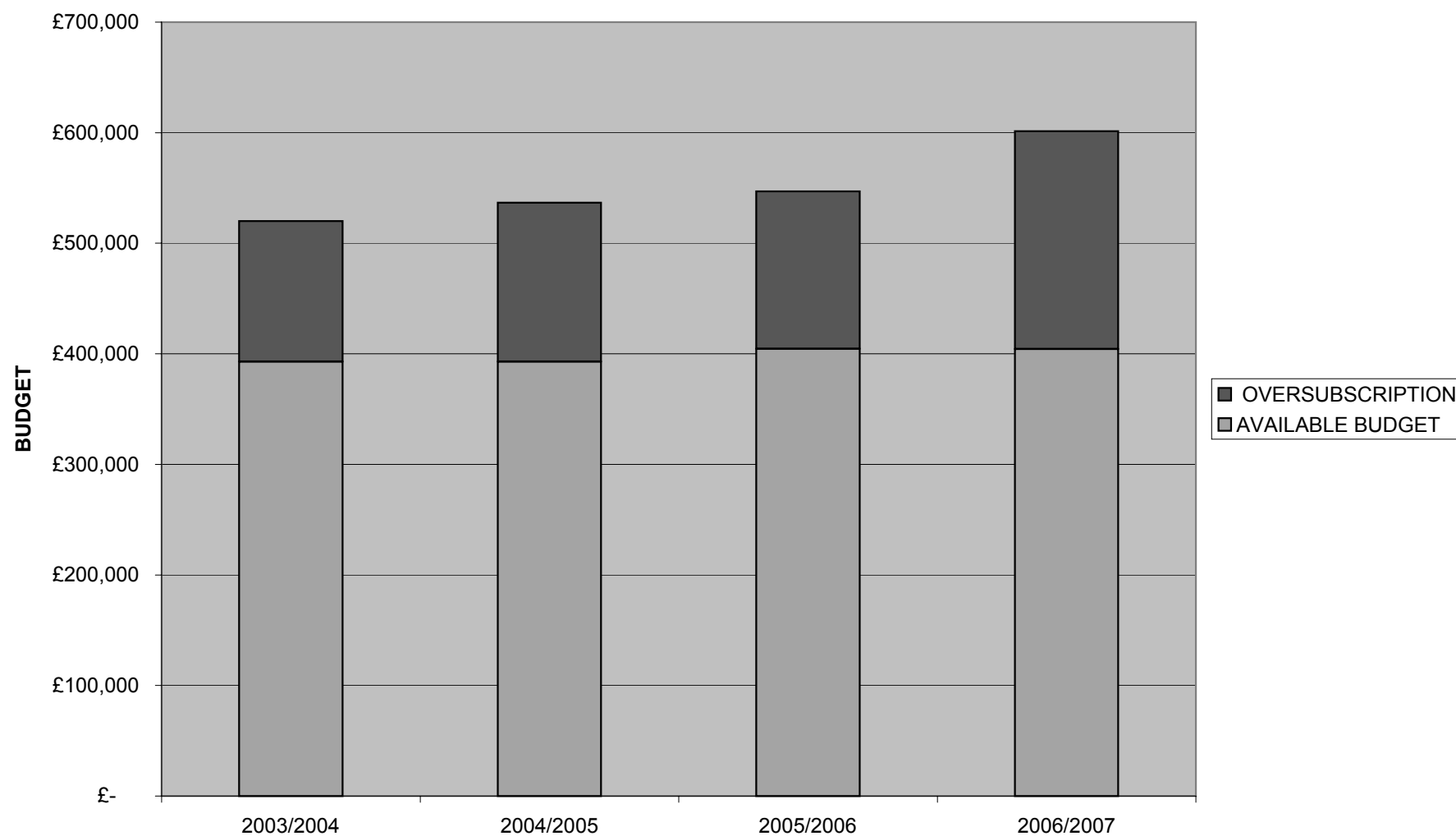
on the implications for the future development of government policy on the VCS and the response of the VCS to such developments.

- Currently, debates about the VCS are too preoccupied with discussion of its external and internal boundaries. A stronger emphasis on the functional value of VCOs in strengthening the social infrastructure and thereby supporting social, cultural and economic development may lead to a more positive debate on the value of the sector.
- The VCS as a whole may not yet fully have addressed the way it thinks about its 'business footing' in delivering services to the community and instead looks more closely to its 'value position' when defining the boundaries of the sector and the activities it performs. An increased emphasis on the enterprising nature of the VCS rather than focusing primarily on its 'independence' and different 'value system' may ultimately strengthen its position in the eyes of government.
- At present, there appears to be insufficient support offered to VCOs to engage in the tendering process. While there is an increased expectation that VCOs should be more 'businesslike', support for the sector from agencies which have a responsibility to build business confidence, capacity and competence is patchy. Local authorities, government departments and agencies are being encouraged by HM Treasury to simplify the process of tendering so that more VCOs have the capacity to become involved.
- VCOs generally have insufficient funds to engage in contract work where the risk is 'front loaded' (i.e. initial start-up payments are not made). Currently, the sector is insufficiently well informed on the rules surrounding contract funding arrangements and work needs to be done to challenge the perception that there are too many barriers to success. Government remains committed to the principles of encouraging the use of longer-term contracts to increase stability and there is provision for front loading of funds in competitive tendering where a clear need is identified at the outset and providing that outcomes are not at risk. Similarly, government is committed to reducing the level of bureaucracy facing bidders from the application stage to evaluation of outcomes, and to the principle of full-economic cost recovery. Much of the sector appears to remain unaware of these initiatives, so work needs to be done to change perceptions and provide information and support to the sector.
- The strong emphasis on maintaining the 'independence' of the sector and of the VCOs within it is evidenced by the relatively limited interest in VCOs working more closely together or considering merges to grow the size and footprint of individual organisations. This emphasis on independent action is explicable given that so much time is given by volunteers to the governance of VCOs and to the practice of service delivery. However, this may be detrimental to the sustainability of the sector.
- It is recognised by government that communication and trust between funding bodies and the VCS needs to improve. In part this may arise from a perception that VCOs do not yet operate as efficiently as they might. This research suggests that this perception is partially grounded in evidence, but not wholly so as many VCOs have strong governance structures and are run in a professional and businesslike way. There is a

need, therefore, to invest in the education and training of officers who have responsibility for procurement processes so that they will recognise the potential value of engaging the VCS in contract work.

- While Government has committed itself to the idea of mainstreaming key services often performed by the VCS in order to cement and build sustainable communities, there is currently no indication that the pace of change in government is likely to slow down over the next few years. A consequence of this may be that any attempt to mainstream services which the VCS can deliver in the longer term may be undermined.

DEMAND ON COMMUNITY POOL BUDGET COMPARED WITH AVAILABLE BUDGET



SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

9 February 2007



Report of: Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum

Subject: RAILWAY APPROACHES – FINAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the findings of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum following its investigation into Railway Approaches.

2. SETTING THE SCENE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 20 April 2006 the Forum suggested that the 'entrance into Hartlepool by train from both South and North' could be explored in detail during the 2006/7 Municipal Year. Furthermore, at a meeting to suggest potential scrutiny items for this Municipal Year between the Chair of this Forum, the Director of Regeneration and Planning Services, and the Mayor (as Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing) the issue of 'Railway Approaches' was again suggested as a Scrutiny topic. Subsequently, on 16 June 2006 Members of this Forum selected this topic as its first choice Scrutiny investigation for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.



Picture Opposite:

**Train arriving at
Hartlepool
Station**

- 2.2 From Members comments at this Forum's meetings on 20 April 2006 and 16 June 2006 a number of key issues emerged in relation to this inquiry:
- (a) Condition of the railway verges;
 - (b) Development sites, derelict land/buildings, and landscaping;
 - (c) The condition of Hartlepool Station given its role as part of the new Transport Interchange; and
 - (d) Impact of railway approaches on the continued regeneration of the town.
- 2.3 These issues were further developed into the 'Overall Aim of the Scrutiny Investigation' and the 'Terms of Reference' which are outlined in Sections 3 and 4 below.

3. OVERALL AIM OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 To examine the railway approaches into Hartlepool and develop suggestions for improvement.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 4.1 The following Terms of Reference for the review were agreed by the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum on 13 July 2006:-
- (a) To gain an understanding of key government policy areas relating to 'Railway Approaches';
 - (b) To gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in Hartlepool who have some responsibility for the appearance of the railway approaches into the town (i.e. commercial operator(s), regulators, private landowners, and the Council);
 - (c) To consider the impact of the railway approaches into Hartlepool on the town's image, particularly in terms of the ongoing regeneration of the town;
 - (d) To explore the railway approaches into the town from the north and the south;
 - (e) To identify key 'problem spots' and areas of good practice on the railway approaches into the town;
 - (f) To explore the condition of Hartlepool and Seaton Carew railway stations;

- (g) To consider issues of accessibility, particularly in terms of pedestrian access to Hartlepool Station from the Marina; and
- (h) To seek the views of the public in relation to the railway approaches into Hartlepool.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

5.1 Membership of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum for the 2006/7 Municipal Year:-

Councillors R W Cook, S Cook, Gibbon, Laffey, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, Richardson, Wallace, D Waller and Wright.

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson / Ted Jackson, Mary Power / John Lynch and Iris Ryder

6. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

6.1 Over the course of the investigation Members have considered evidence from a wide variety of sources, including:

- (a) Hartlepool Borough Council Officers;
- (b) The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing;
- (c) The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Transportation;
- (d) MP for Hartlepool
- (e) Network Rail;
- (f) Northern Rail;
- (g) Grand Central;
- (h) Chair of the Economic Forum;
- (i) Representative from 'Coastliners'; and
- (j) Written submission on behalf of the Community and Voluntary Sector

6.2 In addition, Members of the Forum undertook a site visit on the railway to explore the approaches into the town from the north and the south and to

compare them with neighbouring towns. At a later meeting of the Forum Members also viewed video footage taken during the site visit, which further informed discussions of the railway approaches.

FINDINGS

7. Key Government Policy

- 7.1 There is no single or unifying government policy in relation to Railway Approaches. Instead a fairly complex set of arrangements exist between private companies, national regulators and local government through which the responsibility for this issue is divided. A summary of the key responsibilities is provided below.
- 7.2 Following the privatisation of British Rail its functions were divided into two main elements. The first element consists of the national rail network (track, signaling, bridges, tunnels, stations and depots) and the second being the operating companies whose trains run on that network. In simple regulatory terms, the Office of Rail Regulators (ORR) is responsible for regulating the national rail network operator (Network Rail), while the Department for Transport looks after passenger and train-related matters. The focus of this Scrutiny investigation is concerned with the first element.
- 7.3 According to guidance from the ORR, Network Rail is a private sector monopoly owner and operator of a national asset of considerable public importance and as such is accountable to the public interest. It is, therefore, unable to operate, maintain and develop that asset according to purely commercial criteria, and is subject to regulation in a number of ways, primarily by the independent ORR. Consequently, ORR's principal function is to regulate Network Rail's stewardship of the national rail network. Representatives of the ORR were invited to attend the Scrutiny Investigation but felt it was more appropriate to provide guidance to the Scrutiny Support Officer for information gathering purposes.
- 7.4 The Local Authority has a role in relation to this issue through its responsibilities for Planning and Development Control. Indeed, the adopted Local Plan 2006, which forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, has a number of policies that are relevant to this issue, which are outlined in the next sub-section.
- 7.5 A further role for the Local Authority in relation to this issue, under Government policy, stems from its community leadership role and well-being powers. Indeed, the topic selection and subsequent evidence gathering of this Scrutiny Investigation have demonstrated enthusiasm amongst Members and officers to seek to drive this issue forward and foster partnerships in this respect. More recently the Local Government White Paper 2006 has identified a role for local authorities as 'place-shapers'

through supporting and working with other agencies and services to solve local problems / issues.

8. Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in Hartlepool who have responsibility for the appearance of the railway approaches into the town.

- 8.1 The national rail network infrastructure (track, signalling, bridges, tunnels and stations) is owned and operated by Network Rail. As such, Network Rail is an important organisation in terms of the railway approaches into Hartlepool.
- 8.2 When Network Rail attended the Scrutiny Forum to provide evidence they indicated that they operated a 'No Messin' programme / event, which is geared towards young people and focuses on issues like trespassing, graffiti, and vandalism. The representative of Network Rail indicated that they would be willing to bring this event to Hartlepool. Subsequent discussions amongst Members of the Forum have suggested support for this.
- 8.3 Network Rail also has a 'graffiti budget' to improve visual views. Their representative at the meeting on 29 September 2006 indicated that they would be open to developing a proactive approach here with the Authority. Again Members of the Forum have been supportive of developing this proposal.
- 8.4 In addition, Network Rail have a 24 hour national helpline (tel: 08457 11 41 41) for people to call in relation to any issues they may have with the railway infrastructure. The representative from Network Rail indicated that if they do not know about particular problems then they cannot respond to them. Consequently, the Forum has expressed a desire to publicise this number through its final report and through other mechanisms such as Hartbeat. During later discussions with Network Rail, at the meeting of the Forum on 18 January 2007, Members highlighted their concerns about litter and graffiti around the railway line in the town. Whilst it was acknowledged that Network Rail had a finite budget to respond to this issue it was agreed that further information from the Authority, about litter and graffiti, could usefully be fed back to Network Rail in the future.
- 8.5 More generally, Members of the Forum have identified a number of locations where they would like to see some form of screening of key 'problem spots' from the views from the railway. These locations are discussed in more detail below. However, it is necessary to recognise that Network Rail has strict safety guidelines for work carried out near railway lines and there are also restrictions on planting schemes that may encroach on the railway or lead to leaves falling on the track.
- 8.6 Whilst Network Rail owns all of the railway stations in the country, with the exception of a number of 'principal' stations, which it operates itself, it leases

the stations to whichever train operator is the principal user. The principal train operator in Hartlepool is Northern Rail.

- 8.7 During the evidence gathering session with Northern Rail they highlighted that they are a 'community railway' and as such they see themselves having a major role in working with local stakeholders including local authorities and were keen to engage in partnership. Northern Rail have a police and schools liaison officer who can become involved in initiatives geared towards preventing vandalism. Members of the Forum have indicated that such an arrangement should be extended to Hartlepool if possible.
- 8.8 The Council, through Objective C4 of the recently adopted Local Plan 2006, is committed to encouraging a high standard of design and the provision of a high quality environment in all developments and particularly those on prominent sites, including along the main rail corridors. Consequently, this commitment will relate to all new planning applications along the railway approaches. Network Rail is normally consulted on all planning applications in the vicinity of the railway line.
- 8.9 It is also emphasised in the Local Plan that it is important that a good first impression is given to potential investors and tourists and other visitors to the town traveling along the main roads and the railway. Consequently General Environmental Principles Policy GEP7 requires a particular high standard of design to improve the visual environment along, amongst other locations, the Middlesbrough to Newcastle Railway line.
- 8.10 The Local Plan also includes a number of policies relating to untidy sites and environmental improvements and the need to consider the visual appearance of the main approaches including the railway line. In addition, Hartlepool Railway Station is located within the Church Street Conservation Area which is subject to policies which seek to enhance the area (Policy HE1). Adjacent land parcels are subject to a variety of policies and land allocations. Some areas are subject to regulations to enforce planning conditions and other environmental controls. During the investigation the Forum has indicated that planning and development powers should be used proactively to enhance the railway approaches into the town.

9. To consider the impact of the railway approaches into Hartlepool on the town's image, particularly in terms of the ongoing regeneration of the town;

- 9.1 During the initial topic selection and scoping of the investigation Members of the Forum were particularly keen to explore the issue of 'Railway Approaches' from a regeneration perspective and from the impact of these approaches on the vision of the town. The (at that time) pending award of the 2010 Tall Ships event was an important factor motivating Members' interest in this issue. Indeed, on a number of occasions the award of the Tall Ships event has been likened to being Hartlepool's equivalent of the Olympics. The Tall Ships' Race will bring development opportunities to

Hartlepool. The Newcastle/Gateshead event in 2005 brought 1.5 million visitors and a reported £48 million in economic value. Furthermore, the recent award of the Grand Central contract to operate a direct rail link to London has also been highlighted as a significant development that enhances the potential for tourism and regeneration in the town. Consequently, maximising the impression that the Railway Approaches create of the town has been identified as particularly significant at this time.



Picture Opposite:

**A Tall Ship –
similar to the ones
coming to
Hartlepool in 2010**

- 9.2 The image and reputation of Hartlepool has changed radically over the last 15 years with the development of the Marina and associated visitor attractions, such as the Historic Quay, HMS Trincomalee and the Hartlepool Museum, and the ongoing regeneration of areas such as the town centre and the Headland.
- 9.3 Furthermore, Hartlepool's ongoing regeneration fits into a number of broader regional and sub-regional strategies such as:
- (a) The Northern Way;
 - (b) The Regional Spatial Strategy;
 - (c) The Tees Valley Vision;
 - (d) Tees Valley City Region Business Case (TVCRBC); and
 - (e) City Region Development Programme (CRDP)
- 9.4 Through the Northern Way, Hartlepool is recognised as an integral part of the Tees Valley City Region and as an integral part of accelerating growth in the North of England. Under the Northern Way a Tees Valley City Region Business Case (TVCRBC) and City Region Development Programme (CRDP) are being developed, which are geared towards providing a coherent economic analysis of the City Region and identifying how the City Region can improve its economic performance and how the Government can help it to do

so. The Northern Way Growth Strategy aims to reduce the output gap between the North and the rest of the UK by accelerating economic growth through a variety of investment priorities. Consequently, much of the implementation work around the above strategies is very much economic performance and job creation driven. However, a Green Infrastructure Strategy is currently being developed as part of the overall City Region policy and this focuses on the role green infrastructure can play in increasing economic success within the Tees Valley. Further details on this strategy are outlined in paragraph 9.7 below.

- 9.5 The emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North East will complement the aims and objectives of the Northern Way Strategy. It will help the North East to focus on key issues for the region and how its potential can be realised. The RSS will replace the existing Regional Planning Guidance and will provide a broad framework for spatial planning. It will form part of the Development Plan for Hartlepool and will set levels for key land use issues such as housing and industrial development.
- 9.6 At the sub-regional level the Tees Valley Vision has been brought together by the Tees Valley Partnership in association with a wide number of organisations including the five Tees Valley Local Authorities. The vision aims to improve the economic performance of the Tees Valley and the quality of life its people. It provides a case to justify public expenditure, setting a long term strategic vision and programme for development for the Tees Valley. Through this vision it is envisaged that by 2020 Hartlepool will be, “fully developed as a business and commercial centre, a major waterfront location and a focus for shared services centres and short holiday breaks.”
- 9.7 As part of the overall City Region policy development a Green Infrastructure Strategy is currently being developed through the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit. This strategy focuses on making improvements to the green infrastructure in the Tees Valley to complement and support other initiatives and programmes designed to improve economic prosperity and quality of life within the sub-region. It is generally acknowledged that the sub-region lags behind the national average in terms of the standard of environmental infrastructure and that this can be a barrier to delivering economic development. Consequently, this strategy is being developed to enhance the appearance of the infrastructure in the Tees Valley. Members of the Forum have expressed a desire to link the sites identified in the Scrutiny Investigation, wherever possible, into the Green Infrastructure Strategy and its associated site specific schedules.
- 9.8 The Council is committed to taking an integrated and partnership based approach to maximise the social and economic benefits delivered through regeneration. Indeed the Council will drive forward existing and future regeneration schemes across the Borough in order to deliver the changes necessary to realise the Community Strategy Vision:

Our Vision is that Hartlepool will be a prosperous, caring, confident and outward looking community, in an attractive

environment, realising its potential. We will therefore promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the town, taking into account the needs of future generations.

9.9 The Community Strategy (which is currently under review) is in effect a 'grand plan' agreed by the Hartlepool Partnership, which is the town's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and brings together all of the town's partnerships delivering local services. Through the Community Strategy process the Partnership looks at what local services and developments are needed, the best way of providing them and involving people further in the way services are delivered. The Railway Approaches investigation makes a number of contributions to the objectives in the Community Strategy, such as to *Jobs and the Economy* Priority Aim Objectives 1, 3 and 6:

- 1) To improve the local transport infrastructure to encourage business investment and productivity and enable local people to access employment opportunities;
- 3) To promote Hartlepool as a destination of choice for inward investors; and
- 6) To invest in environmental improvements in industrial and commercial areas that encourage additional private investment in infrastructure improvements.

9.10 Hartlepool Tourism Strategy is a thematic study that was undertaken in order to establish a strategic framework to stimulate regeneration economically, socially and physically. Consequently, the Tourism Strategy examines the intrinsic strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Hartlepool in terms of developing its visitor economy. This strategy identifies ways of supporting and enhancing the tourism infrastructure of Hartlepool, thus raising the profile and perceptions of Hartlepool as a visitor destination within and beyond the region. A key consideration of this Forum when selecting this topic was how do the railway approaches into the town contribute to this vision and how can they be improved.

9.11 The Tourism Strategy highlights the importance of the Marina to the town's economy and the concept of 'Hartlepool Quays' has emerged as a central theme through which a collection of projects are being developed. Over time the combined Hartlepool Waterfront area will evolve to provide a single experience that will draw in new sources of demand and economic activity. Hartlepool Quays is a regional priority for regeneration and is the main regeneration zone in Hartlepool. It comprises the flagship Tees Valley Regeneration site of Victoria Harbour, the Marina, Hartlepool town centre, and the Historic Hartlepool Headland. Investment in the Quays will provide a regionally significant critical mass of facilities that will be the catalyst to creating new demand and stimulating further investment to the benefit of Hartlepool and the Tees Valley City Region.

- 9.12 It has been highlighted above that Members of the Forum, in their Scrutiny topic selection and throughout the course of the inquiry, have been concerned with maximising the impact of the railway approaches into Hartlepool to further enhance the town's regeneration and growth. Consequently, the Forum's investigation can usefully encourage the Authority to make connections (particularly in light of such developments as the Tall Ships and a direct rail link to London), where appropriate, to the regional, sub-regional and local strategies described above, to seek to improve the rail corridors into Hartlepool.

10. Exploration of Railway Approaches

- 10.1 On 16 October 2006 Members of the Scrutiny Forum undertook a site visit to explore the railway approaches into Hartlepool. The visit was made possible by funding from Northern Rail. Members travelled between Hartlepool and Seaham (to the north) and from Seaham to Middlesbrough (in the south). The site visit also allowed Members to make comparisons with other towns and, in particular the condition of their approaches and their stations.



Picture Opposite:

Members during the site visit.

- 10.2 During the site visits Members discussed the following issues:
- (a) What are the key 'problem areas' Members identified during the visit?
 - (b) What impression did Members gain of the railway stations at Hartlepool and Seaton Carew?
 - (c) How did the railway approaches into Hartlepool compare with the approaches into the other towns passed through during the visit?
 - (d) What impression did the railway approaches create on the overall image of the town?
- 10.3 The findings from the site visit are attached at **Appendix A**. In addition, Members viewed a video presentation of the site visit at the meeting of the Forum on 2 November and held further discussions about the findings from the visit at this meeting. These findings have been disseminated throughout this Position Paper.

11. Key ‘problem spots’ and areas of good practice on the railway approaches.

- 11.1 It has been recognised during the site visit, and in the evidence provided by witnesses such as the Chair of the Economic Forum, that railway lines tend to go through industrial areas of towns. This largely relates to the historical development of railways and their connections to industry. Indeed, Hartlepool and the North East have a strong industrial heritage, which has been connected to railways. Given these factors it has been argued that comparatively the railway approaches into Hartlepool are not as bad as anticipated and with the exception of the Steetley site the northern approach was felt to be particularly striking during the site visit.



Picture Opposite:

A view of Steetley / Britmag Site from the train during the site visit.

- 11.2 Nevertheless, the section above on the ‘image’ of Hartlepool has highlighted how the town is changing. Indeed, the issue of the ‘Railway Approaches’ into the town has arisen in response to maximising the potential for the regeneration of the town. Consequently, over the course of the Scrutiny investigation a number of ‘problem spots’ have been identified as giving particularly negative impressions of Hartlepool. During the site visit Members were able to explore the Railway Approaches at first hand and confirm / adapt their impressions of these. Following further discussion of the site visit and viewing a video presentation of footage taken during the site visit the following sites were identified as key ‘problem spots’:

- (a) Steetley/BritMag (site and adjacent sidings);
- (b) Allotments around Bruntoft Avenue;
- (c) SWS in Stranton;
- (d) Newcombe Recycling; and
- (e) Niromax.

- 11.3 During discussions about the Railway Approaches into the town it has been suggested that minimum and maximum standards for these approaches should be identified by the Forum. Consequently, it is possible to view the

identification of the 'problem spots' in the paragraph above as falling below what the Forum has deemed to be a minimum standard for the approaches into the town. A number of methods for improvements have been identified by the Forum (and are outlined in the remainder of this section and in the recommendations of the report), which can be interpreted as seeking to develop a maximum standard for the Railway Approaches into the town.

- 11.4 Members will be aware, following their evidence gathering session with the Mayor that a list of untidy / derelict land and buildings has been developed and action has been taken to make improvements to them. Consequently, Members of the Forum acknowledged that the ongoing improvements to untidy/derelict land and buildings could provide a potential way forward for making improvements to the key 'problem spots' identified through the Scrutiny Investigation. Consequently, it was considered during an informal meeting of the Forum on 21 November 2006 (and again during the meeting of the Forum on 7 December 2006) that, where appropriate, the sites identified through this investigation should be incorporated onto this list.

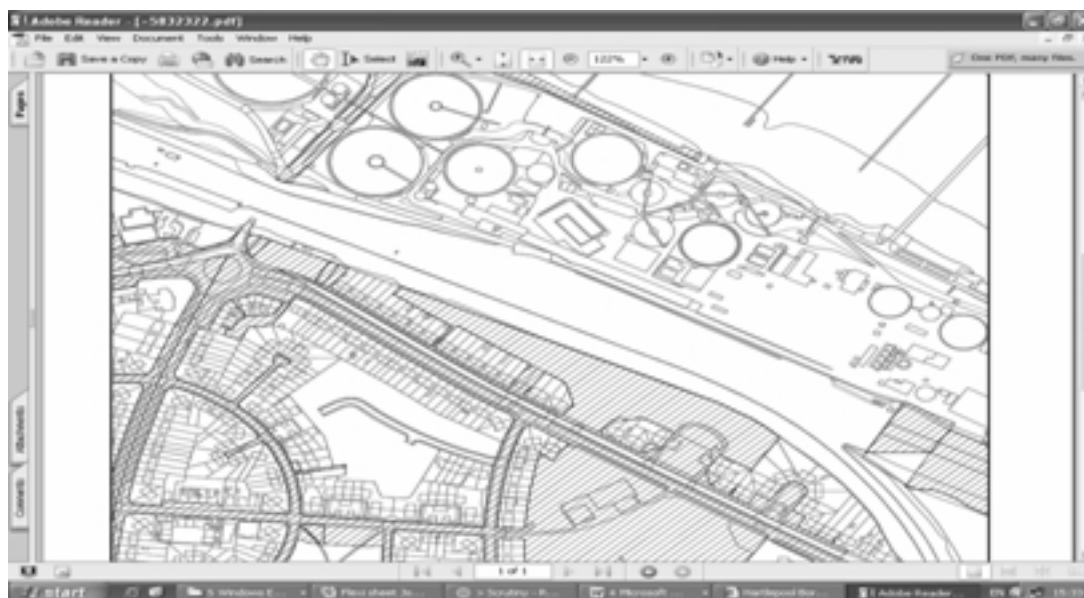


Picture Opposite:

View of the southern railway approach into the town.

- 11.5 It has been suggested by Members that advertising along the trackside could be developed as good practice on the Railway Approaches, in particular for screening the biggest 'problem spots'. This could be developed in three ways; firstly, to allow businesses to advertise and secondly, for the Council to advertise the town (through posters of key attractions). The latter point was felt to be especially significant in the build-up to the Tall Ships event. A third possibility would be to recommend a programme, in partnership with Network Rail, of tree planting to shield selected problem spots along the railway corridor. Given the varied ownership of the land and the responsibilities of the Council and Network Rail it has been suggested to the Forum that technical advice is sought on the most appropriate combination of these three approaches for screening 'problem spots' along the rail corridor.

- 11.6 Since attending the site visit the Neighbourhood Manager (North) has identified an area of unused land running parallel to the railway line (on the opposite side of the railway embankment to the old Steetley site) between Brus Tunnel and the Touchdown Pub. The land has previously undergone some demolition by Housing Hartlepool. Whilst the Authority proposes to clean-up the site it is felt that there is considerable potential to develop it further as a 'Community Forest' or 'Woodland Area'. The area could also act as a diversionary route away from traffic through linking this area into the Linear Park Strategy. Members discussed this development during an informal meeting of the Forum on 21 November 2006 and were keen to support and incorporate it in the findings of the investigation. This matter was considered again at the meeting of the Forum on 7 December 2006 and was supported.



Map Above: Proposed Development: 'Community Forest' or 'Woodland Area'.

- 11.7 During the informal meeting of the Forum on 21 November 2006 there was further discussion of the North Hartlepool Linear Park Feasibility Study, commissioned by the North Hartlepool Partnership and 'Pride in Hartlepool'. Members asked for further information on this development to be incorporated into the findings of the Railway Approaches Investigation. The study area covers the Headland and Central Estate, as far west as a line drawn from the BritMag works along the railway line to Victoria Harbour. The linear park will be a community-based project, through which community groups could develop and manage areas of green space within an overall agreed framework. By linking existing green spaces attractively and imaginatively the intention is to encourage greater use of them, make the area more attractive, exploit underused recreational and heritage potential, encourage more informal physical activity, and make them part of the local travel network for walking and cycling. Through integrating regeneration, tourism, transport, health and recreation objectives joined-up service delivery

will be achieved across a range of policy agendas, as well as addressing local concerns and aspirations. Members present at the informal meeting on 21 November indicated that the scheme should be supported through the Forum's recommendations. This was later supported by the Forum on 7 December 2006.

- 11.8 Since attending the site visit representatives of the Regeneration & Planning Services department have met with Tees Forest (North East Community Forests) to discuss a broad programme of planting to create green fingers of woodland extending into the urban area along the railway. The Local Plan has already identified a number of recreational sites in the south of the town stretching from Newburn Bridge to the former Greatham Station area which could be planted. The Tees Forest is supportive of the overall aim to link and enhance these sites as part of a comprehensive woodland scheme. The opportunity could also be taken to screen some of the uses at Newburn Bridge and Sandgate. During the informal meeting of the Forum on 21 November 2006 Members discussed this issue and indicated their support for it.
- 11.9 An assessment of all the sites (mentioned in paragraphs 11.6 – 11.8) is being made by the Council's ecologist to ensure that they are appropriate for woodland planting.
- 11.10 During discussions about the allotments at Bruntoft Avenue Members suggested that the Council needs an allotments policy. It was argued that allotments can, and should, add to the character of an area. Allotments that fall into disrepair not only create a poor impression of the railway approaches into town but have a negative impact on the more proactive allotment users. Members also argued that the Authority should consult with allotment users around the development of an allotments policy.

12. Condition of Hartlepool and Seaton Railway Stations

- 12.1 During the site visit Members compared the condition of Hartlepool and Seaton Station with those in neighbouring towns. It was argued that neither of these stations compared favourably with, for example, Stockton and Middlesbrough Stations in the case of Hartlepool Station and Seaham Station in the case of Seaton Station. It was also argued that investment was needed to improve both of these stations.



Picture Opposite:

**Hartlepool
Station**

- 12.2 A number of approaches to station improvements have been discussed by the Committee over the course of the investigation and these are outlined below.

Station Adoption

- 12.3 Currently Hartlepool Station has a Level One Station adoption scheme in place, which consists of one person helping to maintain the station. Given the interest in the inquiry from Members, rail user groups such as Coastliners and the CVS it has been suggested that Hartlepool seeks to extend its adoption scheme to the next level, which is to develop a 'Partners Scheme'. Indeed, Northern Rail suggested that they have some monies available to support an extended station adoption scheme. However, it was also suggested that enhanced adoption of the station may undermine the staff's ownership of the station. Nevertheless, the Forum has remained keen to pursue further (enhanced) adoption of Hartlepool Station and some adoption of Seaton Station. It has been stressed that the staff on the Hartlepool Station should be involved in this process, if they wish to be, and that pursuing this development is not a negative reflection on the job the station staff are doing. Furthermore, the Forum has suggested it would be beneficial to make connections to Pride in Hartlepool as part of any scheme seeking to improve the appearance of the stations.

Station Improvements

- 12.4 Again a number of matters have been discussed in relation to this issue. Firstly, it has been suggested that both Hartlepool and Seaton Stations should be improved cosmetically. Potential areas for improvement range from placing hanging baskets and flower tubs on the station to improving the signage and timetabling displays on the stations. A number of these improvements could be achieved through enhanced station adoption and involving interested parties such as the Community and Voluntary Sector in this. It has also been suggested during the investigation that it might be possible to make connections to English Heritage and Railway Trusts when seeking to make improvements to Hartlepool Station. Members have also

indicated that it is important to retain the Victorian character of the station if any structural improvements are made as a result of this investigation.

- 12.5 It has also been argued that cosmetic work on the stations will only improve them so far and may, in fact, mask the need for larger structural improvements. It was, therefore, suggested to Members that the need for structural improvements to the stations was greater and that it would be prudent to use the opportunity that the Tall Ships event was providing to recommend that the Authority lobby the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Northern Rail to make structural improvements to Hartlepool and Seaton Stations, prior to improving the cosmetic appearance of these.
- 12.6 However the town's MP highlighted that the structure of rail franchise agreements are not necessarily conducive to securing station improvements. The length of franchises and companies being charged with making economies are, in particular, problematic. The government is not encouraging longer-term improvement programmes due to the structure of rail privatisation.



Picture Opposite:

**Hartlepool
Station**

- 12.7 It has been suggested during the investigation that Hart station should be reopened as it would provide a good connection for the North of the town and also to tourism in Crimdon Dene. Council officers have been involved in lobbying for this station to reopen. However, this is likely to be a very costly undertaking, which has limited progress in the past. Indeed detailed scheme designs and costings were undertaken circa 2002 and the cost for reopening Hart station was estimated at more than £2 million. It is likely that the costs will have risen since then. Nevertheless, the Local Plan continues to allow for the future development of a station halt where the disused Hart station is located and the Forum has strongly indicated that it would be desirable for the Authority to continue lobbying for Hart station to reopen. It has also been suggested by Members that Hart Station should act as the equivalent to Seaton Station for the north of the town.
- 12.8 During discussions it has been suggested that Network Rail should be persuaded to reopen the second platform on Hartlepool Station to assist with the Grand Central route to London. However, evidence gathered during the

investigation has indicated that the Station currently has sufficient capacity to meet the increased demand of the Grand Central contract.

13. To consider issues of accessibility, particularly in terms of pedestrian access to Hartlepool Station from the Marina;

13.1 Over the course of the Scrutiny investigation Members have focused on the issue of accessibility to Hartlepool Station on a number of occasions. The Town Centre Strategy has highlighted the need to address the physical linkages into the town centre and look at ways of making the area more permeable. Consequently, Members have discussed the need to improve pedestrian and vehicle signage around the stations and make connections to the town centre. In particular, the enhancement of 'brown signage' around the stations has been advocated by the Forum.

13.2 During the evidence gathering session with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Transportation it was argued that adequate access to rail facilities is vital in terms of allowing growth in rail transport, and enabling modal shift. The Transport Interchange will bring a step improvement to the railway approaches in the area of Hartlepool Railway station. Spin off improvements at the station include new toilet facilities, retail units, improved access to the new bus facilities, improved parking and changes to the ticket hall layout and passenger waiting area. The interchange will bring significant improvements to public transport in Hartlepool, while regenerating an, at present, derelict area.

13.3 Furthermore, given the financial and legal constraints on extending access from Hartlepool Station to the Marina via a footbridge or underpass, accessibility between these areas can be improved through enhanced connections via Church Street. In particular, improved signage, the development of the Transport Interchange and the proposed development of a large piece of currently unused land between the Historic Quay and Hartlepool Station should enhance pedestrian access between the Marina and station via Church Street.

14. To seek the views of the public in relation to the railway approaches into Hartlepool

14.1 Members of the public have been encouraged to take part in the Scrutiny process through a number of press releases throughout the investigation. In particular, the meeting of the Forum on 2 November 2006 was tailored towards gaining public involvement in the investigation. However, no members of the public attended this meeting. Nevertheless, 'Coastliners' a local rail users group have been active throughout the investigation, and a representative of which attended most of the meetings, including the site visit. Coastliners were given a more formal opportunity to feed their views on railway approaches into the Forum on 2 November (see **Appendix B**). Consequently, the Forum has indicated that 'Coastliners' should have a continuing involvement in implementing the outcomes of this investigation.

- 14.2 HVDA submitted a response to how the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) could become involved in improvements to the town's railway approaches, and its stations in particular. A number of potential options for involvement are outlined in **Appendix C**. The Forum has indicated on a number of occasions that the CVS has a number of contributions it can make in the actions flowing from this report. In particular, working towards improvements to the station/s.
- 14.3 During the Investigation a Member suggested it is very important to keep up the momentum generated through the Scrutiny process. It was suggested that a 'Railway Approaches Forum' could be established for this purpose. This forum could provide a valuable mechanism for furthering partnership working between the Authority, the rail operators, rail user groups, the CVS, and the disabled access group. The conduct and findings of this inquiry suggest that the latter should include both improvements to the railway corridors and stations. In addition, Members raised the possibility of including groups such as young offenders in improving railway approaches.

15. CONCLUSIONS

- 15.1 Over the course of this Scrutiny Investigation the Forum has reached the following general conclusions about Railway Approaches:
- (a) That there is no single or unifying government policy in relation to Railway Approaches. Instead a fairly complex set of arrangements exist between private companies, national regulators and local government through which the responsibility for this issue is divided.
 - (b) That the topic selection and evidence gathering by this Forum during the Scrutiny Investigation have demonstrated enthusiasm amongst Members and officers to foster partnerships and drive this issue forward. Particularly in light of the 2010 Tall Ships event coming to Hartlepool. Indeed the Tall Ships event has been likened to Hartlepool's equivalent of the Olympics.
 - (c) Consequently, it has been stressed that the impression created by the Railway Approaches into the town will be particularly significant at this time. It has also been argued by the Forum that improvements to these need to begin now to be in place by 2010 and that the Tall Ships event should also be fully utilised as an incentive to make improvements Railway Approaches.
 - (d) It has been recognised by Members of this Forum during the site visit that the Railway Approaches tend to go through industrial parts of towns. Indeed it was felt that Hartlepool was comparable with neighbouring towns in this regard during the site visit.
 - (e) However, in seeking to maximise the potential for the regeneration of the town a number of 'key problem spots' along the railway approaches have

been identified during the Scrutiny Investigation. A number of strategies / approaches for improvements have been suggested throughout this report and are highlighted more specifically in the recommendations below.

- (f) It has been argued by the Forum that the condition and appearance of both Hartlepool and Seaton Stations do not compare favourably with Middlesbrough / Stockton and Seaham Station respectively. Consequently the Forum has expressed a desire to see improvements (both cosmetically and structurally) to these stations.
- (g) That the Forum wishes the Authority to continue lobbying for Hart Station to be redeveloped and reopened.
- (h) That given the pressures and opportunities the 2010 Tall Ships generates for improvements to the railway approaches into the town it is important that the momentum that this Forum has generated around this issue is maintained. Consequently, it has been suggested that a variety of interested and responsible stakeholders should meet as part of a 'Railway Approaches Forum' to discuss and implement the methods for improvement recommended in this report.

16. RECOMMENDATIONS

16.1 The Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum has taken evidence from a wide range of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Forum's key recommendations to Cabinet are outlined below :-

- (a) That in relation to Network Rail:
 - (i) The Authority seeks to develop a proactive approach with Network Rail around combating graffiti, and in particular through making connections to Network Rail's graffiti budget;
 - (ii) That Network Rail's 24 hour helpline number (08457 11 41 41) is publicised through the dissemination of the Forum's final report, associated press releases and through the Authority's Hartbeat magazine; and
 - (iii) That the Authority invites Network Rail to bring the 'No Messin' scheme to schools in Hartlepool in the interests of reducing trespassing, graffiti and vandalism around the railway lines.
- (b) That the Authority reports incidences of graffiti and litter along the Railway Approaches and liaises with Network Rail about these where appropriate;

- (c) That the Authority invites Northern Rail's police and schools liaison officer to attend Hartlepool schools;
- (d) That the Authority uses its Planning and Development Control powers proactively to enhance the Railway Approaches into the town;
- (e) That the Authority seeks to maximise the regeneration benefits of the 2010 Tall Ships event, the development of 'Hartlepool Quays', and the direct rail link to London by linking, where appropriate, prospective improvements to Hartlepool's Railway Approaches into the regional, sub-regional and local strategies described in the main body of this report;
- (f) That the 'key problem spots' sites identified in the Railway Approaches Scrutiny Investigation, are incorporated, wherever possible, into the Green Infrastructure Strategy and its associated site specific schedules;
- (g) That the area of unused land identified in paragraph 11.6 of this report is developed as a 'Community Forest' or 'Woodland Area' and as a diversionary route away from traffic;
- (h) That the Authority supports the development of the North Hartlepool Linear Park strategy;
- (i) That discussions between representatives of the Regeneration and Planning Services Department and Tees Forest (North East Community Forests) around the development of a broad programme of planting to create 'green fingers' of woodland extending into the urban area along the railway corridor is supported;
- (j) That the Authority develops an 'allotments policy' and consults allotment users in the development and implementation of this policy;
- (k) That the 'key problem spots' identified during the Scrutiny Investigation are incorporated, where appropriate, into the list of Untidy / Derelict Land and Buildings;
- (l) That the Authority develops a strategy geared towards screening the 'key problem spots' identified during the Scrutiny Investigation based on the approaches outlined in paragraph 11.5;
- (m) That in relation to Stations in Hartlepool
 - (i) The Authority pursues enhanced adoption of Hartlepool Station to a 'Partners Scheme' in conjunction with Northern Rail and that involvement from the CVS, 'Coastliners' and Pride in Hartlepool is sought in this;

- (ii) That the Authority pursues the development of a station adoption scheme at Seaton Carew Station in conjunction with Northern Rail and that involvement from the CVS, 'Coastliners' and Pride in Hartlepool is sought in this;
 - (iii) The Authority maximises the opportunity that the Tall Ships event provides to lobby the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Northern Rail to make structural improvements to Hartlepool and Seaton Stations, prior to improving the cosmetic appearance of these;
 - (iv) That the Authority continues to lobby the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Northern Rail for a station halt to reopen at Hart Station; and
 - (v) That pedestrian and vehicle signage (including further development of brown signage) around Hartlepool Station is improved, especially in relation to the town centre.
- (n) That 'Coastliners' have a continuing involvement in implementing the outcomes of this investigation. In particular in improvements to Hartlepool and Seaton Carew Stations and in the development of a 'Railway Approaches Forum';
 - (o) That the CVS has a number of specific contributions it can make to improvements to Railway Approaches, as outlined in Appendix C, and that the Authority considers how best the adoption of these options can be supported;
 - (p) That the Authority helps to establish a 'Railway Approaches Forum' in partnership with the CVS to ensure that the momentum for this issue is maintained around improvements to both the railway corridors and stations. In addition to the Authority and the CVS, the rail operators, rail user groups and the disabled access group should be involved in this forum; and
 - (q) That the recommendations from this report are reflected, where appropriate, in actions contained in Departmental / Service Plans.

17. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 17.1 The Forum is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of the Scrutiny Inquiry. We would like to place on record our appreciation for all those witnesses who attended the Forum. In particular the Forum would like to thank the following for their co-operation during the Scrutiny Investigation:-

Iain Wright – MP for Hartlepool

Kathryn O'Brien – Northern Rail (for her co-operation and for providing the Forum with free rail travel on the Site Visit)

Denise Thompson and Thomas Brand – Network Rail

Ian Yeoward – Grand Central

Martin Green – Coastliners

Ray Priestman – Chair of the Economic Forum

Lesley Hall and Peter Gowland – HVDA

Hartlepool Borough Council:

The Mayor Stuart Drummond – Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing

Councillor Victor Tumilty – The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Transportation

Geoff Thompson – Head of Regeneration

Alastair Smith – Head of Technical Services

Denise Ogden – Head of Environmental Services

Karen Oliver – Neighbourhood Manager (North)

David Frame - Neighbourhood Manager (South)

Richard Waldmeyer – Principal Planning Officer (Policy Planning and Info)

Richard Teece – Development Control Manager

Matthew King – Principal Planning Officer

Ian Jopling – Transportation Team Leader

John Lewer – Public Transport Co-ordinator

Simon Lamplough – Economic Development Assistant

Phil Dale – Resources, Information and Technical Officer

**COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WALLACE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Scrutiny Investigation into Hartlepool's 'Railway Approaches' – Scoping Report* 13.07.06
- (b) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches Departmental Presentations – Covering Report* 17.08.06
- (c) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Evidence from the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Transportation – Covering Report* 17.08.06
- (d) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Evidence from the MP for Hartlepool – Covering Report* 29.09.06
- (e) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Evidence from the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Liveability and Housing – Covering Report* 29.09.06
- (f) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Evidence From External Agencies – Covering Report* 29.09.06
- (g) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Feedback from the Site Visit* 2.11.06
- (h) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Evidence From the Economic Forum – Covering Report* 2.11.06
- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Evidence from the CVS – Covering Report* 2.11.06
- (j) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Evidence from Coastliners – Covering Report* 2.11.06
- (k) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled *Railway Approaches – Position Paper* 7.12.06
- (l) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum meetings held on 13 July 2006, 17 August 2006, 29 September 2006, 7 December 2006

Appendix A – Notes from Member Discussions during Railway Approaches Site Visit 16/10/06

Comments from discussions on Seaham Station

1. Having explored the northern approach into the town Members commented that the Steetley/Britmag site was the big issue on this approach. It was acknowledged by some Members that some improvements had been made here. The site is heavily polluted and there are problems with erosion from the sea. It would take millions of pounds to clear the site. A planning application is in process and it was argued that allowing market forces to clear the site was (through housing development) key to moving forward with this issue.
2. Members commented that Seaham Station compared very favourably to Seaton Station and they would like to see something similar at Seaton. In particular, the transparent shelters were popular with Members.
3. Members thought planting could be used to shield the view over the allotments.
4. The signage at Hartlepool Station was deemed to be poor. A sign on the main building (as opposed to either end of the platform) indicating that you had arrived in Hartlepool would be useful.

Comments from group discussions on Middlesbrough Station

- **Group 1 – Problem areas identified on the site visit.**

Key 'problem areas':

1. Former RHM site in Greatham – questions about pollution here.
2. Allotments generally and fly-tipping in adjacent areas.
3. It was felt that Network Rail's housekeeping can be poor in terms of contractors leaving scrap metals by the trackside and surrounding areas.
4. Fly-tipping around Lancaster Rd. area.
5. Allotment sites are a blight. Numerous plots are overgrown and/or have items dumped in them. The cabins in the allotments make them look like shanty towns.
6. Mansforth Terrace new builds – roads partly complete, weeds etc. poorly maintained areas. Also derelict walls near here.
7. Steetley, Niromax, and Newcombe recycling are key problem areas.

8. Hartlepool Station platform requires weeding and the brickwork is 'shabby', the structure is generally poor. It could do with a repaint and hiring out spaces for advertising hoardings. The signage is also poor.

- **Group 2 – Impressions of Hartlepool and Seaton railway stations.**

Hartlepool Station:

1. Poor signage to, and in, the station.
2. The infrastructure is disgusting e.g. the roof etc.
3. The toilets have poor facilities.
4. Investment is urgently needed.
5. There is a lack of seating and there are no floral displays.

Seaton:

1. The station looks old.
2. The station needs investment to bring it up to the standard of Seaham.

- **Group 3 – Comparisons with other towns on the visit.**

1. Strong feeling that the railway station/s need improving.
2. Stockton was cited as a good example of an attractively designed station.
3. Landscaping on Hartlepool station would be beneficial e.g. raised flower beds on the unused platform.
4. Over the course of the visit it was evident that the planting around the railway had matured and generally worked well.
5. Need to work with the community around planting schemes the Newcombe and Stranton SWS sites were cited as places where this could take place.
6. Comparing Hartlepool with the other towns that were passed through on the visit created a generally favourable impression.

- **Group 4 – impressions from the railway approaches on the overall image of the town**

1. It was commented that the houses/buildings facing the railway could be improved. However, it was also recognised that they tend to be the backs of buildings and (naturally) more attention is spent on the appearance at the front of these.
2. It was acknowledged by Members that railways tend to pass through industrial parts of towns. Consequently, they do not always go past the most attractive parts of towns.

3. It was felt that hedging could be used to cover unattractive places like the recycling / scrapyards in the south of the town.
4. Members felt that the northern approach to the town was generally pleasant and a good approach into town. With the exception of the Britmag site.
5. The area between Hartlepool and Seaton station was deemed to be particularly nasty. However, there was some optimism that this area would improve between now and 2010 through the conditional use of planning permission, which would require landscaping improvements.
6. The west side of the southern railway approach, in particular, could be easily 'shielded' through landscaping/planting.
7. It was also commented that a combination of the features of Stockton and Middlesbrough stations would provide a good model for Hartlepool station.
8. It was also felt that it would be possible, and beneficial, to create a community feeling on Seaton station, and, therefore, it would police itself around vandalism etc. in the future.

COASTLINERS - *a voice for rail users*

Sunderland – Seaham – Hartlepool – Seaton Carew – Billingham – Stockton – Thornaby – Middlesbrough

Who are we

“Coastliners” is the name of the Rail Users Group representing passengers who use the railway between Sunderland & Middlesbrough – the Durham Coast Line. It is an informal group with links to Transport 2000, but is recognised by the Train Operating Companies (TOCs) (eg Northern Rail & Grand Central,) and Passenger Focus, the national body representing rail passenger interests.

It currently consists of a relatively small number of active members and meets around six times per year – usually in Hartlepool, as the mid [point on the line.

What do we do

Coastliners has primarily been a campaigning group. Its main objective has been, and remains, to ensure a satisfactory service along the Durham Coast, with adequate and convenient links to the rest of the rail network.

We have campaigned for the following:

a) On a local line level:

- To restore the half hourly service between Hartlepool & Newcastle
- **To provide an early morning commuter train from Hartlepool to Newcastle
- **To adjust the timetable to make better connections at Thornaby
- To improve the format of the Durham Coast passenger timetable leaflet
- For later evening trains (the last train from Newcastle is now 30 minutes later, but we would like to see trains until 10 or 1030pm)

b) On a national level to benefit the Region by improved travel opportunities to & from the Durham Coast & the rest of Britain

- Restoration of through services between the Durham Coast & York (since the split between Northern Rail and Trans Pennine Express)
- **Support for Grand Central trains between Sunderland and Kings Cross

- Input to the Cross Country Franchise negotiations to get :
 - a) some Cross Country trains diverted from Northallerton via the Coast Line
 - b) Trains from the North East to the South Coast and South West maintained as through trains and not curtailed at Birmingham or Reading as proposed by the Department for Transport (DfT.)

We have had some successes (**) but we continue to campaign on the other fronts. This is primarily through correspondence and meetings with the TOCs, the DfT, the Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR) and Passenger Focus.

Improving the Passengers Lot

Other areas in which we have interests include:

- a) Improvement in publicly displayed information at all stations
- b) Improvement in passenger facilities
- c) Improved rolling stock, ie:
 - New or refurbished trains
 - Condition of trains

Where do we fit with the present Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) Initiative

Apart from the obvious need for a coat (or several coats) of paint at Hartlepool, we have been very interested in a variety of improvements not only at Hartlepool Station, but also at Seaton Carew & Billingham. Though we cannot offer masses of manpower, we can offer a variety of suggestions, and have already done so in many cases – not always with any success,

Many of our ideas need co-operation from Northern Rail and/or Network Rail, and may only be achieved with support from initiatives such as that currently being taken by HBC.

Uppermost of these is to investigate further the formation of Station Adoption Groups. Under existing schemes, Northern Rail will often supply materials if groups supply manpower. It was in fact a Coastliners suggestion that a large Tall Ships mural be painted on the facing wall at Hartlepool Station – an initiative now taken up by the Mayor, the College of Art and Network Rail.

In conclusion we would like to work with and support the present HBC initiative.

Hartlepool Railway Approaches – Potential of Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) Involvement

In relation to 'The condition of Hartlepool Station given its role as part of the new Transport Interchange.'

There are a number of ways the Voluntary and Community Sector could potentially impact on the work for the improvement of the Hartlepool Railway Station.

a) Working with established Groups:

- Civic Society
- Greatham in Bloom
- Hartlepool Local History Group
- Railway Users Group
- Possibly members of the 50+ Forum

('Soundings' have been made with the above groups and they have expressed an interest)

It may be possible to explore with these groups the idea/s of forming a consortium group/committee to work up an action plan/funding strategy working in partnership with statutory organisations such as those below:

- Environmental Partnership – Built and Natural Environment Sub-group
- HBC
- Network Rail
- Grand Central

HVDA Project Development Worker could provide assistance in 'working up' this project.

b) Establishing a new Friends of Group:

This will be just as time consuming as working with the established groups but again is possible with the assistance of the HVDA project development worker.

c) Establishing a Heritage group;

As above but perhaps involving Museum services Heritage development worker.

Possibilities could also be explored around the engagement of a 'labour force' either through the HBC ILM Initiative or through working with OFCA through the VIP project or Kirklevington project.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

9 February 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: NEW SCRUTINY POWERS ON CRIME AND DISORDER

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of the new powers and responsibilities available to Overview and Scrutiny Committees brought in by the Police and Justice Act 2006, to be introduced during 2008.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As Members will be aware, the Local Government White Paper, 'Strong and prosperous communities', published in October 2006, proposes a further extended role for Council Scrutiny in England, alongside the Police and Justice Act 2006 which became law in November 2006.
- 2.2 Both the White Paper and the Act brings forward measures to develop the role of local authorities to tackle crime and disorder. There are two specific roles for local Overview and Scrutiny Committees as outlined below:-
- (a) The power to scrutinise the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership; and
 - (b) The duty of Ward Councillors to respond to community concerns about crime and disorder issues through what is called a 'Community Call for Action'.
- 2.3 To assist Elected Members in their understanding of the new extended Scrutiny powers, the remainder of this report solely expands upon the two new roles in more detail.

3. SCRUTINY OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

- 3.1 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Agencies required to take part are the Council, Police, Primary Care Trust, Fire Authority and Police Authority. CDRPs are required to review the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area, and develop and implement strategies to tackle these problems.
- 3.2 These arrangements are now changing with the Crime and Disorder Act Review and the Police and Justice Act 2006 by ensuring CDRPs are more effective in tackling crime and disorder, thus ensuring Partnerships are effectively-led, responsive and accountable to their communities and intelligence-led.
- 3.3 Alongside these changes to CDRPs described above, the CDRP Reform programme also includes a new Scrutiny role for local Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Responsibility to scrutinise CDRPs should be identified within the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. This can be within an existing Committee: it does not have to mean establishing a new or stand-alone Committee.
- 3.4 The general duty to look at partnership activity and community safety issues in a local area will apply to districts, metropolitan authorities, unitary authorities and counties. This role, like the health Scrutiny role, can involve contributions to strategy development, review of performance of the partnership in implementing the Crime and Disorder Reduction Reform programme, and in-depth select Committee type enquiries into particular issues of local concern which need partnership solutions.
- 3.5 The Home Office has suggested that members of the Police Authority should be co-opted onto the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These proposals will be developed in Regulations and Guidance.

4. COMMUNITY CALL FOR ACTION

- 4.1 The Community Call for Action (CCfA) provisions (contained within the Police and Justice Act 2006) will give people a way to trigger action on particular issues of community safety or local concern that have not been adequately addressed by the police or their partners, especially those that require a multi-agency response. The Local Government White Paper, *Strong and prosperous communities*, October 2006 has proposed a parallel Community Call for Action to address local government concerns.
- 4.2 For crime and disorder issues, the CCfA is designed to give local communities a means to secure action from those agencies responsible for community safety (CDRP partners) if they have failed to address a persistent problem. It is designed to complement existing methods of complaint, not to replace them. The referral of a CCfA to a Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

is intended to be a last resort, with the majority of cases being resolved by the Ward Councillor.

- 4.3 Whilst the procedure for the CCfA is set out in the Police and Justice Act, more detail will be provided through guidance, which will be published by the Home Office in late 2007, with implementation set for April 2008. The implementation of the CCfA will be made in conjunction with the roll out of neighbourhood policing, and with the proposed local government CCfA announced in the October 2006 White Paper.
- 4.4 The strengthening of the Ward Councillor's role is central to the process because they will effectively act as a gatekeeper to the process. Members of the public will first contact their local Ward Councillor with an issue of community safety or local concern and they will determine the appropriate course of action.
- 4.5 The Ward Councillor will be expected to take up the concern with the appropriate agencies within the CDRP partnership. This could be through current formal arrangements for liaison or through informal means established by the Ward Councillor. If action is not taken by the CDRPs, the Councillor will be able to refer the CCfA to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee will be able to request the compulsory attendance of CDRP partner(s) at a Scrutiny meeting, to answer questions and explain any action taken. The role of the Scrutiny Committee will be to gather evidence, question agencies, and potentially decide what action is needed, in dialogue with partner agencies.
- 4.6 The CDRP partners will have a duty to attend Scrutiny meetings, and to respond to Scrutiny reports and recommendations. They should give reasons for their response, particularly if recommended action is rejected.
- 4.7 The Ward Councillor is not obliged to accept a CCfA raised by a member of the community. If they feel the person is pursuing a persistent, trivial or vexatious complaint they are able to reject the CCfA. However, if the community member feels their concern has not been adequately addressed they are able to raise the issue with the Council executive. The Executive will have the same power to deal with the CCfA as the Ward Councillor and can, where necessary, refer the matter to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.8 Of course, taking up local complaints and issues, and securing action from responsible agencies is what Councillors do now. The intention is formalise this best practice providing a stronger framework for action, thereby strengthening the role of the Ward Councillor. The Home Office has said they will support a training programme to assist Ward Councillors' understand their fundamental role within the process.

5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 Hartlepool Borough Council will need to take action and develop processes to deliver the extended Scrutiny powers as outlined above.
- 5.2 Whilst the Police and Justice Act 2006 became law in November 2006, the timetable for implementation of its various clauses will be spread over several years. This will be dependent on the publication and approval of Regulations and Guidance. It is likely that the new arrangements for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships will be subject to staggered commencement from April 2007. This is subject to confirmation by the Home Office.
- 5.3 The Community Call for Action and the wider Scrutiny power to look at the partnership in the round are likely to be developed in regulations in 2008. This work will be taken forward alongside DCLG proposals in the '*Strong and Prosperous Communities*' White Paper.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-
 - (a) notes the extended powers and responsibilities to be available to Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2008;
 - (b) receives further briefing papers on the implementation proposals of the extended powers upon receipt of guidance from the Home Office during late 2007/early 2008; and
 - (c) highlights any particular themes/key areas that Members may wish to be covered in a forthcoming Members Seminar on the extended Scrutiny powers as outlined above (following on from the White Paper Members Seminars held on 22 January 2007 and 6 February 2007).

January 2007

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (a) LGiU Policy Briefing entitled New Scrutiny Powers on Crime and Disorder – Amended Version of 23 January 2007.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

9 February 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: REQUEST FOR ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION –
JOINT CABINET / SCRUTINY EVENT OF
28 FEBRUARY 2007

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request items for discussion at the next Joint Cabinet / Scrutiny Event to be held on 28 February 2007..

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As Members will recall it was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint/Cabinet Scrutiny Event would be held during March 2007. In light of the Authority's various commitments, it was agreed that such event be brought forward to the **28 February 2007, commencing at 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm in Training Room 3 in the Municipal Buildings.**
- 2.2 As such items for discussion are sought from Members of this Committee, which will then be used to form the basis of the Joint Agenda in conjunction with the issues received from the Cabinet.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That agenda items be sought from Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for the Joint Cabinet/Scrutiny Event to be held on 28 February 2007.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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