

CABINET AGENDA



Monday 19th March, 2007

at 9:00 a.m

in Committee Room 'B'

MEMBERS: CABINET:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, Payne, Tumilty and R Waller

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

To receive the Record of Decision in respect of the meeting held on 5 March 2007
(already circulated)

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy – *Head of Community Strategy*

5. KEY DECISIONS

5.1 Building Schools for the Future: Stage 2 Consultation – *Director of Children's Services*

5.2 Concessionary Local Bus Travel – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Smoke-Free Legislation – *Director of Neighbourhood Services*
- 6.2 Manor College of Technology: Consideration of Foundation Status– Statutory Notice – *Director of Children's Service*
- 6.3 Annual Drug Treatment Plan 2007/08 – *Head of Community Safety and Prevention*

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

- 7.1 Corporate Assessment / Joint Area Review of Services for Children and Young People – *Chief Executive and Director of Children's Service*
- 7.2 Nuclear Energy Issues – *Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

8. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9. EXEMPT KEY DECISIONS

- 9.1 Equal Pay Risk Update (paras 4 and 5) – *Corporate Management Team*

CABINET REPORT

19th March 2007



Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY & NEIGHBOURHOOD
RENEWAL STRATEGY

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the revised Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, (Appendix 1) as a second draft on which a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides an update on the review and sets out a second revised draft of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The Community Strategy and the Local Agenda 21 Strategy form part of the policy framework.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Budget and Policy Framework

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet	19 th March 2007
Hartlepool Partnership	23 rd March 2007

6. DECISIONS REQUIRED

Cabinet is asked to agree the second draft of the Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Report of: Head of Community Strategy

Subject: COMMUNITY STRATEGY & NEIGHBOURHOOD
RENEWAL STRATEGY REVIEW 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the revised Community Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, (**Appendix 1**) as a second draft on which a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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. 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.
- 2.3 A timetable for review was established with the identification of three phases of work leading to the adoption of a new strategy in April 2007. The first phase, pre-consultation was launched on 5th May and concluded in July 2006. The second phase, consultation on the first draft, ran from September to 17th November 2006.
- 2.4 In October 2006, the Local Government White Paper, *Strong and prosperous communities* was published. Chapter 5 sets out a framework for effective and coordinated local service delivery including:
- A duty on the local authority to prepare the Sustainable Community Strategy in consultation with others as set out in section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000; and
 - That the Sustainable Community Strategy and other local and regional plans to be drawn up with regard to each other.
- 2.5 The role of the Sustainable Community Strategy is established as setting out the strategic vision for a place. It is to provide a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult cross-cutting issues such as the economic future of an area, social exclusion and climate change. Building these issues into the community's vision in an integrated way is established as being at the heart of creating sustainable development at the local level.

3. HARTLEPOOL'S AMBITION

- 3.1 The 1st draft of a revised Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was published in September 2006. The Strategy built on the 2002 Strategy and set out a revised policy framework for Hartlepool. A wide range of responses were received as part of this consultation including feedback from residents, Theme Partnerships, public bodies and statutory consultees. The results of this consultation have guided the preparation of this second draft.
- 3.2 The consultation showed broad support for the Strategy and support for the vision was at high at over 90%. Where there was disagreement with the vision, feedback included:
- Readability – views that the vision was too long, wordy and difficult to remember
 - Deliverable – was the vision achievable in the timescale
 - Reference to specific areas of service delivery e.g. more police, environmental quality, development of specific skill sectors.
- 3.3 In relation to the Priority Aims, respondents were asked what if any improvements or changes they would make. Here a broad range of comments were received, both in relation to the Aims of the Community Strategy and the Issues and Priorities of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

4. APPRAISALS

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 It is now proposed that these appraisals are carried out on this second draft.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Cabinet is asked to agree the second draft of the Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.



hartlepool**partnership**

Hartlepool's Ambition

Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

2nd Draft

Text extracts can be made available in Braille, talking tapes and large print, on request. If you would like information in another language or format, please ask us.

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.
(Arabic)

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।
(Bengali)

ئەگەر زانیاریت بە زمانیکی که یا بە فۆرمیکی که دەوی تکایه داوامان لی بکه
(Kurdish)

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔
(Urdu)

यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे
(Hindi)

Jeżeli chciałoby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie,
prosimy dać nam znać.
(Polish)

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。
(Cantonese)

Table of contents

Foreword by Iain Wright MP, Chair of the Hartlepool Partnership.....	1
Preface by Mayor Stuart Drummond	3
Introduction	4
Hartlepool Community Strategy – the first 5 years	6
Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration.....	8
Spatial Planning	11
The Consultation Process	12
Our Vision	15
Our Principles	16
The Renewal of Hartlepool’s Neighbourhoods – Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Aim and Objectives	17
Children and Young People	18
Our Eight Priority Aims	19
Jobs and the Economy.....	20
Lifelong Learning and Skills	24
Health and Care	28
Community Safety	31
Environment	35
Housing	38
Culture and Leisure	41
Strengthening Communities	43

Sustainable Development	46
Skills and Knowledge	47
Holding each other to account	48
Next Steps	52
Appendix 1 Setting the Strategy in Context.....	54
Appendix 2 Timeline	62
Appendix 3 Jargon Buster	63
Appendix 4 List of Abbreviations	68
Endnotes	69

Foreword

Iain Wright MP. Chair of the Hartlepool Partnership



2006 marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of the founder of West Hartlepool, Ralph Ward Jackson. Ward Jackson had the ambition to create in the Victorian era a modern economic and commercial infrastructure; within twenty years the area of land between the Headland and Seaton Carew had been transformed from sand dunes to the fourth largest port in the country. Ambition had created wealth, prosperity and, from that, first-class public amenities.

In 2002 the Hartlepool Partnership drew up a Community Strategy for our town, following extensive consultation. This set out a vision that Hartlepool would be a prosperous, caring, confident and outward-looking community, in an attractive environment, in order to realise its potential. It also established seven priority aims to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the town.

The Community Strategy produced at that time has played a significant role in helping to improve Hartlepool. The Marina continues to prosper and be seen locally, regionally, nationally and internationally as a world-class facility. Educational achievement has been rising rapidly, so that children in Hartlepool for the first time exceed the national average in qualifications. More young people are going to university than ever before. Unemployment has fallen over the five years and more people are in work, helping to provide additional prosperity for themselves and their families.

But the town still faces real challenges, both locally and as part of the wider global economy. As a town the proportion of people who are older is getting larger, and this places added pressure on such services as the NHS, social care and housing. The number of people of working age is getting smaller, and those with the highest skills are leaving the town to take advantage of the opportunities available throughout the world. Life expectancy of people in Hartlepool, although improved in the last five years, remains markedly below the national average.

The pace of globalisation – the interconnectivity and free movement of trade, people, capital and information, will occur at a faster rate than ever before in the years to 2020.

Globalisation means those people with the highest skills will be wanted throughout the world and, given the improvements in technology and communication, can be located anywhere in the world.

The challenge for cities and regions in the next fifteen years will be to ensure that the infrastructure and environment of their particular area – their sense of place – are conducive to creating a modern, creative and innovative place to live, work and relax. As the global economy is forecast to grow by 80 per cent by 2020, the rewards for adapting to these changes will be large. The greatest benefits of globalisation will accrue to those cities, regions and countries that can access and adopt new technologies. The manner in which those technologies can be integrated and applied will be crucial to an area's prospects for prosperity.

I believe we can adapt Ward Jackson's vision and ambition to allow Hartlepool to prosper in the 21st century. My vision for the town is that Hartlepool by 2020 is seen throughout the world as a symbol for ambition, high skills and enterprise in a diverse range of industries, from modern manufacturing, to computer-design companies, to tourist attractions. By 2020, I want the life expectancy of Hartlepool's citizens to at least match the national average. And I want crime and anti-social behaviour, which blight the lives of decent residents, to be eliminated as much as possible.

The town's organisations can intervene and shape their plans to address the long-term challenges. But the vision for the town will be better and more informed with your involvement.

This is only a second draft of the Community Strategy; I thank all those who have contributed so far, and would like to see a further healthy and vigorous debate in the next few months as to what sort of town we would like Hartlepool to be in 2020. Hartlepool ambition allowed us to be world-class in the era of Ward Jackson – I believe we need to demonstrate this ambition again to develop, grow and prosper in the world of 2020.



March 2007

Preface

Mayor Stuart Drummond
Vice Chair of the Hartlepool Partnership



The first four years since I was elected as Mayor of Hartlepool in 2002 have passed quickly; it has been an exciting and challenging time. It was in April 2002 that the Hartlepool Partnership produced its first Community Strategy setting out a framework for innovation and improvement across the town.

Many of the Strategy's priority aims matched my concerns – the quality of the local environment, community safety and providing activities for young people. Taking on the role of Chair of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership meant I could take a hands-on role in driving forward these improvements.

Over the first phase of the Strategy's delivery there have been some impressive improvements. Since 2003/4 the number of burglaries has halved. In practical terms that means 654 fewer burglaries every year and very many families and vulnerable older people not suffering the effects of crime.

The quality of our local environment has also improved. Operation Clean Sweep has been the catalyst for dramatic improvements to the local environment and has given people a new sense of ownership of their local community.

The establishment of a Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership ensures that young people's voices will be heard in the preparation and delivery of services.

Four years on we have reviewed the Community Strategy and I'd like to thank all those who gave their time and effort to support the process. The new Strategy takes account of changes within Hartlepool and further afield. It is purposely not a detailed plan, but a renewed commitment for partnership working across Hartlepool at all levels. The Strategy builds on the practical achievements and lessons learned during the first years of implementation.

It also raises the bar. To make further improvement a large number of people need to support its delivery. Residents' Associations, community and voluntary groups as well as local businesses and large public organisations all need to work to influence the individual everyday choices we all make.

And we need to make the right choices to secure a future that is fairer for us all now and for future generations. I want Hartlepool to have a strong local economy. I want its residents to have decent homes in places with clean, safe public spaces, where people are able to lead healthy lives and enjoy their local environment.

Our task now is to deliver. The debate starts now. And I'd urge you to get involved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Stuart Drummond'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

March 2007

Introduction

Hartlepool's Ambition

2006 marked the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Ralph Ward Jackson. The founder of West Hartlepool lived in Greatham Village and was responsible for establishing the layout of the town and erecting the first public buildings. He improved education and welfare facilities for local residents and developed the town's railways and docks. In the mid 1800s his vision and aspiration brought key individuals together to work in partnership to expand the town.

During 2006, the Hartlepool Partnership has worked to prepare this Community Strategy. The Partnership brings together all the town's partnerships delivering local services to improve the quality of life for people in Hartlepool.

Community Strategy 2007

This updated Community Strategy builds on the 2002 Strategy and provides a revised policy framework for Hartlepool. It describes a long-term vision – Hartlepool's ambition and aspirations for the future:

Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.

The Vision is further articulated through priority aims and associated objectives grouped into eight themes:

1. Jobs and the Economy
2. Lifelong Learning & Skills
3. Health & Care
4. Community Safety
5. Environment
6. Housing
7. Culture & Leisure
8. Strengthening Communities

Housing and Environment are established as themes in their own right acknowledging the increased drive to bring about Housing Market Renewal and the importance residents place on the quality of their local environment.

In 2002 a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was published alongside the Community Strategy. This identified 7 priority neighbourhoods where regeneration activities would be targeted and mainstream resources directed to accelerate improvements in quality of life.

The 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy set out Terms of Reference for Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) to be developed for the 7 priority neighbourhoods. These NAPs are now in place and set out a detailed understanding of residents' priorities together with an analysis of current trends.

This updated Community Strategy incorporates and updates the 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

The Evidence Base

The Strategy is backed by rigorous evidence based analysis and underpinned by a rich understanding of local priorities and concerns. This clearly establishes key areas for improvement within the Jobs & the Economy, Community Safety and Health & Care Themes. Further information on the town's performance and background reports can be found on the Hartlepool Partnership's website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

Hartlepool in Context

Hartlepool is located on the North East coast within the Tees Valley sub region. It is a compact town, which is linked to the rest of the region and country by road, rail and sea. The A19 passes through the western rural part of the Borough and the A1 (M) is close by. Trains travel along the east coast connecting Hartlepool to Newcastle, the rest of the Tees Valley, York and London. Hartlepool also has a significant port facility and a world-class marina. Durham Tees Valley Airport is in easy reach and is one the country's fastest growing regional airports. Passenger numbers are up 20% year on year and the airport has a 400,000 tonnes-per-annum cargo capacity.

Approximately 90,000 people live in the town of which 1.2% are from black and minority ethnic communities and almost a fifth are at or above retirement age. The town combines dense urban areas, an established marina and expanding suburbs with a number of distinct rural villages set in attractive countryside. It is a proud town steeped in history and maritime heritage and the people of the Borough have a strong sense of local identity.

A unitary local authority covers the town with a directly elected mayor and cabinet political structure. Other major service providers sharing the local authority boundary are the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, the Police Basic Command Unit, the Probation Service and the local team of the Learning and Skills Council. There is a strong tradition of partnership working in the Borough, more recently through the work of the Hartlepool Partnership, which brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

The Borough has seen a major transformation over the past 20 years through regeneration programmes and public and private sector investment. The town now has major visitor facilities, a revitalised town centre with a wide range of retail facilities, sites of international nature conservation importance and significant business and investment opportunities. Hartlepool has become a successful, modern town equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

Plans for Hartlepool Quays establish a cutting edge 20 year vision with ambitious proposals to improve accessibility, and create confidence in the market. A new mixed-use community will be created setting new housing, community facilities, offices and retail in high quality public open space. Routes to all surrounding areas will be improved, including a new pedestrian/cycleway bridge across the Harbour entrance to open up routes to the Headland. The scheme capitalises on the local coastline and creates a natural bond between the town centre, the Marina and the Headland ensuring Victoria Harbour acts not only as a centrepiece which local people can enjoy but also has an attractor for both visitors and inward investment.

The Hartlepool Community Strategy: The First Five Years

The first draft of Hartlepool's Community Strategy was produced in June 2001. Major changes have taken place over the last five years in terms of improvements to the town and to how the Hartlepool Partnership and its partners are structured to deliver the Hartlepool Community Strategy.

Five Years on – what has been achieved?

Since the first Community Strategy was produced there are fewer people unemployed – down from 6.9% in 2002 to 4.6% in 2006. The number of young people and long-term unemployed has also reduced.

The opening of Queens Meadow, Hartlepool's flagship Business Park with its Innovation Centre, together with upgraded units at Brougham Enterprise Centre now guarantees a strong provision of high-quality incubation units throughout the town. Exciting plans have emerged for the development of Hartlepool Quays comprising the Marina, the Town Centre plus Education & Skills Quarter, the historic Headland and Victoria Harbour.

Hartlepool College of Education now has three Centres of Vocational Excellence and the number of people achieving qualifications continues to increase. It has ambitious plans for its future development, driving up skills and raising aspirations.

Pupils achieving a grade A* to C at GCSE in Hartlepool has gone up by 3% per year, over the last three years, to 52% in 2005. This is an all-time high for the local authority. For the

first time ever, the percentage of pupils achieving five A* to G grades at GCSE reached the national average. Performance at Key Stage 3 (aged 14) in English, Maths and Science and at Key Stage 2 (aged 11) has improved so much that Hartlepool has been identified as one of the most improved local authorities in the country. Performance at many levels in English and Maths is now above the national average.

There have been significant reductions in crime. Domestic burglary and vehicle crime have reduced significantly since 2001. While there is still a long way to go to reduce the health inequalities that exist between life expectancy in Hartlepool and the rest of the country great progress has been made in reducing smoking. There have also been marked improvements in reducing teenage pregnancy.

The transfer of the housing stock to Housing Hartlepool has unlocked around £100m of private investment into funding improvements needed to ensure all former Council housing meets or exceeds Government Decent Homes standards by 2010. Excellent progress has been made in respect of the development and delivery of a sensitive programme of housing market renewal in central Hartlepool through a partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council, Housing Hartlepool and Hartlepool Revival, which will lead to the remodelling and transformation of some of the older housing areas around the town centre over the coming years.

An increasing number of people are satisfied with their area as a place to live – up to 83% in 2004 and more residents of Hartlepool now feel that there is a lot of community spirit in their area. Alongside these improvements steps have been taken to safeguard natural resources with recycling rates having increased by 20% in recent years.

Evolving Partnerships

Since its inception in 1999, and following the publication of its first Community Strategy, the Hartlepool Partnership Board has transformed to meet the challenge of providing high quality local services and improving local quality of life. It continues to respond to government requirements and has learnt from best practice, both within the North East and further afield.

The Hartlepool Community Network has established itself as a strong co-ordinating body for the town's residents, community and voluntary sector. The Protocol the network signed with the Hartlepool Partnership in 2005 strengthened working relationships and ensured the sector remained central to the Partnership's work in delivering the Community Strategy.

Theme Partnerships including the Environment Partnership and the Culture & Leisure Partnership have developed into fully operational strategic partnerships driving forward improvements. The new Local Development Framework provides for closer alignment of planning policy with the Community Strategy.

All service providers in Hartlepool have responded to the challenge set out in *Every Child Matters*. A Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership is now operational co-ordinating the delivery of *The Big Plan* – our Children and Young People's Strategic Plan.

The Hartlepool New Deal for Communities (NDC) Partnership is half way through its ten-year programme and significant improvements are being delivered. 44% of local residents are now in paid work compared to 38% in 2000.

There has been significant improvement in the educational achievement of young people in the area and over 370 over 16s have received bursaries to help them access training and education. The most marked improvements have occurred in Community Safety where the number of burglaries has decreased from 351 in 2001/02 to 115 in 2005/06.

As the current Single Regeneration Programme draws to an end in the north of the town, £25m of renewal activity will have been delivered to the Brus and St Hilda wards.

Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) are now in place for the town's most deprived neighbourhoods. These plans set out community priorities and provide a tool for local residents, through NAP Forums, to monitor implementation. Improvements are resourced through mainstream and Neighbourhood Renewal funding allocated by the Hartlepool Partnership.

But it doesn't stop there. The Partnership has agreed ambitious plans for the future. Hartlepool's achievements are being recognised internationally reflected in the decision to award Hartlepool the prestigious finishing port in the Tall Ships' Race in 2010. A second phase of development at Queens Meadow and Wynard business parks will underpin our economic regeneration and work on the Tees Valley Coastal Arc, together with the ongoing revitalisation of the town centre housing, will continue the town's physical regeneration. In the last five years the Hartlepool Partnership has developed robust plans to take the 2002 vision forward and deliver Hartlepool's ambition.

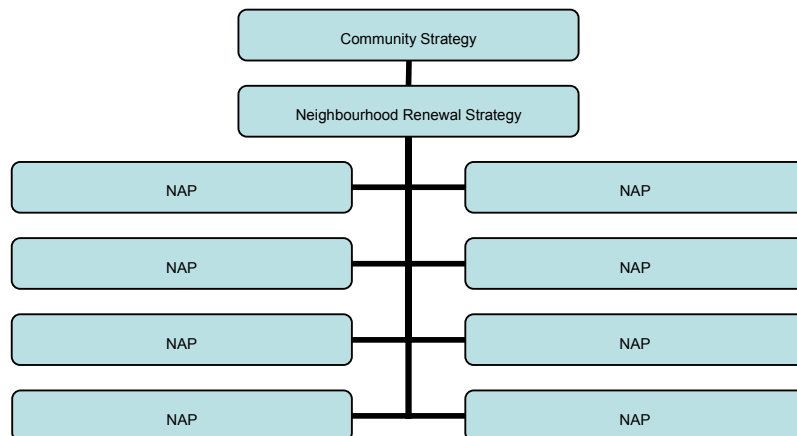
Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration

Introduction

Regeneration is a process, which renews or revitalises the economic, social and environmental conditions of a community. Neighbourhood Renewal is the part of the process that concentrates on neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies provide a broad policy framework for this activity over a 10-year period. Their purpose is to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to help tackle social and economic exclusion.

Within this Community Strategy are detailed objectives that form the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS), along with individual Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) that have been developed for each of the disadvantaged communities in Hartlepool.



Context

The context for the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is provided by 'A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal – National Strategy Action Plan' (January 2001), which was part of the government's modernising agenda.

This National Action Plan sets out a new approach to renewing disadvantaged neighbourhoods by working towards creating a nation where 'within 10-20 years no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live'.

This national vision is reflected in two long-term goals:

- i) In all the poorest neighbourhoods to have common goals of lower worklessness and crime, better health, skills, housing and physical environment.
- ii) To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived areas and the rest of the country.

Improved co-ordination of services within neighbourhoods, better use of existing mainstream resources and community empowerment are key elements of this strategy.



***The most disadvantaged neighbourhoods:
the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy area***

Hartlepool is the 14th most disadvantaged area in the country. The previous NRS area was made up of seven disadvantaged neighbourhoods:

- North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda wards)
- Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
- Burbank
- Rift House/Burn Valley
- Owton
- Rossmere
- Hartlepool NDC

The rationale for inclusion in the NRS was that they were within wards within the most 10% disadvantaged in the country, as set out in the Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2000.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation was revised by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in 2004. Rather than wards being the geographical unit of deprivation ONS now use Super Output Areas (SOAs) that are standardised at around 1500 population in size.

The revised Index of Deprivation shows that some areas are now no longer in the 10% most disadvantaged. This may be because conditions have improved, but it may also be due to using SOAs instead of wards and the fact that different indicators were used to make up the Index of Deprivation in 2004 than were used previously in 2000.

On this basis, and the fact that the initial NRS was a ten year strategy - those areas that were in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) previously will remain in the NRS for the next five years.

During the consultation on the NRS review a number of other small areas are to be added into the NRS area to reflect more natural neighbourhoods. This includes the addition of Bright Street and Wilson Street to the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhood. During 2005 the Hartlepool Partnership agreed to extend the boundary of the Owton NAP area to include the 'I' and 'M' Blocks to reflect the natural neighbourhood of Owton Manor.

The main change to the boundary from the previous NRS is the inclusion of the Throston neighbourhood. The ward based Index of Multiple Deprivation from 2000 that was used to inform the previous NRS did not have the Throston neighbourhood within a ward that was in the most 10% disadvantaged in the country, and as such did not qualify for inclusion in the previous NRS. While the 2004 IMD does not place Throston in the bottom 10% of disadvantaged area overall, for the IMD individual domains (there are seven that make up the overall ranking) of Employment, Health & Disability and Crime it is within the bottom 10% nationally. These domains are key priorities for the Hartlepool Partnership. In addition the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit have undertaken research as to the relative deprivation on small geographic areas throughout the town and this demonstrates that the Throston neighbourhood is as disadvantaged as several other NRS neighbourhoods.

The addition of Throston means that 55% of the Hartlepool population live in disadvantaged neighbourhoods – an increase from 54% in the previous NRS. While in principle this leads to a further diluting of the regeneration funding available, such as NRF, it does provide Theme Partnerships and individual service providers the flexibility to target a greater number of disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Service providers will increasingly have to consider in greater detail whether services they provide need to be targeted at the whole NRS area or be more focussed on specific neighbourhoods where the problems are more acute.

Many services and opportunities, particularly for education and employment lie outside the NRS area. It will, therefore, also be the aim of the NRS to support such opportunities and develop links to ensure they are accessible to the NRS area communities. Such opportunities could arise at Seaton Carew, on industrial estates on the southern fringes of the Borough, Wynyard Business Park and other strategic sites in the Tees Valley and the A19 corridor.

Neighbourhood Action Plans

The Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal set out that all neighbourhoods that need priority status at the local level should be identified in the NRS, and that NAPs for each of these neighbourhoods should be prepared.

NAPs are structured around the key themes of the Hartlepool Community Strategy therefore integrating economic, social and environmental issues. These 'golden threads' have enabled the NAPs to be taken on board by each of the Theme Partnerships delivering each theme of the Community Strategy.

NAPs have been developed in each of the NRS priority neighbourhoods (note NDC NAP due for completion later in 2006). They are already beginning to shape mainstream service delivery and act as a framework for how additional new resources are prioritised locally.

The NAPs together form the geographical element of the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, setting out in detail:

- Key statistics of the neighbourhood;
- Strengths and Weaknesses;
- Resources and Programmes; and
- Gaps in service delivery linked to priority concerns and actions.

Individual NAPs are available to view on the Partnership's website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

Spatial Planning

Delivering Hartlepool's Ambition relies not only on effective partnerships able to deliver excellent services but also on the decisions we take to shape our local environment. Decisions on the location and quality of social, economic and environmental change affects everything from the location of major new transport or energy facilities and employment development, through to the development of new shops, schools, houses or parks needed by local communities.

This spatial planning operates at a range of different scales of activity, from the North East Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to the more localised design and organisation of our town, villages and neighbourhoods.

A new planning system

The new planning system, introduced in 2004, establishes that development will be guided by the Regional Spatial Strategy, providing a broad development strategy for the north east region covering a fifteen to twenty year period and a series of Development Plan Documents within a Local Development Framework.

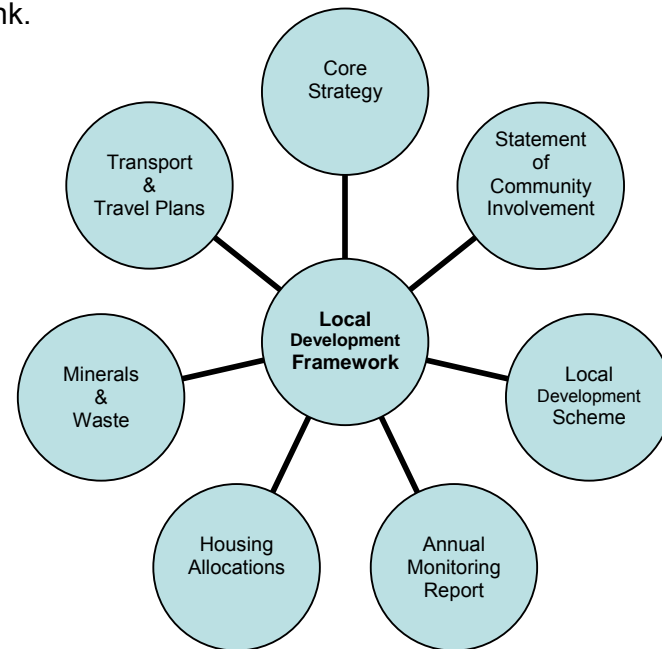
From this "folder" of different policies and plans, three are of primary importance to the delivery of Hartlepool's Community Strategy:

- The **Core Strategy** which sets out the spatial vision for Hartlepool, reflecting the priorities established in the Community Strategy;
- The **Statement of Community Involvement** which sets out how the community, including voluntary and community groups, local residents, businesses,

landowners, statutory agencies and others with an interest in the new planning system will be consulted and engaged in developing and delivering local planning policy.

- **Action Area Plans** which provide detailed planning frameworks for particular issues (where needed) such as employment areas, housing market renewal, regeneration, conservation or growth areas.

These various documents within the Local Development Framework are prepared and updated at different times through a continuous process. Hartlepool's Statement of Community Involvement was finalised in October 2006. Further information on the timing of preparation and review of other elements of the Local Development Framework are set out in Hartlepool's Local Development Scheme. This can be viewed online by visiting Hartlepool Borough Council's website www.hartlepool.gov.uk and clicking on the planning link.



The Consultation Process

What did we do?

Consultation on the revision of the Community Strategy was formally launched on the 5th May 2006 at the Hartlepool Partnership Annual Event. The first phase of consultation ran for 3 months until the 31st July. The second phase of consultation ran from early September to 17th November.

To raise awareness there has been active promotion of the Review including:

1. Household Questionnaires, leaflets and posters
2. Presentation to the Hartlepool Partnership
3. Presentation to the Council's Cabinet
4. Provision of a seminar for Councillors
5. Presentations to the North, Central & South Neighbourhood Consultative Forums
6. Presentations to Theme Partnerships and the Hartlepool Community Network
7. Meeting with the Neighbourhood Forum Resident Representatives
8. A week long promotion in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre
9. Drop in sessions in community venues
10. Publicity through Hartbeat, the Hartlepool Mail and Radio Cleveland
11. Information on the Partnership's website

Phase 1

The aim of the first phase of consultation was to engage residents, local groups and organisations in the review process by asking them to consider the Vision and Aims of the existing Strategy. To enable greater involvement in the review a Consultation Toolkit was developed to provide local groups and organisations with the key resources that they would need to undertake their own consultation activities. The outcomes of their consultation and individual responses were considered in the development of the first draft. In addition the results of other recent consultation activity undertaken in Hartlepool, including the preparation of the Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement informed the draft. A range of consultation activity took place across the Borough including:

1. Household questionnaire
2. On-line questionnaire
3. Viewpoint 1000 questionnaire (Hartlepool's Citizens' Panel)
4. Theme Partnership consultation events
5. Key organisation and group consultation events

What did feedback from Phase 1 tell us?

A total of over 1100 people responded to our request for feedback on the 2002 Community Strategy and priorities for future improvement. The comments received shaped a new vision for the strategy and revisions to its aims and objectives.

The Vision

Over 70% of respondents agreed with the Vision set out in the 2002 Community Strategy. Where suggestions for improvement were provided these included comments relating to crime and community safety, quality of the street scene and wider environment, health, regeneration, skills and skilled jobs, and respect for one another and for the history of the town.

The original vision has changed from: 'Hartlepool will be a prosperous, caring, confident and outward looking community in an attractive environment, realising its potential' to:

'Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.' Further detail on the consultation undertaken in the development of this new Community Strategy is set out in the 'Hartlepool Partnership Community Strategy Review 2006 Activity Log'. This can be viewed on the Hartlepool Partnership Website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

The Priority Aims

Community Strategy 2002 set out 7 Priority Aims:

1. Jobs and the economy
2. Lifelong learning and skills
3. Health and care
4. Community safety
5. Environment and housing
6. Culture and leisure and
7. Strengthening communities

Respondents were asked which of these aims should be tackled first and there was a clear consensus that Jobs and the Economy should be the top priority for action. Community Safety and Health & Care were the second and third priorities, with Environment and Housing slightly further down the list.

Around a third of respondents suggested changes to the aims. Many of these related to adult education and job creation, higher levels of policing and reduced crime and greater health education, healthy living and provision of health care facilities. People also wanted to be consulted more and to feel more involved.

When asked what changes in service provision would improve their quality of life improved policing/reduced crime and more public transport were the two top service areas. Tidying local neighbourhoods and reducing the amount of litter were also factors which many highlighted as improving quality of life.

Phase 2

The first draft of the revised Community Strategy was published in September 2006 with a 9 week consultation period. A range of consultation activity took place across the Borough including:

1. Distribution of draft strategy to key consultees including Councillors, Hartlepool Partnership Board, Theme Partnerships, Parish Councils, Residents Associations, Community and Voluntary Sector groups and Schools.
2. Electronic and paper questionnaire
3. Distribution of leaflet including community venues, libraries, health centres, key service providers, housing offices, neighbourhood offices

The consultation asked respondents a number of specific questions. They were invited to respond to them all, to some and not others, or to write about other issues that were not covered. The consultation questions were:

1. Is the draft Strategy about right?
2. What would you like to see changed?
3. Does the Vision capture Hartlepool's ambition?
4. Do you agree with the Priority Aims and related Objectives?
5. Is there anything you would like to add to the Priority Aims?
6. How could consultation on the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy be improved in future?

What did feedback from Phase 2 tell us?

The Vision

There was broad support for the strategy and a strong indication that the strategy was indeed about right. Support for the vision was at high at over 90%. Where there was disagreement, feedback included:

- Readability – views that the vision was too long, wordy and difficult to remember
- Deliverable – was the vision achievable in the timescale
- Reference to specific areas of service delivery e.g. more police, environmental quality, development of specific skill sectors.

The Priority Aims

Respondents were asked what if any improvements or changes they would make to the Priority Aims. Here a broad range of comments were received, both in relation to the Aims of the Community Strategy and the Issues and Priorities of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Further details of the comments received in phase 2 and the policy response that informed the preparation of this second draft are set out in 'Hartlepool Partnership Community Strategy Review 2006 issues and responses'. More detailed information on the consultation activity undertaken in Phase 2 is set out in the 'Hartlepool Partnership Community Strategy Review 2006 Activity Log'. Both documents can be viewed on the Hartlepool Partnership Website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

Our Vision

“Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential”



Our Principles

In delivering the Community Strategy all members of the Hartlepool Partnership will strive to apply the following nine principles:

Effective partnership working

Working together as equals to deliver sustainable communities within Hartlepool and having a clear understanding of shared decision-making, risks, responsibilities and accountabilities.

Efficient partnership working

Increasing efficiency and achieving value for money through improved procurement, financial reporting and management. Delivering high quality local services and making the most of the resources available including people, money, property, data and information.

Skills and knowledge

Developing our own capacity and skills to improve performance, whilst providing opportunities for the community to improve their skills, capacity and life chances.

Decision making and communication

Communicating openly and honestly with the community in Hartlepool making the Partnership publicly accountable for its decisions. Decision-making will be rigorous and transparent and decisions will be based upon the best information available at the time.

Involvement and inclusion

All parts of the community regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, colour, disability, religion, sexual orientation, family and other circumstances, language, national or social origins, age or any other status, are encouraged to be involved at all stages in the development, delivery and monitoring of this strategy.

Integrity

Acting with honesty, selflessness, objectivity and trust, declaring interests and dealing with truth and completeness.

Sustainable development

Considering economic, social and environmental goals equally and in an integrated way ensuring the long term and global aspects of strategy and decision making are considered.

Performance management

Actively managing the delivery of the Strategy and, where information for monitoring purposes is not forthcoming, striving to address this.

Leadership and influence

Leading by example with enthusiasm in delivering the Strategy by applying these principles and using influence to encourage other partners and providers locally, regionally and nationally to do the same.

The Renewal of Hartlepool's Neighbourhoods

In achieving the Community Strategy Vision it is essential that improvements are made across the Borough. This equality of opportunity is reflected in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy aim:

Our Aim

Continue the regeneration of Hartlepool and ensure that local people, organisations and service providers to work together to narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the town, so that in the future, no-one is seriously disadvantaged by where they live.

Our Objectives

1. To improve methods of consultation and working with communities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
2. To maximise the skills and knowledge of all those involved in the Partnership, including the community network, decision makers and service staff in all sectors.
3. To contribute jointly to achieving the national Public Service Agreement floor targets within Hartlepool and its most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
4. To seek resources for renewal and regeneration on the basis of need and opportunity.
5. To target neighbourhood renewal resources to benefit residents of the NRS neighbourhoods.
6. To better focus other special initiatives and mainstream services on NRS neighbourhoods, reducing the gaps between the conditions in these areas and the borough-wide, regional and national average.
7. To support the development of neighbourhood management and link this to the Partnership.
8. To ensure that spatial planning policies and consultation processes identified in the Local Development Framework reflect and support the objectives of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
9. To build upon recent improvements and good practice, identifying and realising opportunities for continued regeneration and investment through flagship projects including Victoria Harbour, Hartlepool Quays, Queens Meadow Business Park, Wynyard and established business areas such as Brenda Road.
10. To ensure that the NRS neighbourhoods benefits from opportunities that exist outside the NRS Area.
11. To effectively link into sub-regional and regional partners and partnerships including the Tees Valley Partnership, Tees Valley Regeneration, Tees Valley Living and One North East.
12. To work towards a better understanding of the key issues and improve baseline information and the analysis of resources.
13. To ensure that the main programmes, partners and partnerships reflect the aims of this Strategy.

Children and Young People

Children and Young People in Hartlepool face great opportunities and challenges. By working together we can improve their lives both now and into the future.

Hartlepool Borough Council is required to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan by the Children Act 2004. It has a duty to "promote co-operation" between itself and its key partners. There has been agreement nationally on the five outcomes that really matter to the lives of children and young people and these are now law in the Children's Act 2004. The five outcomes are:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Well-being

Be Healthy refers to physical, mental, emotional and sexual health, with an emphasis on healthy lifestyles and making positive choices not to take drugs.

Stay Safe refers to being safe from maltreatment, neglect, sexual exploitation, accidental injury and death, bullying and discrimination, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Enjoy and Achieve refers to being ready for school, attending and enjoying school, achieving high standards at primary and secondary stages of education, personal and social development and recreation.

Make a Positive Contribution refers to the engagement of children and young people in decision-making and community support activities, positive and law-abiding behaviour, developing positive relationships and self-confidence and dealing with change and enterprise.

Achieve Economic Well-being refers to engagement in further education, employment or training, being ready for employment, living in decent homes and communities, being free from low income and having access to transport and material goods.

Hartlepool's Children and Young People's Plan – *The Big Plan* was published in April 2006 and aims to improve the lives of all children and young people in Hartlepool. The involvement of children and young people in the development of the plan has enriched the process and has ensured the Plan remains focussed on positive outcomes for each of them.

In the following sections, Hartlepool's vision for each of the five outcomes for children and young people is shown together with key objectives.

In the preparation of this Plan, Hartlepool partners have begun to work even more closely together and will continue to do so as this three-year rolling Plan is reviewed and refreshed.

Our Eight Priority Aims

1. Jobs and the Economy

Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.

2. Lifelong Learning and Skills

All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.

3. Health and Care

Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and well-being.

4. Community Safety

Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.

5. Environment

Secure and enhance an attractive and sustainable environment that is clean, green, safe and valued by the community.

6. Housing

Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live

7. Culture and Leisure

Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.

8. Strengthening Communities

Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

Jobs and the Economy

Introduction

The transformation of Hartlepool over the last 15 years has in many ways been remarkable with major changes to the built environment, massive reduction in unemployment and diversification of the town's economic base.

The proportion of all jobs in Hartlepool in the manufacturing sector has fallen from 23.2% in 1994 to only 17.4% in 2003. The infrastructure of Hartlepool's economy is now dominated by the public sector, which provides 33% of all employment, whilst the private sector is dominated by a few large employers.

About 75% of the Borough's jobs are in the NRS area and they are therefore physically convenient for many NRS area residents. Though the economy of the surrounding sub-region is not strong, it provides a significant pool of potential jobs.

Aim

Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.

Objectives

Attract Investment

1. To invest in infrastructure and environmental improvements in industrial and commercial areas that encourage additional private investment, productivity and employment.
2. To encourage the implementation of improvements and developments in the town centre and other key employment sites such as Victoria Harbour, the Southern Business Zone (Longhill / Brenda Road / Queens Meadow) and Wynyard Business Park.
3. To encourage and support on-going investment by the indigenous business community.
4. To promote Hartlepool as a destination of choice for inward investors.
5. To develop Hartlepool's leisure and tourism offer to further increase the town's importance as a visitor destination.
6. To ensure the availability of suitable, sustainable, development sites to support business development and start ups.

Be Globally Competitive

7. To improve business productivity by promoting access to new markets, use of Information Communication Technology, knowledge transfer and other business support measures.
8. To increase skill levels amongst the town's workforce ensuring that Hartlepool can compete in a global economy.
9. To establish an enterprise culture that helps to create high value business start-ups and sustain business survival and growth.
10. To continue to establish a strong and robust social enterprise sector that provides high quality service provision and employment opportunities in local neighbourhoods.

Create more employment opportunities for local people

11. To encourage and promote social and financial inclusion, ensuring that all local residents are provided with opportunities to achieve their personal, social and economic goals.
12. To improve skills for life and key skills and promote workforce development in industrial sectors with growth potential such as construction, leisure and culture and health and social care.

13. To promote good recruitment and employment practices amongst the local business community, encouraging diversity so that all residents, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion and belief have equal access to employment opportunities.
14. To encourage the development of links between education and business that create employment and training opportunities for young people.
15. To support the community and voluntary sector to continue its important role as a provider of employment and deliverer of services to the local community.
16. To target employment, training and enterprise provision such as New Deal, Work Based Learning and Pathways to Work at neighbourhoods with the worst labour market position and disadvantaged groups such as residents with disabilities, young people and carers in order to reduce worklessness, deprivation and poverty.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy: Key Jobs & Economy Issues

Unemployment: There has been a significant reduction in the unemployment rate, dropping from 6.9% in June 2002 to 4.6% in March 2006, halving the gap between the Hartlepool rate and the national rate. The gap between the NRS area unemployment rate and the Hartlepool rate has reduced by 20% since 2002.

Long Term Unemployment: The proportion of the unemployed suffering long-term unemployment has reduced over the last few years but a third of all unemployed people have been unemployed for 6 months or longer. Since 2002 significant progress has been made in narrowing the gap between the NRS neighbourhood rate and the Hartlepool rate.

Employment Rates: The Hartlepool employment rate has increased to around 68% over the last year but there remains a stubborn gap between the NRS and the Hartlepool rate and the Hartlepool rate and the national rate.

Business Start Ups – Over the past few years there has been an increase in the average number of annual VAT Registrations, but there is still a long way to go to narrow the gap to the regional rate.

Business Support: Continued support is needed particularly for small business and community businesses

Key Skills: Relatively low skills, aspirations and entrepreneurship are major issues in the NRS area (see

Lifelong Learning and Skills). Key Skills and Skills for Life are a priority and need to be raised in line with the needs of employers (see Lifelong Learning and Skills).

Incapacity Benefit Claimants: The proportion of the NRS neighbourhoods working age population not working through incapacity is significantly higher than in the Borough rate particularly in Burbank (28.2% of working age population claiming Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance) and NDC (23.9% IB/SDA).

Manufacturing: In Hartlepool there is a relatively high proportion of jobs in manufacturing which is sensitive to economic downturns and the service sector is relatively small though it has seen recent growth.

Perceptions of Jobs and Potential Employees: Awareness and understanding need be improved amongst potential employers and employees.

Image: The image of the Borough, NRS neighbourhood, and especially the town centre, tourism areas and older business areas need to be further improved. The Borough's heritage together with the Coastal Arc and Hartlepool Quays will be central in driving forward this agenda.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Developing further employability initiatives that provide support and link residents of the NRS area to jobs and training e.g. targeted employment interventions for young people and residents with disabilities and encouraging growth in community enterprises.

Develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of the workforce both in and out of work, to meet the needs of the labour market. (See Lifelong Learning and Skills).

Provide accessible and relevant advice and support including childcare.

Investigate and remove barriers to employment and training including those related to benefits, aspirations, mobility, incapacity rates and discrimination issues.

Integrate Employment and Training Charters within major capital programmes that enables job creation to be targeted at economically inactive residents.

Carry out a programme of improvements to Commercial Areas.

Support and encourage business investment and development.

Children and Young People's Plan

Achieve Economic Well Being

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will achieve the qualifications, develop the skills and be given the necessary life experiences to enable them to lead full and active adult lives. Also that all services will work collaboratively to ensure children and young people will have opportunities to succeed in their chosen career and live in households free from poverty.

Key objectives:

- Ensure education and training is planned in a co-ordinated manner involving all partners and the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed.
- Ensure that all young people are prepared for working life by:
 - Ensuring all Key Stage 4 pupils have opportunities for vocational studies and work experience;
 - Ensuring that all young people aged 13 – 19 have impartial careers advice and guidance.
- Continue to support regeneration initiatives that support the needs of children and young people.

Lifelong Learning and Skills

Introduction

The Lifelong Learning and Skills theme of the Community Strategy covers early years, school, further education, higher education, skills development and community learning.

Significant progress has been made in schools improving performance towards national rates. Attainment gaps are narrowing and in many areas performance in Hartlepool is now at or above national levels. Most children and young people, including those who are vulnerable, make better progress than expected given their starting points.

Hartlepool is embarking on a programme of rebuilding, remodelling, and refurbishing its secondary schools and the accompanying investment in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) over the coming years will support new ways of teaching and learning. The Primary Capital Programme will bring much needed investment and address the long-term needs of primary school buildings.

In terms of skills and qualifications there have been issues related to the attainment at the basic and intermediate levels, as well as developing the higher value skills needed to foster innovation.

The key problems relating to lifelong learning and skills within the NRS area are similar but more marked to other areas in the town and regionally. These are, primarily, low Key Skills

levels in adults and lower attainment levels at the Key Stages of education for young people.

There remains a shortage of vocational skills within the NRS area. Whilst there has been significant investment in education and lifelong learning in recent years, the NRS neighbourhoods remain the most disadvantaged in terms of education and skills.

Aim

All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.

Objectives

Enjoy and Achieve

1. To raise aspirations and help all children achieve their potential by developing Children's Centres and Extended Schools, monitoring school performance and challenging and supporting schools to improve the quality of provision, and paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and under-achieving groups.
2. To ensure all children and young people can access a range of recreational activities including play and voluntary learning.
3. To work with the voluntary sector and other agencies to improve the range and quality of recreational learning opportunities for all especially children & young people.

Increased skills and academic achievement

4. To create a culture of lifelong learning by raising expectation and promoting individual achievement, aspiration and self-esteem and encouraging entrepreneurship.
5. To improve skills for life and key skills and promote workforce development in industrial sectors with growth potential such as construction, culture & leisure and health & social care.
6. To increase the opportunities for skilled and educated people to remain in Hartlepool by encouraging an enterprise culture, helping create high value business start-ups and sustain business survival and growth.
7. To develop the employers of the future through enterprise education

Service Providers and Facilities

8. To ensure the highest quality providers and provision, develop new delivery models, encourage innovation and extend the good practice
9. To support the development and delivery of Centres of Vocational Excellence and locally based Further and Higher Education provision.
9. To develop and support new and emerging approaches such as the adult apprenticeship pilot, the general diploma and specialised diplomas

11. To improve the provision and dissemination of labour market information and strengthen the capacity of service providers to carryout effective and timely monitoring so that changes in provision and access can be made proactively.

Support and Access

12. To improve the provision of effective information, advice, guidance and counselling to pupils, students, families, and the community as a whole, including voluntary groups.
13. To develop progression routes enabling people to progress from one level of achievement to the next, and completing courses, remain in education and training after the age of 16
14. To improve personal, social and emotional development, confidence building, citizenship and health awareness and the opportunity to learn in disadvantaged neighbourhood
15. To promote improved access to all types of education and training for all members of the community, promoting inclusion, breaking down barriers to learning including affordability, convenience, physical access and care, providing flexibility and new learning methods where practicable and widening participation for all

***Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:
Key Lifelong Learning & Skills Issues***

Early Years – Participation by 3 year olds in nursery education is 100%, exceeding the national definition of universal participation that is 85%.

Communication, Social and Emotional Development: It is now a government Floor Target to improve children's communication, social and emotional development so that by 2008, 50% of children reach a good level of development and the end of the foundation stage and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 20% most disadvantaged areas and the rest of England. The 2005 baseline rates were 36.1% in Hartlepool and 23.5% in the NRS neighbourhood.

Key Stage 1: In Reading, Writing and Maths the Hartlepool attainment rate is 84%, 81% and 90% respectively (2005) – all 1% below the respective national rates. Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange were the lowest performing neighbourhoods.

Key Stage 2: English, Maths and Science Level 4 attainment are above the national average, but in certain neighbourhoods – Burbank, Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange - attainment is well below the Hartlepool rate of attainment. Overall the gap is continuing to narrow between the NRS area and Hartlepool (2005).

Key Stage 3: Maths Level 5 attainment in Hartlepool is above the national rate whereas attainment in English and Science is below that of the rest of the country. Pupils from the Owton, North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) and NDC neighbourhoods perform well below the Hartlepool rate of attainment.

Key Stage 4: The GCSE 5A*-C attainment rate for Hartlepool is below the national rate, despite Hartlepool continuing to drive up performance over a number of years. The gap is narrowing but pupils from Burbank, NDC and North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) neighbourhoods performed least well in 2005.

Skills for Life and Key Skills: The proportion of adults and children in Hartlepool with low basic skills remains high and rates within the NRS neighbourhoods are lower than the Borough rate. The number of Skills for Life qualifications rose significantly from 520 in 2003/04 to 1071 in 2004/05. Importantly, a greater proportion of residents achieving this qualification are from NRS neighbourhoods.

Level 1 Qualifications: The number of residents achieving qualifications has reduced from previous years, although this is offset by increases in the Skills for Life and Level 2 qualifications.

Level 2 Qualifications: In 2005 the number of Level 2 qualifications increased by 27% from the previous year. The proportion achieved by NRS residents remained static.

Level 3 Qualifications: In 2005 the number of Level 3 qualifications achieved increased. Importantly a greater

proportion of those qualifications were achieved by residents of NRS neighbourhoods.

Level 4 Qualifications: In 2005 the number of Level 4 qualifications increased by 40% on the previous year, and a higher proportion were achieved by NRS residents than in 2004.

Low IT skills and job specific skills: Employers indicate problems with the attitude, motivation and low skill levels of applicants to jobs. Improved access to vocational ICT training and encourage familiarity with new technologies is required.

Juvenile offenders: Form a significant group within those 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' in the Tees Valley.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Raise achievement of all NRS pupils, students and learners to meet the relevant standards and targets.

Target initiatives at looked after children, children with special needs and disabilities and children in foster placements to improve attainment.

Improve levels of Skills for Life and Key Skills, including literacy, numeracy and Information Communication Technology (ICT) of NRS residents of all ages.

Develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of the workforce both in and out of work, to meet the needs of the labour market. Improve access to training including informal education and activities within neighbourhoods.

Children and Young People's Plan

Enjoy and Achieve

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children are given the best start in life through high quality early years provision and support for parents and carers. This will ensure that they are well prepared and ready for school, where they will enjoy their education and have opportunities to achieve their potential. We want children and young people, especially those who are vulnerable, to develop personally and socially and for them to safely enjoy recreation and leisure time away from school.

Key objectives:

- Raise aspirations and help all children achieve their potential by:
 - Developing Children's Centres and Extended Schools;
 - Monitoring school performance and challenging and supporting schools to improve the quality of provision;
 - Paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and under-achieving groups.
- Ensure all children and young people can access a range of recreational activities including play and voluntary learning.
- Work with the voluntary sector and other agencies to improve the range and quality of recreational learning opportunities for children and young people.

Health and Care

Introduction

The health of Hartlepool residents is improving; on average they are living healthier and longer lives. However, they still suffer from more ill health and disability, higher death rates from diseases such as cancer, heart disease and respiratory disease and live shorter lives than in most other parts of the country. There is evidence to indicate that this 'health gap' is widening. There are also inequalities in the 'health experience' of communities within Hartlepool; the most deprived communities suffering significantly poorer health than the more affluent areas.

It is recognised that there are many factors that influence the health of our population including the lifestyle choices that individuals make, the environment within which they live and work, the quality of their housing, their income and their level of educational achievement.

A number of key strategies are in place to deliver services including the Hartlepool Vision for Care, Children and Young People's Plan, Public Health Strategy, Older People's Strategy and the Mental Health Social Inclusion Strategy.

Aim

Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and well-being.

Objectives

1. To work together to provide high quality, convenient and co-ordinated services when people need them.
2. To support the people of Hartlepool in choosing a healthy lifestyle.
3. To reduce early death and ill health caused by heart disease, strokes and cancers.
4. To ensure people are in control of decisions relating to their own health and wellbeing and can get the support and care they require when they need it
5. To reduce drug, alcohol abuse and smoking and to enable people with related problems to overcome them.
6. To promote mental well-being, reduce suicide rates and support people with mental health problems.
7. To provide real choice for people, so that they can make decisions about their own care and support.
8. To value the work that carers do, promote carer awareness and social inclusion and improve the identification, range of support and training for carers
9. To strengthen and support communities with specific needs to improve their health, well-being and social inclusion.

***Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:
Key Health & Care Issues***

Cancer: Cancer is the largest single cause of death in Hartlepool. The mortality rate for cancer in the NRS area is significantly higher than the Hartlepool rate.

Coronary Heart Disease, Strokes and Respiratory Disease: Standardised mortality ratios for heart disease, strokes and respiratory disease are significantly higher in Hartlepool than nationally. Although, death rates from circulatory diseases are declining both nationally and locally, Hartlepool continues to experience worse rates than the national average.

Smoking: Approximately 44% of residents in the NRS area smoke compared to 34% in Hartlepool as a whole (MORI 2004). Smoking rates are highest in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (55%) and Owton (53%)

Drugs: Of the Tees Valley Boroughs Hartlepool has the highest rate of residents accessing drug referral schemes (see Community Safety). Approximately 83% of all drug related litter was located in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Physical Inactivity: Participation rates in sport and physical activity are low in relation to the country and the Tees Valley. Physical inactivity is also greater in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Obesity Levels: The proportion of people who are obese has increased in all Boroughs in the Tees Valley, particularly in Hartlepool. Obesity rates in England have trebled since the 1980s.

Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health: Significant progress has been made since 1997 but Hartlepool still has an under 18-conception rate well above the regional and national average. The teenage conception rate remains significantly higher in the NRS neighbourhoods. Diagnoses of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) have more than doubled between 1995 and 2000.

People Incapable of Work: Within the Tees Valley Hartlepool has the highest percentage of the working age population incapable of work due to illness or disability. The NRS neighbourhood has a significantly higher rate of people incapable of work than the Borough as a whole. The proportion of residents with a limiting long-term illness is highest in Burbank (34.2%) and Rift House/Burn Valley (29.8%) compared to Hartlepool (24.4%) and nationally (17.9%).

People Requiring Care: The percentage of people in need of personal care in the NRS neighbourhood is slightly higher than the Hartlepool average. Burbank shows particularly high rates - almost double the Hartlepool average.

Mental Health: The proportion of people in the NRS neighbourhood experiencing mental health problems is higher than the Borough rate.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Protect and improve health, reduce health inequalities in the NRS neighbourhoods and increase life expectancy.

Encourage NRS residents to adopt active and healthy lifestyles by promoting the benefits of regular exercise and working in partnership to provide additional support in local communities to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Reduce smoking, alcohol, drugs and solvent abuse especially amongst young people.

Target NRS neighbourhoods with screening and support services for heart disease, strokes and cancers.

Improve the health, emotional development and well-being of all children, young people, and their families, and particularly to prepare "looked after children" for life and bringing stability into their lives.

Focus resources on the NRS neighbourhood to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions and improve sexual health.

Improve mental well-being, raise awareness, reduce isolation, challenge discrimination and promote opportunities for people with mental health problems in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Improve the well-being and independence of older people, people with learning or physical disabilities, and those with sensory support needs.

Work with service providers to secure equality of access to health and social care services where and when people need them.

Children and Young People's Plan**Be Healthy**

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will be physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy, lead healthy lifestyles and choose not to take illegal drugs.

Key objectives:

- Ensure that health inequalities are reduced by improving the targeting of vulnerable infants, children and young people.
- Improve sexual health and ensure that the conception rates for teenagers continue to reduce.
- Promote healthy lifestyles by initiatives such as the National Healthy Schools Award.

Community Safety

Introduction

Community Safety is one of the highest community priorities. Whilst there have been recent improvements in reducing crimes such as domestic burglary and vehicle crime, reducing fear of crime and the need for public reassurance remains a clear priority.

The introduction of Neighbourhood Policing has revolutionised the way in which police operate providing officers who are known by name and readily accessible to the communities they serve. A partnership approach ensures that the issues that matter most to people are tackled at the times they are needed.

The crime and disorder problems are associated with the socio-economic factors of the population such as high unemployment and low educational attainment. Crime and disorder is greater in the NRS neighbourhood due to socio-economic factors and the town centre that acts as a magnet for business crime, vehicle crime and alcohol related disorder.

Aim

Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.

Objectives

Anti-social behaviour

1. To reduce anti-social behaviour across the town, with particular focus on 'hot-spot' areas.

Crime

2. To reduce acquisitive crime (burglary and theft), with particular focus on high crime areas.
3. To reduce alcohol related social nuisance, disorder and violence associated with the night-time economy.
4. To reduce incidents of repeat victimisation associated with domestic violence and improve joint working between services.
5. To ensure that community safety is considered in all decision making and service delivery of public bodies.

Drugs and alcohol misuse

6. To tackle drugs misuse with treatment programmes which encourage harm minimisation, rigorous enforcement and education and awareness programmes.
7. To develop local services for those who misuse alcohol.
8. To tackle under-age drinking by education and enforcement.

Fires

9. To reduce deliberate fires.

Offending behaviour

10. To prevent and reduce offending and re-offending.

Reassurance

11. To involve local communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.
12. To introduce measures to promote reassurance and improve public confidence in all sections of the community.

Young People

13. To work with young people and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Key Community Safety Issues

Overall Crime: Reduced in previous years but Hartlepool still has relatively high crime levels. The gap between Hartlepool's overall crime rate and the national average has reduced from 41% to 23% between 2003/04 and 2005/06.

Domestic Burglary: The number of domestic burglaries has reduced dramatically since 2003/04 from 1276 crimes to 622 in 2005/06 across the town and from 908 to 454 in the NRS neighbourhood. Again the gap between the Hartlepool rate and the national average has narrowed from 87% above in 2003/04 to just 27% above in 2005/06, but the proportion of burglaries occurring in the NRS neighbourhoods over these two years has remained static at just over 70% of the Hartlepool total.

Anti-social Behaviour: The proportion of incidents from NRS neighbourhoods reported to Police over the last few years has remained static at around 70%. Much anti-social behaviour is alcohol related and a proportion of this relates to under-age drinking.

Many privately rented houses are located in NRS neighbourhoods and some tenants' behaviour is an increasing concern in some streets.

While issues of youth related anti-social behaviour is generally perceived as more prevalent in the NRS neighbourhoods there are some other neighbourhoods, such as at Clavering and Fens shops, where youth anti-social behaviour is causing problems for residents. It seems a reasonable approach to allow for flexibility within this NRS for areas such as Clavering and Fens, and other localities to be prioritised on their merits alongside NRS neighbourhoods when tackling youth related anti-social behaviour, particularly as we know that young people who live in NRS neighbourhoods chose to associate with friends outside of their local area.

Reassurance: The proportion of people who feel safe walking alone at night in their local area is lower in NRS neighbourhoods than Hartlepool as a whole. Residents of Dyke House/Stranton/Grange are most likely to feel unsafe about walking alone in or around their area after dark (51%). It is also a problem in NDC (50%) and Owton (44%).

Drugs: Drug dealing and use was identified as a serious problem in the NDC neighbourhood by nearly half of residents

(47%). It was also highlighted as a serious problem in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (44%) and Owton (38%). The majority of all drug related litter was located in NRS area. The areas with the highest pick-ups are in Stranton and Owton wards.

Deliberate Fires: In Hartlepool in 2005/06 there were 851 deliberate fires, a reduction of 38% from 2003/04. This is still too many and the proportion of deliberate fires occurring in the NRS neighbourhoods has remained the same since 2004.

Local Violence (common assault and wounding): Since 2004 the number of incidents has risen by 25% in Hartlepool and the proportion incidents being within NRS neighbourhoods has also increased.

It is estimated that up to 70% of town centre violence is alcohol related. Local Violence includes incidents of domestic violence, many of which are also alcohol related. The NRS neighbourhoods will benefit from town wide interventions to tackle alcohol.

Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property: Identified as a serious problem most in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (30%), NDC (24%) and Owton (24%) compared to Hartlepool rate (13%). Since 2004 criminal damage in Hartlepool has increased by 6%. This is a priority for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

Business Crime: Hartlepool has a significant problem with shop theft and the majority of this type of crime occurs in the town centre that is within the NRS neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Seek to maintain and if practicable increase the number and visibility of a uniformed presence on the streets, especially additional police on patrol in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Work with young people and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending.

Provide an increased range of accessible diversionary activities and facilities for young people.

Reduce disorder in the town centre associated with alcohol.

Reduce anti-social behaviour, with particular emphasis on behaviour associated with alcohol consumption generally and more specifically underage drinking.

Develop further target-hardening measures in the NRS neighbourhoods to increase the security of homes and businesses, with particular emphasis on repeat victims.

Improve communications with residents, to receive information (intelligence) and provide feedback on actions undertaken.

Tackle the problem of drug misuse, particularly in respect of the under 30-age group, by education, enforcement and a harm reduction programme.

Target those who deal in and supply illegal drugs.

Reduce commercial crime, particularly commercial burglary and shop theft.

Tackle environmental issues such as vandalism, graffiti and fly-tipping to improve the general appearance of the NRS neighbourhoods.

Children and Young People's Plan

Stay Safe

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will live, grow and learn in safety, where parents, carers and all adults take responsibility for their safety and well being and they are free from harm, discrimination, harassment and exploitation.

Key objectives:

- Ensure that children and young people are provided with a safe environment by activities such as staff training and the development of partnership working to address bullying.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of child protection services.
- Ensure that where children need to be looked after, they are placed in family settings and changes in placements are minimised.

Environment

Introduction

Environment and transport make important contributions to complex quality of life issues. The environment affects both quality of life and the perception of the neighbourhood as a place to live and invest in. The impact of the environment on underlying deprivation causes is hard to analyse and control but is often high on community agendas.

Access to open spaces with play and sports facilities, quiet areas, and high biodiversity value is an important aspect of achieving a sustainable community. Conversely the impacts of pollution, energy efficiency and waste management can have particular adverse impacts on the quality of life.

Hartlepool's transport system is pivotal to the town's economic success and the quality of life of its residents. Delivering an effective and efficient transport system makes social, economic and environmental sense allowing employees to travel and business to flourish whilst reducing the harmful effects of transport on the natural environment and ensuring a good quality of life for groups without regular access to a car.

As more residents look outside of their local area to work, shop and play, there has been an accompanying decline in local facilities. Poor transport provision can act as a barrier to the take up of employment, training and education opportunities, the ability of younger people and older people to access services and the provision of accessible health care facilities

Aim:

Secure and enhance an attractive environment that is clean, green and safe, managed to enhance biodiversity, and is readily accessible and valued by the community.

Objectives:

Environment

1. To protect and enhance the natural environment and its biodiversity, including sensitive and appropriate development of urban and brown field sites
2. To increase awareness, understanding of and access to the natural environment
3. To protect and enhance the quality of watercourses, open water and coastal waters and their margins and minimise the risk of flooding to people, property and buildings from the sea, rivers and sewers
4. Improve access to high a quality local environment where public and community open spaces are clean, green and safe .
5. To make better use of natural resources, reduce the generation of waste, and maximise recycling.
6. To reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change by minimising energy use, increasing the use of alternative and renewable energy sources, and by ensuring all plans, strategies and service delivery plans positively prepare for a changed climate.

7. To minimise all forms of pollution

Built Environment

8. To enhance the built environment & transport corridors and promote good urban design, while conserving areas of townscape, coast and assets with archaeological, architectural or historic significance
9. To record, enhance and raise awareness of the towns' heritage and ensure it is safeguarded for future generations

Transportation

10. To promote social inclusion by ensuring that everyone can access the key services and facilities that they need
11. To improve the overall safety and security of the transport system for everyone
12. To ensure that traffic congestion does not hinder continued economic growth and regeneration
11. To minimise the adverse impacts of transport on air quality and climate change

Global Environment

14. To promote community involvement in positive action for the local and global environment.
15. Promote global sustainability

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Environment Issues

Satisfaction with local area: Generally the majority of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. 75% of NRS residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live compared to 83% for Hartlepool. Dyke House/Stranton/Grange has the lowest level of satisfaction (65%) followed by NDC (67%).

Litter & Rubbish – 40% of residents of Dyke House/Stranton/Grange think that litter and rubbish is a serious problem in their area compared to 27% in the NRS area and 19% across Hartlepool. Targeted enforcement campaigns are needed against people dropping litter, dumping rubbish, allowing their dogs to foul and creating nuisance noise.

Vacant Land and Buildings: Positive end uses for vacant buildings and land is being encouraged through the Local Plan and regeneration schemes. However, many of the schemes need to be augmented. Priority issues vary between the NRS areas. North Hartlepool, particularly the Headland has a particular problem with vacant buildings while the Central area has a high level of derelict land and vacant dwellings. Vacant land may be managed for biodiversity value where appropriate and until another use can be agreed.

Public Transport Accessibility: Poor transport provision can often act as a barrier to economic and social inclusion. The high cost of fares can act as a further barrier to its use and those who do not have access to a car often rely on lifts and or taxis because of the inadequacy of public transport services.

Poor public transport was identified as a serious problem in Rift House/Burn Valley by 17% of residents compared to the Borough rate of 5%.

Public Transport: Satisfaction with public transport is lower in the NRS neighbourhoods than Hartlepool as a whole. 66% of Hartlepool residents are satisfied with bus services, and 8% satisfied with rail services (2000). Public Transport – Poor public transport was identified as a serious problem in Rift House/Burn Valley (17%) compared to Hartlepool (5%)

Road Danger: Accidents at the worst junctions / roads in the NRS area need to be reduced. Speed and volume of road traffic is classed a more serious problem in NDC, Owton and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange than other neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Increase satisfaction in local neighbourhoods through improving the management of litter, rubbish and vacant land and buildings and increasing the environmental quality of all public open spaces.

Work with local voluntary and community groups, develop local initiatives to identify ways of improving the quality of the local environment and access to public open spaces which people value.

Continue a process to improve, maintain and keep clean and safe the highways, roads, buildings, rights of way and other public areas.

Find new uses for redundant buildings in NRS neighbourhoods through the use of grant aid from regeneration schemes and the use of positive planning. Encourage appropriate alteration and repairs to listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas. Reduce the amount of derelict land within the NRS neighbourhoods by using it for appropriate development or quality amenity areas

Ensure that a safe and effective transport system is provided which ensures that NRS neighbourhoods have good access to public transport throughout the week. Provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists in the NRS neighbourhoods, particularly to improve access to employment and facilities.

Reduce accidents at the most dangerous junctions and roads in the NRS neighbourhoods.

Housing

Introduction

Balancing the supply and demand of housing to meet the aspirations of the population is a key strand of the Housing Strategy for Hartlepool and tackling existing and future problems in the private sector is the key housing regeneration challenge for the town. With changing housing markets there is significantly increased demand for social housing. The rising costs of renting privately is affecting affordability as rents rise above housing benefit levels.

New housing completions remain high and housing costs remain lower than average for the region, particularly for terraced dwellings.

Housing that does not meet recognised decency standards and problems associated with management of private rented properties can often be a root cause of disadvantage.

There is increasing need for support and appropriate housing for vulnerable people and with an increasingly elderly population there is increased need for a range of accommodation including extra care

Aim

Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live

Objectives

Balancing Housing Supply and Demand

1. To ensure that there is access to a choice of good quality housing in sustainable communities across tenures to meet the aspirations of residents and to encourage investment.
2. To secure adequate provision of new housing and maximise the proportion that is built on previously developed land; while seeking to secure an improved mix in the size, type, ownership and location of housing , including the development of sufficient housing at an affordable level and appropriate provision of larger, higher value, low density dwellings
3. To achieve a better balance between housing demand and supply
4. To enhance the standard of management of social and private rented housing

Meeting the Decent Homes Standard

5. To encourage improvements to homes to meet and exceed 'decent homes standards'

Meeting the Housing Needs of Vulnerable People

6. To increase the opportunities and to encourage residents to live independently in the community as appropriate
7. To provide accommodation and support for vulnerable people to live independently

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Key Housing Issues

Unbalanced Housing Tenure: Hartlepool has become affected by low and changing demand. There is an over supply of smaller, older, terraced properties evidenced by concentrations of vacancy and abandonment. 41% of the stock is terraced compared to regional and national levels of 31% and 26% respectively.

Much of the poorer housing is concentrated in NRS neighbourhoods where major remodelling is necessary, along with other social and environmental projects.

Parts of the NRS area, particularly NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange have seen a rapid increase in the growth of the private rented sector in recent years and there are concerns regarding the impact of poor management.

Housing Mix: There is a need to balance communities in the NRS area by encouraging a greater mix of housing types. There is a need to continue the selective removal of properties in low demand areas. To balance housing supply and demand a partnership of Hartlepool Borough Council, Housing Hartlepool and Hartlepool Revival will be managing the Housing Market Renewal process in NDC and North Central Hartlepool areas.

Housing Vacancies: There are particular problems of vacant dwellings, predominately in the NRS area. There are 2315 vacant properties in Hartlepool (March 2006), of which 1513

were in the private sector and 545 have been empty for over 6 months. Given the 3-3.5% vacancy rate that might be expected in an ordinarily functioning private sector housing market, this 4.8% represents an excess of 411-568 vacant dwellings at 2006.

Housing Hartlepool's stock (over 7000 properties) had a total void rate of 1.46% (March 2005), of which 0.8% were ready to let, a situation reflected within other RSL stock.

Housing conditions: There remains a need to ensure that all social housing in the NRS area meets set standards of decency by 2010. In April 57% of Housing Hartlepool homes and 80% of other RSL's homes met the decent homes standard.

Satisfaction with Accommodation: The majority of residents Hartlepool are satisfied with their accommodation (95%) although satisfaction is slightly lower in the NRS neighbourhoods (91%). Looking across individual neighbourhoods Burbank (74%) has the lowest rate of satisfaction. While satisfaction with accommodation is generally high there remains a minority of vulnerable people with housing issues

Vulnerable People: The NRS neighbourhoods have a greater proportion of vulnerable households. It is important that the housing needs of vulnerable people continue to be met by assisting residents to live safely in their own homes, offering a choice of suitable accommodation, improving the thermal insulation of homes and preventing fuel poverty, and preventing homelessness.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Seek to balance demand and supply for housing in the NRS neighbourhood by reducing the number of vacant dwellings and ensuring housing is of the right size and tenure and is within sustainable locations.

Ensure housing regeneration activity in the NRS neighbourhoods is successful and secures follow on investment.

Deliver empty homes initiatives to reduce blight and halt the decline of areas

Implement selective licensing in areas with low demand or anti-social behaviour

Achieve the Government's Decent Homes targets for social housing and private housing occupied by vulnerable groups

Improve access to social housing for vulnerable people

Address issues of fuel poverty in the NRS Neighbourhoods

Increased joint working between the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and housing providers

Continue to prevent incidents of rough sleeping

Enable people with physical disabilities to live safely in, or return to, their homes where they wish to.

Children and Young People's Plan**Vision**

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people will have safe and accessible places to play, socialise and pursue leisure activities.'

Key objectives:

- Action is taken in Hartlepool to maximise the proportion of children and young people living in homes that meet the decent homes standard.

Culture and Leisure

Introduction

Hartlepool's current rejuvenation has been dramatic, changing the face of the town and attracting increasing regional attention. It is important that this continues, to create a sustainable economy and further enhance our growing reputation as a town with a distinct identity within the region.

Plans for Hartlepool Quays include the provision of a multi-million pound water sports centre on Victoria Harbour, housed within an iconic maritime-theme building, set within landscaped parkland. The selection of Hartlepool as the final host port for the Tall Ships' Race in 2010 creates the potential to raise the profile of Hartlepool and Coastal Arc not only as a visitor attraction but also as an investment location.

Culture and Leisure are key elements to successful regeneration. Associated activities can provide a positive local identity, help to develop individual pride and confidence in neighbourhoods and deliver a vibrant voluntary and community sector. Culture & Leisure complements lifelong learning and training and resulting increases in community spirit and capacity can make a valuable contribution to delivering key outcomes in other theme areas. It can provide diversionary activities that reduce antisocial behaviour and crime.

The contribution of Culture and Leisure activities to improved health and care are significant; sport & physical activity are vital to social, economic and personal development and contribute to improved quality of life.

Aim

Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.

Objectives

1. To create a strong cultural identity for Hartlepool within the region.
2. To celebrate Hartlepool and express that local identity.
3. To develop a sustainable cultural economy.
4. Increase participation, opportunity for access and diversity.
5. Advocate the value of culture in meeting the expressed needs and aspirations of the community.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Key Culture & Leisure Issues

Barriers to participation in culture and leisure opportunities are strongly linked to poverty and disadvantage.

Libraries: Visitor numbers have fallen over the past few years especially from secondary school pupils, mirroring the national trend linked to changing culture and lifestyles.

While satisfaction is generally high across Hartlepool at 77% in some neighbourhoods, such as North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) satisfaction is significantly lower at 58%.

Children's and Youth Facilities: Low usage of youth and community centres linked to affordability and accessibility. Consultation with young people highlights a lack of informal meeting places, lack of organised activities, and the poor state of existing sports pitches and facilities. Satisfaction with Youth & Community Centres is lowest in Burbank (16%) and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (17%) compared to the Hartlepool rate of 27%.

Open Space: Satisfaction with open spaces in Hartlepool (65%) is higher than in the NRS neighbourhoods (50%). Satisfaction with public parks/open spaces is lowest in Burbank (22%) and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange (37%). Satisfaction with play areas is lowest in Burbank with only 8% of people satisfied compared to the Hartlepool rate of 38%.

Sport and Recreation: There have been recent improvements in the proportion of overall leisure centre attendance from the NRS neighbourhoods – up from 48% in 2001 to 54% in 2004. Some existing facilities do not have a universal appeal to the whole community with disadvantaged groups (unemployed and disabled) being significantly underrepresented. Satisfaction with sport clubs/facilities is lowest in Burbank with only 24% of people satisfied compared to the Hartlepool rate of 49%.

Arts and Museums: There is a need to increase the usage of arts, museums and cultural events, although user satisfaction with cultural facilities is high.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Target pro-active arts and sport development in conjunction with concessionary schemes. Greater marketing of sports/recreation activities to increase participation from disadvantaged groups and NRS neighbourhoods. Specific activities for the elderly, the young, the disabled and better child care facilities for parents wishing to participate in sport and recreation are required.

Extend services to housebound residents and hard to reach groups.

Encourage partnership working with local schools and adult education, Libraries, community sports facilities and arts development.

Develop youth provision, meeting places and outreach work in the NRS neighbourhood.

Protect and enhance children's play facilities/open space and parks in the NRS neighbourhood.

Support and promote the role of the library in the activity of lifelong learning, access to job opportunities and safe/equal access to the library services.

Build on good practice, engage the community in cultural and leisure projects that encourage lifelong learning, diversionary and creative activity, positive cultural identity and give a sense of ownership in the NRS neighbourhood.

Strengthening Communities

Introduction

Hartlepool has a strong and vibrant Community and Voluntary Sector. There are a large number of community and voluntary sector groups in the town and a number of new residents associations have been formed through the development of the New Deal for Communities programme, Hartlepool Community Network and other capacity building initiatives and the development of NAPs. Community consultation and involvement in setting priorities and planning delivery has strengthened in recent years and regulatory frameworks, including the Local Development Framework's Statement of Community Involvement and the COMPACT have provided a focus for this activity.

Strengthening and valuing communities is at the heart of the NRS. Empowering individuals and groups and increasing the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives is fundamental to the process of reducing the gaps between the conditions in the NRS area and Borough and national averages.

Aim

Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

Objectives

2. To enhance the democratic process by using existing structures more effectively and increase understanding and involvement in the democratic process.
3. To fully value the voluntary and community sector and to support them to secure their long-term future through contracted service delivery and the agreement of longer term funding settlements.
4. To empower local people to take a greater role in the determining, planning and delivery of services and strategies that affect their individual lives, their local neighbourhood and the wider community.
5. To increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially "hard to reach" groups and those communities affected.
6. To ensure that appropriate feedback is given to individuals and communities when they have been involved in consultation or decision making processes.
7. To improve the accessibility of services and information to residents and businesses through a variety of means including the use of information communications technology (ICT) in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.
8. To ensure Hartlepool is a cohesive community where there is a sense of belonging for all and where people of different backgrounds, circumstances and generations are able to get along.

***Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy:
Key Strengthening Communities Issues***

Community Spirit: Significant numbers of people still feel there is little community spirit in their neighbourhood, especially where there is a significant transient population. Only 23% of Burbank residents would say there is a lot of community spirit in their area. This is low compared to the NRS neighbourhoods together (44%) and Hartlepool (48%).

Community Involvement/Apathy: Feelings of involvement in the local community are relatively low, especially amongst those on lower incomes. This is demonstrated by low and falling turnout rates at general election, low turnout rates at local elections and low levels of formal volunteering. Residents in the NRS area are less likely to feel part of their community than those in the rest of the town. People living in Rift House/Burn Valley, Rossmere and Burbank are least likely to feel part of the community.

Voluntary/Community Sector issues: Despite a generally well-developed voluntary/ community sector in the NRS neighbourhood stability is difficult to establish and some groups may face serious problems in being able to deliver services to the community. The introduction of NAPs has increased resident involvement but there is still progress to be made in developing further active residents associations.

Influencing Decisions: The involvement of local communities in taking an active role in improving their area is an underlying principle of neighbourhood renewal. There is still much work to do in Hartlepool. For example, only 14% of

residents from North Hartlepool (Brus & St Hilda) feel they can influence decisions that affect their area, compared to 27% for the NRS area and 26% across Hartlepool.

Access to Services: More needs to be done to improve access to information and communications between residents and service providers. The need to improve access for special needs groups, people on low incomes, and hard to reach groups, are also key.

Satisfaction with Local Area: See Environment Theme

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Priorities

Investigate barriers to engagement including those related to income deprivation, special needs, and hard to reach groups.

Develop and support residents associations across the NRS neighbourhood from the grass roots level, to enable local people to make their views and aspirations known.

Develop networks and structures from the neighbourhood level to feed into strategic partnerships/policy makers to give a voice to specific communities of interest.

Provide community development and capacity building support in key areas of need including targeted support for hard to reach and special needs groups. Ensure effective communications and access to information through networks and structures both to and from residents.

Consider the voluntary/community sector as a service provider.

Provide and develop long-term support including finance, infrastructure, premises, management, and skills development.

Children and Young People's Plan

Make a Positive Contribution

Our vision for this outcome is to provide all children and young people who live in Hartlepool with the opportunity to participate fully in the life of their community. We will work with children, young people and their families to ensure that they are central to our planning and that, through their involvement, we meet the national and local priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Key objectives:

- Develop clear links between participation processes for children and young people, service providers, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the local political process.
- Continue to divert children and young people away from anti-social behaviour and crime, through further development of preventative services.
- Ensure that all children and young people have access to services that support the development of self-confidence, self-worth and emotional resilience that enables them to face significant life changes and challenges with appropriate support.
- Further develop the process for involving children in the planning and review of services designed to meet their needs. In particular we will ensure that Looked After Children and those with disabilities are fully involved in planning for their future.

Sustainable Development

In 2000 Hartlepool Borough Council produced its first Sustainable Development Strategy. Current Government Guidance recommends that Community Strategies should be developed into Sustainable Community Strategies. This revised Community Strategy reaffirms Sustainable Development as one of the nine principles that govern the Strategy's implementation and as a result, a separate sustainable development strategy is no longer required.

The Community Strategy sets a framework for the development of sustainable communities, the components of which can be defined as follows:

- **Governance:** Effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- **Transport and connectivity:** Good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services
- **Services:** A full range of appropriate, accessible public, private, and community and voluntary services
- **Environmental:** Providing places for people to live in an environmentally friendly way
- **Economy:** A flourishing and diverse local economy
- **Housing and the built environment:** A quality built and natural environment
- **Social and cultural:** Vibrant, harmonious and inclusive communities

Source: Egan Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities

Building sustainable communities is one part of sustainable development. Equally important is enabling economic, social and environmental gain to be considered equally and in an integrated way. No one aspect of sustainable development is given priority over another. In implementing the Community Strategy it will not be enough to make progress on one priority aim at the expense of another.

If we are to fulfil our ambition we must be fully aware of the possible effects our decisions today might have on the lives of others and their ability to maintain and enhance their quality of life in the future. We must learn from the mistakes of previous generations which have left us with the legacy of both local and global challenges.

And in a world with an ever increasing connectivity between developed and developing nations, Hartlepool must ensure that its ambition is built not just on local equity between its most deprived and affluent neighbourhoods but on a global equity and responsibility that our success is not at the expense of progress in developing nations.

Skills and knowledge

Bringing about long term improvements to the quality of life in Hartlepool requires organisations and people to adapt and develop at every level. A high degree of skills and knowledge is needed to successfully deliver the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and it will be important to continue to identify good practice, learn from others and encourage a culture of learning.

Establishing clear governance roles and responsibilities for partners delivering the Strategy is challenging and it is important that partners have the right skills for their roles. These skills need to evolve as members' roles change to deal with new challenges they face. Realising the skills and knowledge potential of residents, other decision makers, professionals, front line staff and business people is also critical.

The following list provides details of the types of skills and experience we would expect members of the Partnership Board to possess.

1. Leading the Future of the Partnership

- Developing the vision and values
- Entrepreneurial
- Influencing the future
- Communicating
- Managing change
- Cross sector working

2. Managing the current performance of the partnership

- Critical decision making
- Political shrewdness
- Building robust relationships
- Developing and monitoring local strategy
- Negotiating effective and agreed outcomes

3. Developing the personal skill base of the partnership

- Strategic thinking and decision making
- Political understanding
- Leadership
- Personal effectiveness
- Self development

Neighbourhood Renewal

Implementing Hartlepool's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy requires additional skills and knowledge to effectively address the particular aspects of deprivation.

Skills and Knowledge is established as one of the nine principles that govern the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy's implementation, underlining the Partnership's support for this important area of work and its commitment to equip everyone involved in neighbourhood renewal with the skills and knowledge they need.

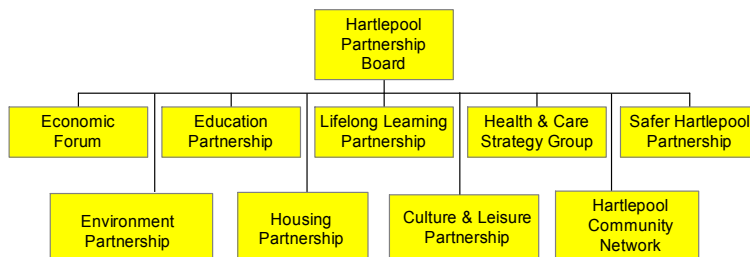
Holding each other to account

The implementation of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be overseen by the Hartlepool Partnership and will be dependent on the concerted actions of a range of agencies and organisations across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

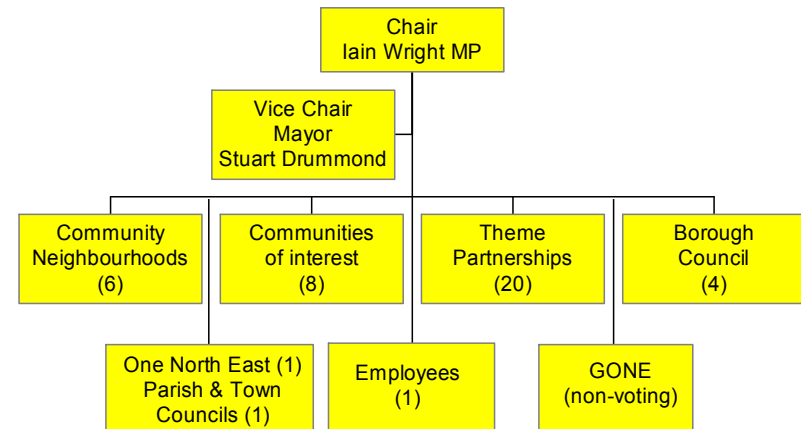
The Hartlepool Partnership

The Hartlepool Partnership is the town's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and brings together all of the town's partnerships delivering local services. The Partnership is a network of partnerships providing opportunities for involvement by a wide range of organisation and individuals in the development and implementation of policy.

The Partnership is made up of a Board and a series of Theme Partnerships.



The Hartlepool Partnership Board has 42 members and is chaired by the local MP. The Elected Mayor is the Vice Chair.



The role of the Board is to provide strategic co-ordination and agree policy on major issues of strategic importance to Hartlepool.

Theme Partnerships are responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategy's Priority Aims and Objectives, ensuring that these feed directly into the content of more detailed specialist plans. Co-ordination and alignment of plans and programmes is one of the main ways in which the Community Strategy will be implemented

Through an agreed Performance Management Framework, the Board holds Theme Partnerships accountable for delivery.

Accountability

Successful implementation of the Community Strategy relies on strong internal accountability between partners and good external accountability to local residents and service users. This can be summarised:

- Giving an account
- Being held to account
- Taking account
- Redress

Giving an account

Theme Partnerships will prepare quarterly performance reports that paint a clear picture of performance trends. These will be published on the Partnership's Website. Performance and financial reports will also be prepared for Government reviews as required.

Being held to account

In addition to its own accountability arrangements, the Partnership's performance is reviewed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Government Office for the North East. Updates on performance will also be provided through Hartbeat, the Partnership's magazine and online.

Taking account

The Partnership will ensure a strong evidence base drives the implementation of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. In the review of Neighbourhood Action Plans the views of local people and organisations will be particularly important.

Redress

The Partnership will work to ensure that where there are complaints or expressions of dissatisfaction, however made, about the standards of service, actions or lack of action by the Partnership affecting an individual or group that it works quickly and effectively to address the issues.

Mainstreaming

Nationally and locally increasing importance is being placed on 'mainstreaming' as a means of implementing Community Strategies and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies. In response to this the Hartlepool Partnership undertook a review of 'mainstreaming' within the Borough in 2005. All key partner organisations were represented in the review, which established the current approach to mainstreaming in Hartlepool. There are many different interpretations of mainstreaming, however for the purpose of the review, the Partnership defined mainstreaming to include:

- Re-directing resources/budgets into those areas regarded as deprived;
- Making deprived areas the focus for policy;
- Reshaping services to reflect local needs;
- Joining together services, programmes and targets to reduce duplication and contradiction;
- Learning from good practice examples and using pilots as a means to inform future policy decisions.

From the findings it is evident that mainstreaming is high on the agenda of partner organisations. Of those interviewed, 79% felt that mainstreaming was a high or very high priority and 68% felt that it had increased in priority for their organisation from 3 years ago.

The review identified many good examples for each of the five definitions of mainstreaming, some of which have been noted as national best practice. However, a number of significant barriers were identified to taking forward the mainstreaming agenda. Some of these barriers can be tackled at the local level but others will require changes in central government and national agencies to enable change to be implemented in Hartlepool.

The area of mainstreaming that partners in Hartlepool were least able to provide evidence was 'bending mainstream resources'. Many organisations identified significant barriers in relation to re-directing financial and other resources into deprived areas. In some cases partners were aware that mainstreaming was taking place, but unable to provide evidence to substantiate the statements. In others, the need to deliver a universal service to all areas and residents meant that targeting deprived areas would need justifying to key decision-makers. The most frequently quoted barrier to this form of mainstreaming was the lack of discretionary mainstream funding that is available to be 'bent'. With over 50% of Hartlepool's population living in neighbourhoods that are the 10% most deprived in England, there is not enough flexibility in mainstream budgets to be able to take forward this type of mainstreaming. This is compounded by increased demands for efficiency and cost cutting in the public sector.

Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement

Hartlepool's first Local Area Agreement was agreed in March 2006 and includes 36 priority outcomes structured around the Community Strategy priority themes. The LAA clearly sets out priorities and indicators to monitor progress towards targets to assess performance. The agreement covers the period April 2006 – March 2009 and has been signed between the Hartlepool Partnership, Hartlepool Borough Council and Central Government.

It is through this agreement that the implementation of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will take place.

Local Area Agreements aim to build a more flexible and responsive relationship between central government and Hartlepool on the priority outcomes that need to be achieved locally. There is also a drive to streamline bureaucracy and reporting requirements between central government and local delivers to improve service outcomes.

Annual delivery plans are prepared and performance is measured quarterly against this. The Local Area Agreement provides a robust performance management framework to oversee the implementation of actual changes both across Hartlepool and within disadvantaged communities.

Delivering Sustainable Development

In the preparation of the Local Area Agreement an outline Sustainability appraisal was carried out. This ensured that the principles of sustainable development were been embedded in the Agreement. Annual progress towards sustainable development will be monitored through the LAA performance management arrangements.

The community strategy provides the high level framework from which a sustainable development checklist is being developed. The checklist can be used by anyone drafting policies, strategies and projects to ensure their activities contribute to sustainable development.

Delivering Skills and Knowledge

The Hartlepool Partnership has decided to incorporate the skills and knowledge agenda by developing a Local Action on Learning Plan and has taken this plan forward as an integral part of the partnerships Performance Management Framework (PMF).

Evaluation

The Partnership recognises that broad evaluation is essential to assess and improve the impact of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. The Partnership will undertake independent evaluation of its major funding programs and work with partners to carry out qualitative household surveys.

Timetable for future reviews

It is essential that the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy are reviewed in the future to ensure that:

- there is continued support for the vision, priority aims and objectives;
- local communities are able to express their needs;
- the process is open and accountable;
- the strategy is responsive to risks and opportunities;
- the strategy is relevant and accurate.

The Strategy will be reviewed again in five years.

Throughout the next five years of the Community Strategy's implementation, all services must be challenged and reviewed by all partners to ensure that progress is made towards achieving the vision and aims of the Community Strategy. Their impact on inequality should also be considered to ensure that progress is made to reduce disadvantage and contribute to achieving the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy aim. This review should identify where more resources or early and effective adjustment is necessary to secure progress.

The revised Priority Aims provide the basis for future decision making on how resources should be used, as well as for assessing whether best value is being achieved from current activities. It will also be necessary to target resources, to encourage greater social inclusion, and overcome some of the barriers that prevent people from playing a full part in society in line with the NRS.

Next Steps

Strategy Appraisal

This second draft will now undergo a number of appraisals. These will highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and to remove or minimise any negative impacts.

The Integrated Regional Framework for the North East

The Framework, published by Sustainability North East, provides guiding principles for integrating sustainable development within mainstream policy and decision making. The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of revisions of Strategies.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The European Directive 2001/42/EC requires assessments for plans which “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”.

Health Impact Assessment

This assessment can help identify and consider the health and inequalities impacts of the Strategy on Hartlepool people. The primary output is a set of evidence-based recommendations that inform the decision-making process associated with the Strategy.

Section 17

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local and police authorities, to consider crime and disorder reduction and community safety when undertaking all of their duties and responsibilities.

Rural Proofing

Rural Proofing ensures that strategies take account of rural circumstances and needs (Rural White Paper, 2000). This includes:

- considering whether their policy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of particular rural circumstances or needs;
- making a proper assessment of those impacts, if these are likely to be significant;
- adjusting the policy, where appropriate, with solutions to meet rural needs and circumstances.

Diversity Impact Assessment

The main function of the assessment is to determine the extent of differential impact upon the relevant groups i.e. race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religious beliefs and whether that impact is adverse. The aim is the promotion of equality of opportunity, the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good race relations.

Preparation of a third draft

Feedback

Comments on this second draft are welcome and should be received no later than 20th July 2007 to:

Freepost RRAE-CATT-SXAL
Hartlepool Partnership
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool TS24 7BT

Contributions can be emailed to:

hartlepoolpartnership@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further copies of the Strategy are available from the above address or by telephoning 01429 284147.

Alternatively, you can read this consultation paper online at: www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by following the Review 2007 link.

Disclosure

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Timetable

Following the results of the assessments, a third draft of the Strategy will be published. It is anticipated that this will be available in Autumn 2007.

As part of the consultation on phase 2, respondents were asked how communications for future consultation could be improved. A number of responses were received and these will inform consultation activity in the next phase of the review.

Setting the Strategy in Context

Nationally

Preparing Community Strategies: Government Guidance To Local Authorities: (Cabinet Office, 2001)

Part I of the Local Government Act 2000 placed 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. It also gave authorities broad new powers to improve and promote local well-being as a means of helping them to implement those strategies. Part I of the Act came into force on 18 October 2000.

A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan (Cabinet Office, 2001)

This strategy sets out the Government's policy to narrow the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country so 'that within 10-20 years, no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.' The Government identified that a key task in achieving this was for LSPs to prepare Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies (NRS). The Government also indicated that all neighbourhoods that need priority status at the local level should be identified in the NRS, and that local action plans (or neighbourhood action plans – NAPs) for each of these neighbourhoods should be prepared.

Local residents and community groups were identified as key in turning their neighbourhoods around and the importance of using the NAP preparation as a means of encouraging local people and organisations to work together to integrate policies at the local level and improve the way that services are provided was underlined

Sustainable Communities Building for the Future (ODPM, 2005)

This programme of action tackles the pressing problems in communities in England: homes are unaffordable in some areas, but are being abandoned in others. Decent homes and good quality local environments are required in all regions. This document sets out the Government's determination to reverse, over the next 15-20 years, some damaging, deep-seated trends. It is part of the Government's wider drive to raise the quality of life in communities through increasing prosperity, reducing inequalities, more employment, better public services, better health and education, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and much more. It reflects key principles for public service reform: raising standards, devolving and delegating decision-making, providing greater flexibility over use of resources and choice for customers. Although a long term programme, it sets out the intent to increase and refocus investment in the next three years to accelerate change and address the most acute needs. It builds on existing policies and actions notably those in the Urban and Rural White Papers, (Our Towns and Cities: the Future and Our Countryside: the Future - November 2000), and policies for devolving power to regions, and modernisation of local government.

Regionally**Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East:
Submission Draft (North East Assembly, 2005)**

The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy sets out a long term strategy for the spatial development of the North East and contains an overall vision, strategy and associated policies to guide development towards 2021 and beyond. It provides the spatial context for the delivery of other regional strategies, in particular the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Housing Strategy and the Integrated Regional Framework. The RSS is part of the statutory development plan under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Local planning authorities such as Hartlepool will prepare the other components of the Development Plan through their Local Development Frameworks. In terms of overall vision, the common theme of the RSS and these other related strategies is the need to reduce the economic and social disparities between the North east and other regions whilst protecting and enhancing the region's environment. This approach has been endorsed by the Government and forms the basis for "Moving Forward: The Northern Way A Strategy for Growth". It requires accelerated economic activity and a renaissance throughout the region. The RSS also recognises that there are parts of the North East currently experiencing high levels of socio-economic deprivation and dereliction and that both urban and rural areas are characterised by pockets of poor quality housing exhibiting low demand and abandonment. It also recognises that the economic, social and environmental regeneration of these areas is essential to the region's continued growth and quality of life.

Sustainable Communities in the North East (ODPM, 2003)

Sustainable communities: Building for the future (a national plan of action) marks a step change in building and maintaining sustainable communities in all our regions. In the North East, it complements and builds on the key strategic aims and objectives of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, One NorthEast's Regional Economic Strategy (RES), ODPM's Regional Planning Guidance for the North East (RPG1) and the Regional Housing Strategy. It is an action plan to build successful, thriving and inclusive communities where people want to live. We need to create sustainable communities which:

- ◆ are economically prosperous;
- ◆ have decent homes at a price people can afford;
- ◆ safeguard the countryside;
- ◆ enjoy a well-designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment;
- ◆ are effectively and fairly governed with a strong sense of community.

This regional plan sets out proposals for implementing the national plan of action in the North East. It does not attempt to cover all the issues of importance to communities. It highlights actions to address housing, planning and neighbourhood renewal issues.

Moving Forward: The Northern Way (Northern Way Steering Group, 2004)

The Northern Way vision is to seek the transformation of the North to become an area of exceptional opportunity, combining a world-class economy with a superb quality of life. The Northern Way has made considerable progress and received substantial support from Government, public agencies and business leaders. The strategy, Moving Forward: The Northern Way (2004) sets out how, over a 20 year period, it seeks to bridge the output gap of around £30bn between the North and the average for England.

Regional Economic Strategy (RES) – July 2006

The RES sets out how One NorthEast are going deliver greater and sustainable prosperity to all people of the North East over the period to 2016. This document both sits within the context of, and seeks to influence, a number of European, national, pan regional, regional and sub regional frameworks and strategies. The RES also sets out the relative strengths and weaknesses of the North East England's economy over recent decades and how this links into growth potential for the future.

Regional Housing Strategy (North East Housing Board, 2005)

In May 2005 the North East Housing Board approved an updated North East Housing Strategy which was accepted by ministers in August 2005. There are four broad aims to the strategy:

- Developing housing to meet 21st Century demands and replacing unwanted houses with high quality

housing. These houses must be long lasting and make cohesive, unified communities.

- Provide new housing for larger households and to fulfil peoples' aspirations for better housing.
- Improving and maintaining existing housing.
- Consider specific housing needs including affordability in some rural locations, the needs of an ageing population and the special needs of other groups.

The Strategy sets out the North East Housing Board's strategic aims and priorities for all housing in the region. It provides a framework that encourages the development of appropriate housing solutions at regional, sub-regional and local levels. It seeks to influence private and public sector investment decisions and sets the strategic context within which housing providers should operate. The strategy covers the period 2005-2021 but it will be subject to regular updates. The Strategy builds on the first version of the Strategy published in 2003, by strengthening the relationship between housing, economic and demographic change. It will integrate the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) with the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Northern Way Growth Strategy and align the RHS with the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

Turning Ambition into Reality: The North East Regional plan for sport and physical activity 2004-2008 (Sport England North East, 2004)

The Strategy considers sport and physical activity in its broadest sense, showing how it relates to wider social, economic and environmental issues. It sets out to guide the work and the commitment needed from a wide range of people and organisations from sports clubs to regional agencies. The Sport England regional office prepared the plan during 2003 and 2004, following wide-ranging consultation with partners and stakeholders at a series of meetings and seminars. The Strategy's Vision is:

To make the north east an active and successful sporting region.

To turn the vision into reality the strategy establishes the importance working together to create fair and equal opportunities for people to start, stay and succeed in sport and physical activity. Key delivery areas are:

Increase participation: convert the regional passion for sport and physical activity into a 1% year-on-year increase in participation from 2004 to 2020.

Widen access: make sure that equal access to sport and physical activity is seen as a basic right of all the region's people.

Improve health and wellbeing: recognise sport and physical activity as the single most effective way of improving the health of the region's people.

Create stronger and safer communities: create a culture of challenge where involvement in sport and physical activity is seen as central to the long-term health of all communities.

Improve education: Use the education system to raise people's hopes and change the culture towards lifelong participation in sport and physical activity.

Improve levels of performance: make sure the sporting structure in the north east provides the best opportunity for everyone to achieve their potential and for high performers to compete at a world-class level.

Benefit the economy: make sure the sport and physical activity sector makes an increasing contribution to the region's economy in terms of skills, image, economic and social development.

Tees Valley Vision (TV JSU, 2003)

The Tees Valley Vision sets out a long-term strategic vision for the Tees Valley and provides the policy context in which Tees Valley Regeneration, the Urban Regeneration Company for the Tees Valley, should operate.

The purpose of the strategic framework is to provide a long-term response to job losses, to argue the case for public sector expenditure on economic development and the regeneration of the sub region, and to provide a coherent, long term programme for the development of the area.

Key areas the Tees Valley Vision covers include:

- Housing Market Renewal
- Environmental improvement
- Knowledge-based economy
- Enterprise culture
- Lifelong learning culture
- Integrated transport system
- Coastal Arc from Hartlepool to Redcar
- Health inequalities
- Quality of life

The Vision sets out that “by 2020, Hartlepool is fully developed as a business and commercial centre, a major waterfront location and a focus for shared service centres and short holiday breaks. It is a prosperous, confident and outward-looking community. The ports of Tees and Hartlepool have continued to grow and Teesport is now a major container terminal serving both the north of England and Scotland.

Tees Valley City Region Development Programme (TV JSU 2005)

Prepared in response to the Northern Way, the City Region Development Programme (CRDP) builds on the work of the Tees Valley Vision and includes an economic analysis of the City Region, an assessment of the economic challenges and a programme of investment required. It sets out strong links to the corresponding work being undertaken by Durham and North Yorkshire County Councils and included achievements to date in delivering the Vision.

Tees Valley City Region – A Business Case for Delivery (TV JSU 2006)

In May 2006, following a visit to the City Region of the new Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Tees Valley was asked to prepare a Business Case to complement the CRDP. The Business Case’s objective is to improve the economic performance of the Tees Valley through developing programmes to improve our economic assets, improve our urban competitiveness and tackle some of the main barriers to economic growth. It also sets out improved City Region governance arrangements. Finally, it shows how Government can help the City Region deliver a programme of improved economic performance.

Coastal Arc

(Hartlepool Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, 2004, updated 2006 – 2008)

Coastal Arc is an economic regeneration initiative, although tourism is a key driver, that takes a holistic approach to the regeneration of the Tees Valley Coast. Its aim is to attract new investment, significantly enhance the physical environment and make a critical contribution to the regional tourism offer. The Coastal Arc takes a partnership approach to deliver renaissance, revival and regeneration of the Tees Valley. It provides a long term strategy for the sustainable regeneration of coastal communities, together with opportunities for developing and diversifying local economies.

Coastal Arc's Vision is centred on two themes:

- **Coastal Experience:** to create and develop activities and places that will be attractive enough to draw visitors and tourists to the coast on a regular and repeat basis and
- **Coastal Management:** to put in place measures that will ensure continual improvements to the quality of the facilities, the promotion and support to visitor tourism based businesses.

Locally

Local Development Framework

Under the new planning system introduced in 2005, the development plan will comprise the Regional Spatial Strategy (see pg ??) and a series of Development Plan Documents within the Local Development Framework.

There are 2 types of documents in the LDF – Development Documents, setting out the spatial strategy and planning policies for the area, and other documents relating to the plan making process.

A. Development Plan Documents (DPDs) – which together with the Regional Spatial Strategy will comprise the statutory Development Plan and deliver the spatial planning strategy for the area. Eventually there will be a number of different types of Development Plan Documents as follows:

- **Core Strategy** DPD setting out the spatial vision, spatial objectives and core policies for the area;
- **Site Specific Allocations** DPDs identifying areas of land for development such as new housing or employment sites;
- **Action Area Plans** (where needed) relating to specific parts of the area where there will be comprehensive treatment or to protect sensitive areas;
- **Proposals Map** which will be updated as each new DPD is adopted;
- DPDs containing waste and minerals policies; and any other DPDs considered necessary.

The Core Strategy must generally conform with the Regional Spatial Strategy and all other DPDs must conform with the Core Strategy.

B. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – these are non-statutory documents expanding on or providing further detail to policies in a Development Plan Document – they can take the form of design guides, development briefs, master plans or issue-based documents.

The other documents included in the LDF are:

- I. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) – setting out the details of each of the Local Development Documents to be started over a period of three years or so and the timescales and arrangements for preparation. The current Hartlepool Local Development Scheme can be viewed on the Council's website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk
- II. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – setting out the policy for involving the community and others with an interest in the development process both in the preparation and revision of Local Development Documents and with respect to planning applications. The current Hartlepool Statement of Community Interest can be viewed on the Council's website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk
- III. Annual Monitoring Report – assessing the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being achieved.

In addition to the change in format, the emphasis of plan making is changing. Planning is now required to more consciously and deliberately take into account the economic, social and environmental implications when weighing up competing demands for land. The new emphasis, known as spatial planning, encourages community involvement in the early stages of plan making and provides a greater scope to promote and manage looked-for change.

Local Area Agreement (Hartlepool Partnership, 2006/09)

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are a Government initiative, launched in 2004. LAAs are aimed at delivering a better quality of life for people through improving performance on a range of national and local priorities and introduced a new way of working to build a more flexible and responsive relationship between central government and a locality on the priority outcomes that need to be achieved at a local level. The Hartlepool LAA is the delivery plan for the Community Strategy and is structured around the themes of the Community Strategy. Hartlepool's LAA was agreed by the Council and the Hartlepool Partnership Board in February 2006 and was signed off by Government in March 2006. The LAA is refreshed annually.

Theme Policy Framework:

In addition to these national, regional, sub-regional and Borough Wide Strategies, the Hartlepool Partnership work with key partners and partnerships to prepare specialised Strategies.

The Hartlepool Partnership's policy framework consists of:

- Economic Forum Protocol (2005)
- Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy (2005)
- Children & Young People's Plan (2006-2009)
- Skills Strategy (in early preparation)
- Housing Strategy (2006-2011)
- Vision for Care (2003)
- Culture Strategy (2003-2008)
- Public Health Strategy (2006-2010)
- Older People's Strategy (2004)

Timeline

1999

Hartlepool Partnership established in July and chaired by the town's MP, Peter Mandelson.

2000

Local Government Act introduced the responsibility for Local Authorities to develop Community Strategies.

'Preparing Community Strategies. Government guidance to local authorities' published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) in December.

2001

'A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: A National Strategy Action Plan' published by the Social Exclusion Unit in January. This introduced the requirement for LSPs in the 88 local authorities in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to produce Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies.

'Local Strategic Partnerships. Government guidance' published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) in March. This gave guidance on the role of LSPs in developing Community Strategies.

A draft Community Strategy was produced by the Partnership in June and put out to consultation.

The Partnership agreed their Terms of Reference in October.

2002

Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy agreed in April.

Mayor and Cabinet structure introduced and Stuart Drummond becomes the first directly elected Mayor of Hartlepool and Vice Chair of the Partnership.

Performance management of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy introduced for the Hartlepool Partnership in September.

2003

Revised Performance Management Framework and Action Plan developed in May.

2004

Green LSP status awarded by Government Office North East.

Iain Wright elected as Member of Parliament for Hartlepool and takes on the role of Chair of the Partnership in October.

2005

Protocol between Hartlepool Partnership and the Hartlepool Community Network agreed in January.

Hartlepool accepted to take part in the second round of Local Area Agreements in June. Green LSP status retained.

2006

Local Area Agreement signed in March. Green LSP status retained. Green overall rating for LAA 6 month review.

Community Strategy Review launched in May. 1st draft produced for consultation in September 2006

Jargon Buster

Accountable body - the legal body that will handle government grants on behalf of a Partnership

Accredited Landlords- Schemes operating to provide tenants with safe, high quality accommodation and to strengthen the businesses of landlords working in the private rented sector.

Accredited LSP- the Hartlepool Partnership is the accredited Local Strategic Partnership. To gain accreditation the Partnership had to demonstrate it met a set of Government standards that covered the operation of the Partnership, and its plans for improvement

Action Plan - short-term plan of action with activities and targets and milestones

Audit Commission - the national body overseeing auditing of public bodies

Baseline Figure/Information - a description of the current local conditions against which planned changes will be measured

Benchmark - something by which to measure or compare

Best Value - means by which public bodies are required to continuously review and improve services

Brownfield land - land previously developed upon

Children's Trusts - partnerships that provide a mechanism to lead the way in delivering a step change in services for children and young people

Children and Young People's Plan - The Big Plan - a plan to improve the lives of children and young people in Hartlepool

Claimant count - unemployed claiming benefits

Coastal Arc –

Community Enterprise - economic activity based in a community

Community Network - the network of voluntary and community sector groups and organisations operating in Hartlepool

Community Sector - see voluntary sector - but usually more dependent on volunteers and no paid staff

Community Strategy - the plan that has to be produced by law to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the community and sustainable development

Compact – formal understanding between voluntary sector and other organisations

Co-ordination - getting organisations working together to improve services

Consultation - involvement of the community in decision-making process

Curriculum - matters to be covered in education for each age group

Deprived, Deprivation & Disadvantage - communities or groups where several factors reduce the life chances and opportunities of people (see Index of Multiple Deprivation)

Development Plan - Documents setting out the policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings.

Disability Discrimination Act – legislation that aims to end the discrimination faced by many disabled people

Disaffection - describing a child who chooses not to be a part of the education system or society as a whole

Diversionsary activities - activities to attract people away from crime

Diversity - wide range of types often bio-diversity of wildlife and vegetation

Drugs Action Team (DAT) - special team to address drugs related issues

Economic Exclusion – people of working age who are unable to take up employment opportunities. Disabled people are one of the largest groups of people who can suffer economic exclusion.

Economic Forum - partnership leading work on the Jobs and the Economy Theme.

Empowerment – enabling people to take responsibility for themselves and helping them to make decisions about their own lives

Environment Partnership – partnership leading work on the Environment Theme

Ethnic Minority - people from a different culture, religion or language to the main one in a particular place

Evaluation - to judge or assess the success of something, which has taken place

Feasibility Study - an exercise before implementation to assess whether an action is likely to achieve its objective

Feedback - reporting back information on something that has been done

Forward Strategy - arrangements to continue the process once a regeneration programme is complete

Goal - long-term broad objective

Governance – how a body or organisation is managed

Government Office for the North East is the regional office for the government departments. They co-ordinate main programmes, including New Deal for Communities and Single Regeneration Budget and accredit Local Strategic Partnerships (i.e. Hartlepool Partnership)

Greenfield land - land not previously developed on

Hartlepool Partnership - Hartlepool's 'Local Strategic Partnership' including the key service providers, business and community interests working together to improve the quality of life in the town

Health Improvement Plan (HImP) - improvement plan for the Health Authority and Primary Care Trust

Implementation - carrying out a plan or strategy

Life chances - people's opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life, to be respected and included as equal members of society

Housing Partnership – partnership leading work on the Housing Theme

Inclusion - giving all people equal opportunity to be part of society and the economy

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD) - a national measure of disadvantage

Indicators - headline and others - measures of conditions

Inequalities - gaps between the most advantaged and the most disadvantaged

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) - modern technology such as computers and the Internet

Joint Investment Plans (JIPs) - joint plans between Social Services, Health and other partners for joint use of resources

Key Stages - in education stages when progress is measured

Learning and Skills Council - organisation responsible for the co-ordination of post 16 years training and education in the Tees Valley

Lifelong Learning - learning throughout life, children and adults, in work and out of work or in retirement

Local action on learning plan – Part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy that sets out measures to improve the

skills, knowledge and training needed to successfully deliver Neighbourhood Renewal

Local Agenda 21 - the local sustainability strategy

Local Area Agreement – Agreement between Hartlepool Borough Council, the Hartlepool Partnership and Central Government that sets out the priorities for Hartlepool along with indicators and three year targets

Local Development Document (LDD) - An individual document in the planning Local Development Framework. Proposals Map Illustrating on an Ordnance Survey base the policies and proposals of Development Plan Documents

Local Development Framework (LDF) - The overarching term given to the collection of Local Development Documents which collectively will provide the local planning authority's policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social aims for the future of the area where this affects the development and use of land and buildings

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - A public statement setting out the programme for the preparation of the Local Development Documents for the new planning system

Local Plan – sets out the Council's policies for guiding and controlling the way that buildings and land are used and developed

Local Strategic Partnership - the Hartlepool Partnership - the strategic partnership in the town, which prepares the Community Strategy

Mainstreaming – directing public sector resources to target the most deprived areas and joining up programmes

Milestone - important stages or events with date - used to indicate the progress a partnership is making toward its aims

Monitor - regular measure of the progress of projects

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) - national standard qualifications

Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAPs)– document produced to set out the vision and objectives of the community for their neighbourhood and which details the actions and initiatives which will help to achieve them

Neighbourhood Consultative Forum – forums at which the public can become involved in issues which affect their area

Neighbourhood Management - management of services recognising local needs

Neighbourhood Renewal - improvement and revitalising of the quality of life in neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund - special funding initiative to help Councils point main programme activity to neighbourhoods most in need

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy - strategy for improvement of most disadvantaged neighbourhoods - part of the Community Strategy

Neighbourhood Renewal Unit - special team set up in central government

Neighbourhood Support Fund – funding aimed at working with disaffected young people

New Deal for Communities (NDC) - a Government initiative that provides money for a 10-year programme of regeneration in the West Central Hartlepool area

Objectives - short or medium term aims that can usually be measured

One North East - the Regional Development Agency (RDA) for the North East of England responsible for delivery of an economic strategy and regeneration

Outcome - something that follows from an action e.g. as a result of an initiative, the unemployment rate is reduced by

15%. The long-term effects you want to see created by a strategy or programme

Output - something produced directly as a result of an action and usually more easily counted e.g. as a result of an initiative 10 jobs were created and 6 people gained qualifications - tells you about the immediate results of a project, programme or strategy

Participation - a two-way process involving the sharing of information and ideas, where residents are able to influence decisions and take part in what is happening

Partnership - a group of organisations and individuals working together with a common purpose

Performance Management Framework/Indicators – a measurable target applied to find out if something is meeting its aims

Pilot Project - a small-scale study or trial of a larger project

Primary Care - health care given outside hospital often in the community

Primary Care Trust - Hartlepool based trust responsible for primary care

Principles - applied by all partners in all their activities - the basis of a code of conduct

Private Sector - businesses and other non-public agencies such as trusts and charities

Programme - group of projects with similar aims that support each other

Projects - an individual activity or action

Public Sector - organisations run or paid for with public money

Public Service Agreement (PSA) – contracts of agreement with government to work towards certain targets with various strategies

Qualitative - information, which shows the quality of something

Quantitative - information, which shows the numbers of something

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Statutory regional planning policy

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) –organisations registered and approved by the Housing Corporation to provide social housing for rent

Regeneration - improving an area and community

Renewal – improving or reviving an area or community

Resources - money, time, property, people, information and infrastructure

Resources analysis - looking at the use of resources in an area and how it relates to the aims and priorities

Review - scrutinise, evaluate and change plans or services

Safer Hartlepool Partnership - main partnership promoting community safety and the reduction of crime and disorder

Single Programme – funding allocated by the Tees Valley Sub Regional Partnership

Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) - special regeneration programmes that operated in the north and the south of Hartlepool.

Social Exclusion – people or areas that suffer from a combination of factors that include unemployment, high crime, low income and poor housing

Standardised Mortality Ratios - death rates taking into account age structures

Standards of attainment - levels achieved in education and training

Strategy - a plan with aims and steps to their achievement

Strategy Group (Health and Care) - key partnership for Health and Care

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - A document setting out how Hartlepool Borough Council intends to involve the community, including voluntary and community groups, local residents, businesses and landowners in the new planning system

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - A generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes

Super Output Areas (SOAs) – standardised areas at around 1500 population in size

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - A local development document providing further detail of policies in development plan documents

SureStart Programme - special programme for young children and their families

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - Identifies and evaluates social, environmental and economic effects of strategies and policies from the outset of the preparation process

Sustainable Development - can continue to take place without harm to the interests of future generations

Sustainable Communities - meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, their children and other users, contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunity and choice.

Target Hardening - physical measures to make areas or properties more secure

Targets - measurable level being aimed for, usually within a set time period

Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit – responsible for strategic planning on local services and issues in the Tees Valley Area

Tees Valley Partnership - a partnership for the Tees Valley

Tees Valley Vision - a vision being prepared by the above

Tenure - degree of ownership of a property or home e.g. owner-occupier, privately rented, Council Housing, Housing Association

Truancy & unauthorised absences - school absence without permission

Viability - in relation to the town centre - businesses can make enough money to continue to operate and invest

Viewpoint 1000 - regular sample survey of a panel of residents

Vision - a view of what a community will be like in the long term

Vitality - in relation to the town centre - liveliness and level of activity and investment

Voluntary Organisation - groups whose activities are not carried out for profit, and are not public bodies or a local authority. They rely on a high proportion of their activity being done by volunteers

Voluntary Sector - a name to describe all the voluntary organisations in a town. In Hartlepool 400 organisations make up the voluntary sector

Welfare to Work - a Central Government Programme, which aims to deliver wide-ranging job, training and local employment opportunities

White Paper – statement of policy intent issued by the Government

Youth Offending Service - team established to address youth offending

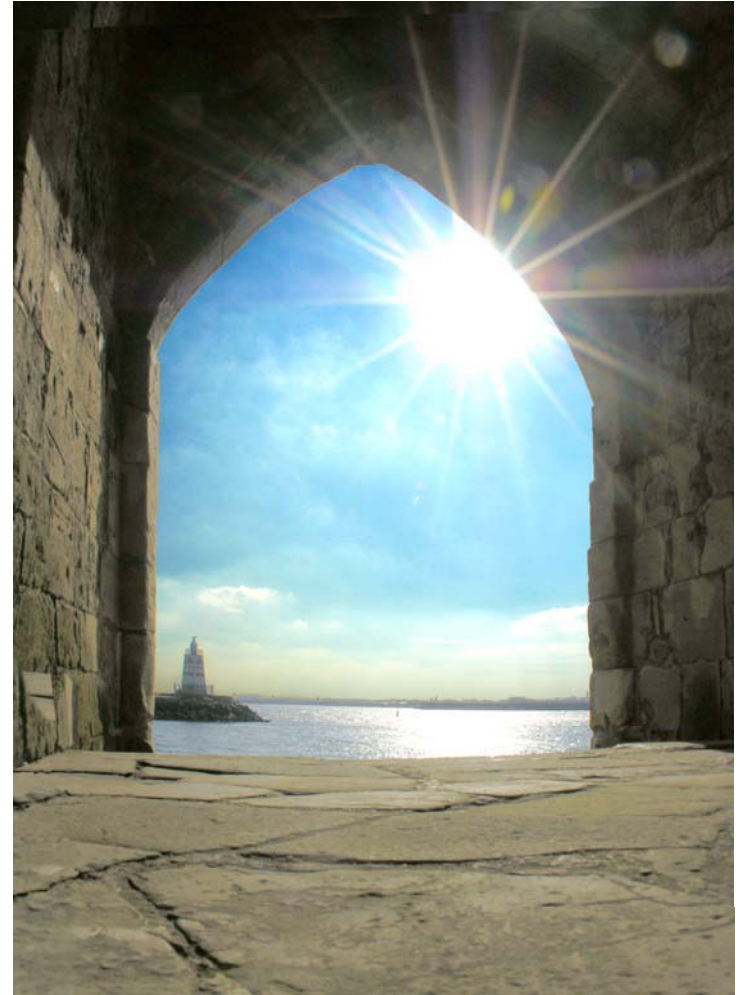
List of Abbreviations

CCF	Community Chest Fund	MRUK	Market Research UK
CEF	Community Empowerment Fund	NAP	Neighbourhood Action Plan
CS	Community Strategy	NCF	Neighbourhood Consultative Forum
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government	NDC	New Deal for Communities
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	NHP	North Hartlepool Partnership
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act	NRF	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
DETR	Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions	NRS	Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
DFES	Department for Education and Skills	NRU	Neighbourhood Renewal Unit
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education	NSF	Neighbourhood Support Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	ORCEL	Owton Rossmere Community Enterprise Ltd
GIS	Geographical Information Systems	OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
GONE	Government Office for the North East	ONE	One North East
GP	General Practitioner	ONS	Office for National Statistics
HImP	Health Improvement Programme	PAT	Policy Action Team
IB	Incapacity Benefit	PCT	Primary Care Trust
ICT	Information & Communication Technology	PI	Performance Indicator
ILM	Intermediate Labour Market	PMF	Performance Management Framework
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation	PSA	Public Service Agreement
JSA	Job Seeker's Allowance	RDA	Regional Development Agency
LA	Local Authority	RSL	Registered Social Landlord
LAA	Local Area Agreement	SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
LDF	Local Development Framework	SDA	Severe Disablement Allowance
LDS	Local Development Scheme	SMR	Standard Mortality Ratio
LEA	Local Education Authority	SOA	Super Output Areas
LPSA	Local Public Service Agreement	SRB	Single Regeneration Budget
LSC	Learning & Skills Council	SWAN	South West Area Network (Hartlepool)
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership	TVJSU	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit
MORI	Market & Opinion Research International	TVP	Tees Valley Partnership
		URC	Urban Regeneration Company

Endnotes

This Strategy was compiled by Joanne Smithson (Team Leader), Catherine Frank, John Potts, and Dawn Clennett with contributions from colleagues across the Hartlepool Partnership, and over 1500 submissions received during the public consultations that ran from May to December 2006.

Special thanks to Chris Barlow who worked with the Partnership Support Team until December 2006.



Published March 2007.

CABINET REPORT

19 March 2007



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: STAGE TWO CONSULTATION

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the outcomes of the second stage of consultation in preparation for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

To request members to authorise the formulation of a proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School with effect from 31st August 2009 and to ask the BSF Project Board to prepare the appropriate consultation and other arrangements, as required, prior to publication of a formal statutory notice.

To request members to authorise further exploration of the possible co-location of Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School on a single site with shared facilities, during the period of preparation of the BSF 'Strategy for Change'.

2 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

This report provides a summary of the outcomes of the second stage consultation process in preparation for Building Schools for the Future, reports on discussions from the Stakeholder Board and Project Board and makes recommendations about the next issues which need to be addressed and the processes to be followed.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) will have a significant impact on the future provision of education in Hartlepool.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Key Decision, tests 1 and 2 apply.

5. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members are requested to note the outcomes of the second stage of consultation in preparation for Building Schools for the Future.

Members are requested to authorise the formulation of a proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School with effect from 31st August 2009 and to ask the BSF Project Board to prepare the appropriate consultation and other arrangements, as required, prior to publication of a formal statutory notice.

Members are requested to authorise further exploration of the possible co-location of Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School on a single site with shared facilities, during the period of preparation of the BSF 'Strategy for Change'.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: STAGE TWO CONSULTATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the outcomes of the second stage of consultation in preparation for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

To request members to authorise the formulation of a proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School with effect from 31st August 2009 and to ask the BSF Project Board to prepare the appropriate consultation and other arrangements as required prior to publication of a formal statutory notice

To request members to authorise further exploration of the possible co-location of Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School on a single site with shared facilities, during the period of preparation of the BSF 'Strategy for Change'.

2 BACKGROUND

Hartlepool Borough Council has been informed by Government that, on the basis of its "Readiness to Deliver" submission of October 2006, the Authority is to be admitted to the BSF programme in 2007 as a Wave 5 Authority. Hartlepool's status as a Wave 5 Authority is dependent on adhering to the timescale indicated in the submission.

The Council indicated to Government that it expected to have made decisions about the number and size of secondary schools for BSF investment by the end of summer 2007.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY FACTS ABOUT BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

The total amount of BSF funding available to spend on Hartlepool schools is likely to be between £80 million and £90 million, of which approximately £9 million will be earmarked for spending on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment and infrastructure.

Government expects authorities preparing for BSF implementation to project pupil numbers for ten years into the future and plan accordingly.

Hartlepool secondary schools currently educate approximately 6,500 secondary age pupils. Demographic projections provided to Hartlepool Borough Council by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit predict a fall of approximately 1,000 secondary age pupils over the ten year planning period.

It seems evident that BSF will require planning for a reduction in pupil places in schools, if the Authority's "Strategy for Change" is to be approved by the Minister. Submission of the Strategy for Change is the first formal stage of the BSF process and it is likely that Hartlepool will be required to make this submission in the Spring of 2008.

4. THE STAGE ONE CONSULTATION PROCESS

On 25th September 2006 Cabinet authorised a first stage of consultation in preparation for Building Schools for the Future. The purposes of the consultation 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 seek views on how the Council might approach the implementation of BSF in Hartlepool. Stage One was a first formative stage of consultation; options for future organisation of secondary schools were not included at this stage.

Consultation began on 26th September 2006 and closed on 3rd November 2006. The responses indicated a range of views on how the secondary school estate might be re-configured in Hartlepool. The outcomes of Stage One, reported to Cabinet on 20th November 2006, suggested that a range of options should be presented in a second stage of consultation, before Cabinet considered approving formal proposals for change.

5. THE STAGE TWO CONSULTATION PROCESS

Following the recommendations of the BSF Project Board in December 2006, Cabinet approved a second stage of BSF consultation where a range of options were to be considered. For the 11-16 compulsory stage of education, three options were put forward:

- Option 1 – keeps six secondary schools at the size they are now
- Option 2 – keeps six secondary schools but make some of them smaller
- Option 3 – reduce the number of secondary schools to five by closing Brierton Community School

It was agreed that the second stage of consultation would also present two options for the future organisation of specialist provision for children and young people with the most acute learning difficulties and disabilities:

- 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

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 Hartlepool Mail, Hartlepool Star and on radio.

Consultation began on 29th January 2007 and closed on 2nd March 2007. 39 consultation meetings/briefings took place during this period, including:

- Four ward councillor briefings
- Two meetings at each secondary school:
 - Headteacher/Teaching and Support Staff/Members of the Governing Body
 - Parents and Public
- Two meetings at six primary schools (cluster groups)
 - Headteacher/Teaching and Support Staff/Members of the Governing Body
 - Parents and Public
- One additional public meeting (Burbank) at Ward Jackson School
- Three Neighbourhood Forum meetings
- One meeting for college governors, staff and students
- One briefing for Chair & Theme Chair of Hartlepool Partnership
- Two briefings for Dioceses
- One briefing for Unions
- One briefing for Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

Approximately 600 persons attended the meetings described above.

In addition, there were four Roadshow Events at Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Details of the responses to the Stage Two consultation have been placed on the Council's website (www.hartlepool.gov.uk/schoolscapital/bsf). Some responses received were collective responses, submitted on behalf of an organisation, and these are summarised in **Appendix 1**. In addition, a significant number (in excess of 350) of individual responses were received. These are summarised in **Appendix 2**. These responses are analysed in the next four sections of this report.

6. STAGE TWO CONSULTATION RESPONSES: COLLECTIVE RESPONSES ON 11-16 AND SEN OPTIONS

Collective responses were received from:

- Catcote Secondary Special School
- Dyke House School
- Dyke House School staff
- Dyke House School Form 7E
- English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College
- Hartlepool Secondary Headteachers
- Hartlepool Youth Service
- High Tunstall College of Science
- Springwell Primary Special School
- St Hild's Church of England School

The majority of collective responses indicated support for a five school 11-16 model and the co-location of Catcote School and Springwell School, although one collective response in particular suggested the need for more detailed exploration of admission arrangements and the concept of a Learning Village.

Comments included in collective responses are summarised in detail in **Appendix 1**.

7. STAGE TWO CONSULTATION: INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES TO 11-16 OPTIONS

An analysis of the individual responses in respect of 11-16 options showed:

- 4.5% of all individual respondents expressed no preference for any of the three options
- 6.2% of all individual respondents preferred Option 1
- 19.0% of all individual respondents preferred Option 2
- 70.4% of all individual respondents preferred Option 3

Responses to the 11-16 options suggest very strong support for reorganisation to a five school model, with the closure of Brierton Community School.

8. STAGE TWO CONSULTATION: INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES TO SEN OPTIONS

An analysis of the individual responses to the Stage Two consultation in relation to special educational needs showed:

- 23.7% of all individual respondents expressed no preference for either of the two options
- 13.4% of all individual respondents preferred Option 1
- 62.9% of all individual respondents preferred Option 2

A number of key themes emerged in the responses of a significant number of respondents:

- Schools to stay separate or be co-located
- Cost effectiveness of co-location
- Advantages of sharing expertise and resources
- Transition between primary and secondary phases of education

Responses to the SEN options suggest strong support for further exploration of a possible co-location of Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School.

9. STAGE TWO CONSULTATION: OTHER ISSUES

A significant proportion of respondents included comments in their responses. A number of key themes emerged:

- Optimum number of schools
- School size and class size
- Funding issues
- Transport
- Employment
- Issues at Brierton Community School in relation to pupil performance, pupil numbers and current buildings
- Timing of potential closure of Brierton Community School
- Admissions and feeder school arrangements

Comments included in individual responses are summarised in detail in **Appendix 2**.

This demonstrates that many of the questions and comments during the consultation process related to the 'mechanics' of the changes to any school configuration and the impact at pupil, parent and staff levels. While general information and assurances on these issues were given at the consultation events, more detailed information can only be developed once Cabinet has decided on the option(s) it wishes to pursue. These are, therefore, key issues for the next planning stage.

10. OUTCOMES OF BSF STAKEHOLDER BOARD MEETING 27 FEBRUARY 2007

The BSF Stakeholder Board met on 27th February 2007, within the Stage Two consultation timeframe. Members of the Stakeholder Board had been asked by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, in her capacity as Chair of the BSF Project Board, to discuss BSF and the Stage Two options with as many as possible of the people they represented in advance of the meeting.

Discussion at the Stakeholder Board focused on:

- Implications on admissions of a potential closure of Brierton Community School;
- Concern about pupils and staff leaving Brierton School;
- Little apparent evidence of strong support for keeping Brierton School open;
- Agreement of governing body of Brierton School to collaborate with one or more of the other secondary schools in the town;
- Potential strategies for supporting Brierton School in the short term;
- Concerns over confirming the curriculum for Brierton School for September 2007
- Differences of opinion as to whether it was appropriate to name Brierton School in the options;
- Possible case for re-siting a secondary school in the South of the town;
- Involvement of young people in the Stage Two consultation process;
- Implications of BSF for transport;

- Discussion around concept of a Learning Village.

It was agreed that the outcomes of discussion at Stakeholder Board would be reported to the Project Board on 1st March.

11. OUTCOMES OF BSF PROJECT BOARD MEETING 1 MARCH 2007

The Project Board met on 1st March 2007 and received a paper outlining Stage Two consultation responses received up to the penultimate day of the consultation process. It was agreed that Project Board members would be informed of any additional responses received and that an extraordinary meeting of the Project Board would be called if the additional responses changed the balance of responses received up to 1st March. The additional responses received on 2nd March did not significantly change the balance of responses.

The Project Board agreed that no other viable potential options had been received in the consultation responses.

The Project Board agreed unanimously to recommend to Cabinet that it takes appropriate steps towards a formal decision to close Brierton Community School. The Project Board further recommended that Cabinet receive a report outlining possible timescales leading up to the potential closure of Brierton School. This appears as **Appendix 3**.

The Project Board agreed unanimously to recommend to Cabinet that it authorises further exploration of the possible co-location of Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School on a single site with shared facilities. It felt that the concept of this shared site needed to be explored in more detail, as the concept of the Learning Village had not been sufficiently defined or understood.

12. OPTION ANALYSIS

a) 11-16 Options

In conclusion, the consultation has produced strong support for Option 3: the closure of Brierton Community School. The consultation booklet explained that this school was named as a possible candidate for closure because:

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

This option has the clear advantage over the two six school options as it is the option most likely to secure BSF funding, but also provides a more secure educational future for the children from that area as well as removing from use the school buildings with the biggest overall problems in terms of condition and suitability.

The main risks within this option are the possible disruption to the education of pupils currently attending Brierton School and the potential risks of redundancy for staff at the school. However, it is possible to mitigate these risks as all the secondary schools in the town have made a pledge to support the pupils and staff currently at Brierton School by putting in place effective transitional arrangements.

It is recommended, therefore, that Cabinet proceed with Option 3 and authorise the formulation of a proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School.

b) SEN Options

Both SEN options are relatively low risk as they maintain both existing schools, but co-location could provide an option for better continuity of education for SEN pupils, could possibly enable both schools to access BSF funding and could provide opportunities to link services from a wide range of partners into a Learning Village concept. However, while support for co-location was strong, it is recognised that further work needs to be done on the detail of the Learning Village aspect of this option and to develop a vision for how that site might operate.

It is recommended, therefore, that Cabinet authorises further exploration of the possible co-location of Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School on a single site with shared facilities, during the period of preparation of the BSF 'Strategy for Change'.

13. NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS: 11-16 OPTIONS

If the Cabinet approves the recommendation to formulate a proposal to close Brierton School, then further legal processes will be required.

Any decision to close a school must be preceded by publication of a Statutory Proposal to discontinue the school. Advice received from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) indicates a need to consult directly on the intended content of the Statutory Proposal and its associated arrangements ahead of publication. In the case of a potential Statutory Proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School, the scope of the consultation would need to include such issues as:

- When the school might close
- Admission arrangements following closure (whether this should be on the basis of geographical admission zones or partner primary schools)
- Transitional arrangements leading to final closure
- Location of alternative schools

DfES guidance states that all interested parties must be consulted once the local authority has formulated its proposals. The guidance indicates that, in the case of any proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School, interested parties would include:

- The governing body of Brierton Community School
- Parents of pupils at Brierton Community School
- Pupils of Brierton Community School
- Teaching and support staff at Brierton Community School
- Governing bodies, parents, pupils and staff at feeder primary schools
- Other schools in Hartlepool
- Diocesan Authorities
- Learning and Skills Council
- Hartlepool's Member of Parliament
- Neighbouring local authorities

Subject to Cabinet approval, appropriate documentation and an appropriate number of consultation meetings will be arranged, the detail to be agreed by the BSF Project Board.

In order to provide sufficient information for a Stage Three consultation, Cabinet would need to determine the possible date for the closure of Brierton Community School.

There would be three main possibilities in relation to a possible closing date for Brierton School:

- 31st August 2008
- 31st August 2009
- 31st August 2010

Each of these would have different implications for groups of pupils at Brierton School and these are summarised below. It is not possible to stop admission of pupils to Year Seven of Brierton School in September 2007, as the potential timelines in **Appendix 3** demonstrate.

a) School closes on 31st August 2008

Pupils currently in Year Six in primary schools would transfer to Year Seven in Brierton School in September 2007, in line with the admissions allocations process. From September 2007 until 31st August 2008 Brierton School would operate with all five year groups. The school would close in the summer of 2008 and all pupils would transfer to new schools at this time.

During Stage Two consultation a significant number of respondents indicated that the earliest possible closure of Brierton School should be pursued in order to secure the best possible outcomes for children and young people who would otherwise continue to attend Brierton School.

A one step closure, without any transitional arrangements, has the potential to have a very significant impact on other secondary schools in the town, possibly to the detriment of standards of teaching and learning. Cabinet is recommended not to propose a closure of Brierton School on 31st August 2008.

b) School closes on 31st August 2009

Pupils currently in Year Six in primary schools would transfer to Year Seven in Brierton School in September 2007 in line with the admissions allocation process. On 1st September 2008, through transitional arrangements, there would be no admission to Year Seven and pupils in Year Eight and Year Ten would transfer to alternative schools, leaving Year Nine and Year Eleven pupils at Brierton to complete their studies at Key Stages Three and Four.

Although Brierton School would formally remain open for two years from September 2007, transitional arrangements would allow a significant scaling down of the school in September 2008, allowing a more gradual integration of Brierton pupils into the remaining secondary schools. Only one year group would move during a key stage, after the first of the three years of Key Stage Three.

c) School closes on 31st August 2010

Pupils currently in Year Six in primary schools would transfer to Year Seven in Brierton School in September 2007 in line with the admissions allocation process. In September 2008, through transitional arrangements, there would be no admission of Year Seven to Brierton School. In September 2009, through transitional arrangements, there would be no admission of Year Seven and pupils in Year Ten would transfer to alternative schools, leaving Year Nine and Year Eleven pupils at Brierton to complete their studies at Key Stages Three and Four.

Although similar to the effect of closure on 31st August 2009, this model ensures that no year group is moved during a key stage. It would, however, mean that Brierton School would formally be staying open for three years after a decision to close and this would appear to be in conflict with the views of a significant number of respondents to the Stage Two consultation.

d) Conclusion and Recommendation

A closure on 31st August 2009 would appear to achieve the optimum balance between achieving an early closure and achieving smooth transition to new arrangements. Cabinet is therefore recommended to authorise that a proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School would take effect from 31st August 2009.

14. ADMISSIONS ISSUES: PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

During the Stage Two consultation process the concept of moving from a system of geographical admission zones for secondary schools to a system based on partner primary schools was generally well received, although few individual respondents made explicit reference to partner primary schools in their responses. As this concept had originated from secondary headteachers themselves, it is safe to assume that secondary schools are in favour of a partner primary school system.

Cabinet is recommended to authorise further exploration of moving to a partner primary school system as part of the consultation required in advance of the

potential publication of a statutory proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School.

15. NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS: SEN OPTIONS

If Cabinet authorises further exploration of the co-location of Catcote and Springwell schools, as recommended in Paragraph 13 above, no legal processes would need to be pursued at this stage, although ultimately, Transfer Orders would be necessary to transfer each school to a new site.

The next stage would, therefore, be to develop a continuing dialogue with the two special schools and all relevant stakeholders, including parents, pupils, other schools and other professionals.

16. DECISIONS REQUIRED

Members are requested to note the outcomes of the second stage of consultation in preparation for Building Schools for the Future.

Members are requested to authorise the formulation of a proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School with effect from 31st August 2009 and to ask the BSF Project Board to prepare the appropriate consultation and other arrangements, as required, prior to publication of a formal statutory notice.

Members are requested to authorise further exploration of the possible co-location of Catcote Secondary Special School and Springwell Primary Special School on a single site with shared facilities, during the period of preparation of the BSF 'Strategy for Change'.

Contact Officer

Paul Briggs, Assistant Director of Children's Services (01429) 284192

**Report to Cabinet: 19 March 2007
Building Schools for the Future
Outcomes of Stage Two Consultation**

Collective Responses

a) Form 7e of Dyke House School

This response indicated that the class had voted 100% for Option 3.
Class also felt special schools should stay as they are because this would be more like a normal school.

b) Dyke House School (signed by headteacher)

Key issues:

- Dyke House School should remain in the heart of its community
- In favour of five school option
- Commitment to support Brierton School
- In favour of co-location

c) Dyke House School Staff (signed by staff member)

Key issues:

- Dyke House School should remain at the heart of its community
- In favour of five school model
- BSF will give Dyke House opportunity to build upon recent achievements
- In favour of co-location

d) Hartlepool Headteachers (signed J Hughes, Chair)

Key issues:

- Support for Option 3, for reasons stated in consultation booklet
- In favour of partner primary arrangements
- Head of Brierton School not included in submission
- In favour of co-location

e) English Martyrs School & Sixth Form College (signed Chair & Head)

Key issues:

- Full support for Option 3
- Addresses surplus places issue
- Establish partner primary arrangements
- Brierton School should close for reasons given in consultation booklet
- Closure should not be prolonged
- Support pledged for Brierton School
- In favour of co-location

f) Catcote Special School (signed by headteacher)

Key issues:

- In favour of co-location
- Need for central location
- Early years to 25
- Agencies to work together
- Residential element
- Community aspects
- Recognise specialist status / Enterprise Centre
- Life Skills centre

g) High Tunstall College of Science (unsigned)

Key issues:

- BSF – unique opportunity to create best possible, inclusive learning opportunities
- Environmentally friendly solution
- Complete new build on existing site
- In favour of five school option with closure of Brierton School
- Concern for Brierton pupils and staff and need for support
- Support for co-location of Catcote and Springwell, possibly on Brierton site
- Importance of inclusion and integration
- Parental choice to remain

h) St Hild's Church of England School (unsigned)

Key Issues:

- Support of 11-16 Option 3 (five schools & closure of Brierton School)
- Effective management of surplus places
- Closure of Brierton School is appropriate for reasons given in consultation document
- Short term expansion of other schools will facilitate a fast closure
- Pledge of support from St Hild's
- Need for further work on demographic projections and admission zones
- Vital to maintain 900 students at St Hild's
- More can be done to balance intakes of secondary schools
- Existing admission zone for St Hild's should be maintained
- Clavering Primary School admission zone and admission number should be increased
- Support for further discussion on SEN provision, based on principle of maximum inclusion
- SEN provision supporting parental choice
- Hub and spoke model recommended
- Need for definition of "SEN Learning Village"
- Stage One consultation response re-submitted
- Overall support for SEN Option 2 (co-location), but with further work before final decisions taken.

i) Springwell School (email from headteacher)

Key Issues:

- School held meetings attended by 14 parents – all supported Option 2 (co-location)
- Some concerns about the concept of Learning Village, but liked the idea of a village that encompassed co-location of physiotherapy, speech therapy, educational psychologists, occupational therapists
- Also could include Surestart, adult education, and much wider community
- Should be opportunity for mainstream pupils to be educated on same site
- Children to be involved in design
- Separate meeting disagreed about adult services inclusion
- Further discussion suggested
- Worry about congestion on Catcote Road
- Transport and location a concern
- Concern about possible animosity if co-location on Brierton site
- Possible siting on Marina
- Henry Smith site too far away

- Parents are the experts
- Important to keep primary, secondary and tertiary
- Request for Project Team to meet parents
- Request for further consultation
- Request for consultation small focus groups

j) Report prepared by Youth Service

Key issues:

- Consultation during open access youth club sessions, attendance at consultation events and consultation with specific groups of young people
- Possible closure of Brierton School was met with a mixed response; many young people spoke negatively about Brierton School
- Most concerns about possible closure related to immediate impact ("losing friends, having to travel, school uniforms etc.")
- Young people did want to be involved
- Sympathy for pupils at Brierton from other young people

**Report to Cabinet: 19 March 2007
Building Schools for the Future
Outcomes of Stage Two Consultation**

Comments Expressed in Individual Responses

a) Options for 11-16 Education

Optimum number of schools

- 7 respondents felt that it was important to keep all six schools
- 3 respondents cited friendship issues as a reason for keeping six schools
- 5 respondents stated that a five school model meant minimum disruption in schools

School size and class size

- 21 respondents felt that six schools would make it possible to have smaller classes
- 11 respondents felt it was better to have smaller schools
- 6 respondents expressed view that pupil numbers would increase in Hartlepool

Funding issues

- 2 respondents felt that Brierton's problems were due to Council under-funding
- 2 respondents felt that the issue of Government funding amounted to blackmail
- 2 respondents expressed concerns about sustainability
- 26 respondents felt that a five school model would guarantee Government funding
- 44 respondents felt that a five school model was more cost effective / better value for money

Transport

- 23 respondents expressed concerns about travel and transport issues

Employment

- 3 respondents expressed explicit concerns about loss of employment

Issues at Brierton Community School in relation to pupil performance, pupil numbers and current buildings

- 12 respondents felt that Brierton should be retained and its buildings improved
- 3 respondents felt that Brierton's problems were the fault of children and / or parents
- 53 respondents felt that Brierton should close for reasons related to performance
- 40 respondents felt that Brierton should close for reasons related to demographics
- 19 respondents felt that Brierton should close for reasons related to buildings
- 8 respondents stated that Brierton has a bad reputation (including for bullying)
- 4 respondents expressed concerns about maintaining Sports facilities at Brierton
- 6 respondents felt that it had already been decided to close Brierton
- 6 respondents felt it was wrong to have named Brierton

Timing of potential closure of Brierton Community School

- 7 respondents felt that Brierton should be closed as soon as possible
- 2 respondents felt that Year 6 pupils should not go to Brierton in September 2007
- 4 respondents felt that Brierton should be phased out
- 11 respondents were concerned about upheaval or disruption if a school were to close

Admissions and feeder school arrangements

2 respondents expressed concerns about feeder school model

5 respondents stated that they were in favour of feeder school model

Other comments

6 respondents stated that schools should remain in the heart of their community

4 respondents raised explicit issues about SEN children in mainstream settings

10 respondents explicitly praised Dyke House School

5 respondents explicitly praised Manor College

The following issues were raised by a single respondent:

- Five schools would guarantee stability
- A five school model allows a fundamental re-think of education
- Five schools should be improved to same standard
- The five school model balances locations
- Option 3 takes into account all areas
- Option 3 will enable schools to have the best facilities
- Option 3 will allow consolidation of good standards
- Option 3 allows for parental choice
- Important to create the best possible learning environment
- Schools have improved
- Expand the best schools
- Children adapt easily
- Good teachers and discipline are important, not money
- Need for more joined up thinking on primary and post-16
- A radical re-think around Children's Centre location and extended schools
- Options need to be more radical
- Keep Brierton open until all new schools ready
- Concern about use of supply teachers at Brierton School
- Brierton staff are under pressure
- It's ok to close Brierton as long as my child does not suffer
- Explicit concerns about children's education if Brierton were to close
- Brierton can be improved
- Pupils will be alienated if Brierton closes
- Closing Brierton moves the problems to other schools
- The Council should remove the Portacabins at Brierton
- There should be 3 schools, North, Central & South plus 1 religious school (EM)
- Re-site a new school in South East of town
- The Council should do away with religious schools
- Explicit concerns about A2L
- Explicit concerns about transition issues

b) Options for Special Educational Needs

Schools to stay separate or be co-located

- 76 respondents felt that co-location would enable sharing of facilities and equipment
- 4 respondents felt that co-location would provide a more secure environment
- 2 respondents stated that co-location would help children to be more integrated
- 2 respondents stated that co-location would reduce the need for transport
- 2 respondents stated that co-location was an amazing opportunity

- 2 respondents suggested using Brierton site for co-location
- 6 respondents felt that there should be more than SEN facilities if Catcote and Springwell were co-located
- 3 respondents stated that schools should be separate as they serve separate parts of the town
- 7 respondents stated that existing arrangements work well
- 2 respondents felt that Catcote and Springwell needed separate facilities
- 3 respondents stated that smaller schools were an advantage

Cost effectiveness of co-location

- 33 respondents stated that co-location would be more cost effective / viable than two separate schools
- 11 respondents stated that co-location would save money
- 4 respondents felt that Option 2 would secure the funding

Advantages of sharing expertise and resources

- 24 respondents stated that co-location would enable teachers to share expertise and experience
- 3 respondents stated that others would be able to use facilities if Catcote and Springwell were co-located

Transition between primary and secondary phases of education

- 27 respondents felt that co-location would help with transition / continuity
- 2 respondents felt that co-location could provide for all ages
- 4 respondents stated that it was wrong to mix children of all ages
- 3 respondents stated a need for separate age related facilities
- 2 respondents felt that SEN children need a change of school at 11

Other comments

- 2 respondents felt that Government was blackmailing us to change
- 4 respondents stated that change would cause upset
- 2 respondents emphasised the need for SEN to be integrated with mainstream

The following issues were raised by a single respondent:

- Option 2 is interesting and innovative
- Option 2 is in the best interests of the children
- Option 2 would provide continuity of care
- Co-location will provide flexibility and first-class provision
- Co-location is exciting
- Co-location will raise status of SEN community
- Federate Catcote and Springwell
- Co-location concept is eye-catching
- Important to preserve resourced units in mainstream schools
- Co-location will secure jobs
- Co-location would release land for sale
- Inclusion is important (favoured status quo)
- There is a need for special schools
- Excellent work of existing schools
- New EDC on same site as co-location
- New CLC on same site as co-location

5.1 APPENDIX 2

- Falling numbers affecting SEN
- Unnecessary expense
- No guarantee of funding for Springwell
- Co-location would lead to higher transport costs
- Co-location would disrupt collaboration with neighbouring schools
- Amalgamation would cause problems
- Leave alone - it's what children know

Report to Cabinet: 19 March 2007
Building Schools for the Future
The Decision Making Process

If, on 19th March 2007, Cabinet authorises progress towards the possible closure of Brierton Community School, the shortest possible timescale for making the statutory decision is as follows. This would be essential if the school were to be considered for closure in the Summer of 2008.

19/03/07	Cabinet authorises statutory consultation in advance of publication of proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School
20/03/07	BSF Project Board meets to agree scope of statutory consultation
30/03/07	School Easter holiday begins
16/04/07	Schools return after Easter holiday
16/04/07	Statutory consultation begins
11/05/07	Statutory Consultation ends
25/05/07	Schools close for half term
29/05/07	Cabinet meets to consider responses and authorises Public Notice
04/06/07	Schools reopen after half term
04/06/07	Public Notice published; 6 week representations period begins
16/07/07	Representation period ends
20/07/06	Schools close for Summer holidays
06/08/07	Cabinet / School Organisation Committee considers representations and decides on proposal. If approved, implementation date is agreed (31.08.08)

If Cabinet feels a later closure date is more appropriate, this timescale could be extended into autumn 2007, but consideration needs to be given to the Authority's position in Wave 5 of BSF.

19/03/07	Cabinet authorises statutory consultation in advance of publication of proposal to discontinue Brierton Community School
20/03/07	BSF Project Board meets to agree scope of statutory consultation
	Project Board approves detail
08/05/07	Statutory consultation begins
25/05/07	Schools close for half term
12/06/07	Statutory Consultation ends
09/07/07	Cabinet meets to consider responses and authorises Public Notice
20/07/07	Schools close for Summer holiday
03/09/07	Schools reopen after Summer holiday
03/09/07	Public Notice published; 6 week representations period begins
15/10/07	Representation period ends
29/10/07	Cabinet / School Organisation Committee considers representations and decides on proposal. If approved, implementation date is agreed (31.08.09 or 31.08.10)

CABINET REPORT

19 March 2007



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: CONCESSIONARY LOCAL BUS TRAVEL

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report the current status of the Council's negotiations regarding reimbursement arrangements with local bus operators for concessionary fares from the 1st April 2007 to the 31st March 2008 inclusive.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Background information on the current concessionary fares scheme operating within Hartlepool and costs negotiated with local bus operators.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

It is the responsibility of the Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Culture, Housing and Transportation but has relevance to other portfolios.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

This is a key decision (test ii).

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet will make the decision.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That the Cabinet approve the revised reimbursement arrangements with local bus operators for the 2007/08 concessionary travel scheme.

Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: CONCESSIONARY LOCAL BUS TRAVEL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the current status of the Council's negotiations regarding reimbursement arrangements with local bus operators for concessionary fares from the 1st April 2007 to the 31st March 2008 inclusive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report was brought to Cabinet on the 18th December 2006 outlining the operation of the existing concessionary travel scheme, the process for negotiating with local bus operators for 2007/08 and details of the national concessionary travel scheme to be implemented on the 1st April 2008.
- 2.2 Cabinet approved the principle of continuing the Tees Valley Enhanced Concessionary Travel Scheme with effect from the 1st April 2007. This scheme allows Hartlepool residents to travel free of charge on local bus services within Hartlepool and on cross-boundary journeys between Hartlepool and the boroughs of Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.

Agreements with Operators

- 2.3 Under the 1985 Transport Act, the Council must ensure that operators are "no better nor worse off" than they would be if no concessionary fares scheme existed. A fixed payment method has again been negotiated with local bus operators for 2007/08. This method would secure the agreed scheme in budgetary terms and guarantee payments for both the Council and bus operators.
- 2.4 The justification for the increase in payments is based on the significant increase in the number of concessionary journeys (45% increase from the 1st April to 31st December 2006 compared to the same period in 2005) and continued increase in operating costs (fuel, wages and insurance) experienced by bus operators (CPT cost index = 6.8%).
- 2.5 Table 1 provides a summary of the agreed expenditure for the current financial year and the most recent costs for 2007/08 negotiated with local bus operators. Table 2 provides the proposed cost for each bus operator.

Table 1: Proposed Cost for the Tees Valley Enhanced Travel Scheme 2007/08

	2006/07 Agreed Cost	2007/08 Proposed Cost	% Change
Total	£1,288,683	1,389,565	7.83%

Table 2: Proposed Cost by Local Bus Operator is attached at the confidential **Appendix 1. This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

- 2.6 In view the significant costs involved, effective monitoring of the scheme is vital. Bus operators have provided passenger data that has been verified by independent bus passenger surveys. This monitoring will be continued in 2007/08.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Transport Act 2000 requires the Council to give a minimum of four months notice to bus operators of proposed changes to their reimbursement arrangements or scheme. A statutory notice was issued before 1st December 2006 to all bus operators operating in the Hartlepool area. This notice stated that the reimbursement method and/or the enhanced scheme itself may be altered in order to agree payments to operators for the year from 1st April 2007 to the 31st March 2008 inclusive, after which a new national scheme for England is to be introduced.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A fixed payment method would secure the agreed scheme in budgetary terms and guarantee payments for the Council. The Government has provided the Council with additional revenue funding for the increase in payments to bus operators for concessionary fares in 2007/08.
- 4.2 If agreement between the Council and bus operator(s) on the new concessionary fares scheme is not reached, the legislation provides that bus operators must offer the statutory minimum scheme from the 1st April 2007. The bus operator(s) would then invoice the Council for the actual cost of travel for the total number of eligible passengers carried. If the cost quoted by bus operators was considered to be unreasonable, the matter may have to be taken through a legal process.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Cabinet approves the reimbursement arrangements with local bus operators for the 2007/08 concessionary travel scheme contained in Table 2.
- 5.2 That the Cabinet is provided with a report at the end of 2007 providing an update on the operation of the concessionary travel scheme and details of the national scheme to be implemented on the 1st April 2008

CABINET REPORT

19 March 2007



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: SMOKE-FREE LEGISLATION

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Cabinet of details of the forthcoming legal requirements with regard to the regulation of smoking in smoke-free premises, places and vehicles. To seek Cabinet endorsement of the general principles of enforcement of the legislation.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report sets out details of the requirements relating to smoke-free legislation which comes into force on 1 July 2007. It highlights the health benefits of the legislation, an implementation strategy and various issues that may arise in relation to enforcement and education of the legislation.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The introduction of smoke-free legislation has town-wide implications for business, employees, the public, as well as all Portfolio Holders.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet only.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet is requested to note the legal requirements and duties placed on the Council in relation to smoke-free legislation and endorse the implementation of strategy set out in the report.

Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: SMOKE-FREE LEGISLATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of details of the forthcoming legal requirements with regard to the regulation of smoking in smoke-free premises, places and vehicles.
- 1.2 To endorse the general principles of enforcement set out in the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The public health reasons for protecting people from second hand smoke are well documented. There is no risk free level of exposure to second hand smoke and it contains some 4,000 chemicals, many being known to be dangerous poisons. More than 50 are known to be cancer-causing agents. Long-term exposure is known to increase a non-smoker's risk of lung cancer by 24% and heart disease by 25%. It is estimated that second hand smoke at work will result in more than 600 deaths per annum in the U.K. The North East has the highest percentage of smokers in the U.K. (28%)
- 2.2 With this in mind, the Government, through the Choosing Health White Paper on Public Health, set out a clear strategy to tackle smoking and its effect on health. **The resultant Health Act 2006 makes most enclosed, and substantially enclosed, public spaces and workplaces (including vehicles) smoke-free. Regulations under the Act require compliance with the smoke-free legislation from the 1 July 2007, although all the regulations have not, as yet, completed the Parliamentary approval process.**
- 2.3 There is little doubt that the introduction of the Smoke-Free legislation will be a major step forward in the protection of public health as it will:
 - Reduce the risks to health from second hand smoke.
 - Recognise a person's right to be legally protected from the harm of second hand smoke and to breathe smoke-free air.
 - Help people attempting to give up smoking by providing supportive smoke-free environments.
 - Save thousands of lives over the next decade.
 - Improve the life expectancy of those smokers who quit due to smoke-free public places and workplaces.
 - Generally improve life expectancy, as less people will take up smoking as it becomes more socially unacceptable.

3. SMOKE-FREE LEGISLATION

- 3.1 Section 10 of the Health Act 2006 places a duty on Enforcement Authorities to enforce the smoke-free provisions of the Act and regulations made under it. It should be noted that **Local Authorities are the only enforcing authority** for the purposes of this legislation.
- 3.2 A series of regulations have been, or are proposed to be, made under the Act and these contain the detailed requirements:
- 3.3 **Smoke-Free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006**
These regulations define what are 'enclosed' and 'substantially enclosed' premises which must be smoke-free. This is an important definition, especially in relation to structures which may be used as smoking shelters. Generally, a structure is considered enclosed if it has a ceiling or roof, but there are permanent openings in the walls which are less than half of the total areas of the walls. This is known as the "50% rule".
- 3.4 **Smoke-Free (Signs) Regulations 2007**
These regulations require that appropriate no-smoking signage is displayed in a prominent position at each entrance to a premises. Similarly, a sign must be displayed in all smoke-free vehicles.
- 3.5 **Smoke-Free (Vehicle Operators and Penalty Notices) Regulations 2007**
These regulations specify the form of the fixed penalty notices and the persons with legal duties to cause any person who is smoking in a smoke-free vehicle, to stop smoking. These are the driver, any person in a vehicle who is responsible for order or safety and any person with management responsibilities for the vehicle.
- 3.6 **Smoke-Free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007**
These specify the limited exemptions from the smoke-free requirements and also that most public and work vehicles are to be smoke-free. Exemptions include private dwellings (but not common indoor areas such as stairwells in blocks of flats), designated bedrooms in hotels, guesthouses, hostels, and other residential accommodation. The regulations also allow for the designated rooms in residential accommodation (including prisons, care homes and mental health units), offshore installations and research/testing facilities, subject to certain conditions laid out in the regulations. Performers are granted an exemption where the artistic integrity of a performance makes it appropriate.
- 3.7 **Smoke-Free (Penalties and Discounted Amounts) Regulations 2007**
In general terms, the law states that premises (and vehicles) shall be smoke-free if they are open to the public or used as a place of work by more than one person, or where members of the public might attend for the purpose of receiving goods or services from the person working there, i.e., smoke-free at all times.
- 3.8 There are four main offences, which can be summarised as follows:

1. Persons in control or concerned with the management of a smoke-free place, failing to prevent smoking.
2. Smoking in a smoke-free place.
3. Failing to display “no smoking” signs in smoke-free premises.
4. Intentional obstruction of an authorised officer.

- 3.9 As well as making provision for prosecution with respect to the four **offences (with fines of up to £2,500)**, the Act provides for an Authorised Officer to enforce the legislation via the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices with respect to offences stated in two and three above. This allows for an individual to discharge any liability to conviction by payment of the **fixed penalty notice of £50** (discounted to £30 if paid within 15 days) in relation to offence number two **and £200** (discounted to £150 if paid within 15 days) in relation to offence number three.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Local Authorities are being encouraged to work in partnership with the Department of Health, ‘Smokefree England’ and businesses, to create a ‘supportive environment where people are encouraged and supported to comply with the new laws’. Enforcement, at least in the short term, is to be supportive and non-confrontational. Enforcement action, whether by prosecution or the issuing of fixed penalty notices, should only be considered when the seriousness of the situation warrants it, and must be fair, proportional and consistent. This is in line with the advice in the national ‘Enforcement Concordat’, which the Council signed up to in 1998.
- 4.2 The Department of Health and ‘Smokefree England’ have embarked on a wide reaching education and information campaign, which includes extensive media advertising. Every business in England with at least one employee will receive a leaflet explaining the legal requirements. Local Authorities are also expected to undertake an information and education campaign in their area to help businesses, employees and the public to understand the new requirements. It is intended to contact as many businesses as possible prior to the 1 July to help understand the new legal requirements. A series of workshops for Hartlepool businesses is currently being arranged and a business newsletter is being produced which will include information on smoke-free legislation.
- 4.3 Generally, enforcement inspections will be risk based and, where possible, will be combined with other regulatory inspections (food safety, health and safety and trading standards) to reduce burdens on businesses and Council resources. However, it must be borne in mind that the smoke-free legislation applies to virtually all businesses and these include premises where previously, Council officers may have had little or no reason to visit e.g., industrial premises. Whilst such premises are unlikely to receive routine monitoring visits, the Council must be in a position to respond to any reports or complaints of non-compliance with the smoke-free legislation.

4.4 Priority for premises inspections will be given where:

- Premises are of a type where people have traditionally smoked (e.g., pubs and clubs).
- Large numbers of people could be affected (including extensive enclosed public places such as the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre).
- Complaints are received.
- Warnings or formal enforcement action has previously been taken.

4.5 It is likely that enforcement action will be concentrated on business owners, occupiers, managers and licensees rather than individual smokers. In Scotland, targeting the management of businesses, rather than smokers, proved to be the most effective enforcement policy. Legal action against individual members of the public is likely to be undertaken only where it can be demonstrated that all reasonable precautions have been taken by the business to prevent smoking on their premises.

4.6 However, it is not expected that legal action, particularly prosecution, will be frequently used. The evidence from Ireland and Scotland, where smoke-free legislation has already been implemented, would suggest that it is largely self-enforcing after the first few months. In Scotland, there has only been one conviction before the courts for smoke-free offences.

4.7 With regard to premises subject to the Licensing Act 2003 provisions, every non-compliance with smoke-free legislation may result in a review of the licence being considered by the Council's Licensing Committee.

5. ISSUES

5.1 In addition to the matters previously raised in this report, there are a number of other issues related to the implementation of this legislation which need to be highlighted.

5.2 Enforcement and Awareness Raising

As with the implementation of any new legislation, there are resource issues to be considered. In recognition of the additional burden being placed on Local Authorities, the Department of Health have provided additional grants totalling £29.5 million nationally (which equates to approximately £7 per business) to authorities. The grant to Hartlepool, which is specifically awarded to "support implementation of smoke-free legislation," amounts to approximately £57k. This grant has been provided to cover the remainder of this financial year as well as the 2007/08 financial year. No further funding is to be awarded. This reflects the view that the legislation will quickly become self-enforcing with no substantial long-term resource implications for Local Authorities. The actual cost is in line with the amount provided for the successful implementation in Scotland. It is clear that there is an expectation on Local Authorities to ensure that the law is obeyed and that businesses are supported locally to understand and comply. This will include raising

awareness as well as enforcement issues. In addition to seminars and workshops for businesses, there will be a need to visit many individual premises to educate and monitor the situation for compliance. This will be most important around, and shortly after, the implementation date of the 1 July. It will not be possible for existing staff to undertake these visits in a relatively short time scale without having an unacceptable delaying effect on other work activities and consideration is being given to appointing consultants to undertake this role on a short term basis. Several Scottish authorities used such consultants successfully before and after the implementation of smoke-free legislation in Scotland.

5.3 It is also recognised that the implementation of smoke-free legislation has consequences outside the direct costs of enforcement and education, such as the likely increased uptake of smoking cessation courses, and the potential to increase litter and nuisance outside business premises. It is therefore proposed to liaise closely with members of the Smoke Free Hartlepool Group, which is a multi-agency sub-group of the Public Health Strategy Group, to consider any wider implications.

5.4 As well as embarking on a high profile awareness campaign, the Department of Health is committed to supplying all required signage for businesses free of charge and suitable training courses for local authority enforcement officers, in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Officers, are planned.

5.5 **Council Staff and Services**

The current Council approved Smoking Policy is robust and the action plan, agreed some time ago, has been implemented. Effectively smoking has been banned from Council buildings and vehicles since the turn of the year. The new legislation should, therefore, have minimal effects on existing Council services and staff. However, it must be borne in mind that as from the 1 July, it is a criminal offence not to comply with smoke-free legislation and this may result in the Council taking legal proceedings against its own staff (as well as possible disciplinary action) and the public.

5.6 A recent seminar on the new legislation organised by the Local Authority Coordination Body on Regulatory Services (LACoRS) and the Local Government Association, was attended by the Adult and Public Health Portfolio Holder. Various speakers expressed the opinion that the new legislation would be largely accepted by both businesses and the public within a short period after implementation with minimum problems. However, the issue, which could create the most problems for Councils, is the provision of smoking shelters. These are structures created outside businesses and enclosed public spaces to offer some protection to smokers from the elements. Difficulties may be encountered in relation to planning matters, litter, noise, the use of bus shelters for smoking and whether the shelter is 'substantially enclosed' (in which case it cannot be used for smoking). Local authorities have been made aware that they are likely to receive a number of enquiries in relation to these structures.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The introduction of this smoke-free legislation is undoubtedly a major step forward in protecting public health and indeed, may prove to be one of the most significant health improvement measures introduced in recent times. The law is designed to protect workers and the public from the hazards of second hand smoke and not to make smokers quit.

6.2 There is little doubt that this legislation is:

- **Needed** - there is now a wealth of irrefutable evidence that second hand smoke damages health and kills thousands. Smoking is the biggest cause of preventable death and disease in the U.K.
- **Wanted** - the vast majority of the public wants this law. In Ireland, which went 'smoke-free' three years ago, 80% of smokers still support this action.
- **Workable** – similar laws have been shown to work in other countries such as Ireland, Scotland, Norway, many of the USA States, Queensland in Australia, amongst others. Compliance is very high in these countries and is largely self-enforcing, due to the preparatory work carried out ahead of implementation and perhaps the biggest challenge to the Council is to ensure the additional funds provided are used and targeted for maximum benefit.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That Cabinet notes the requirements and duties placed on the Council in relation to the introduction of smoke-free legislation and endorses the implementation strategy set out in the report.

REPORT TO CABINET

19th March 2007



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: MANOR COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY:
CONSIDERATION OF FOUNDATION STATUS
– STATUTORY NOTICE

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine whether or not to submit a response to the statutory notice in respect of the change of status of Manor College of Technology from a Community School to a Foundation School.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report gives the background to the publication of the statutory notice, provides general information about the Foundation Status and attaches the notification from the school and the relevant notice as an appendix.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The matter relates to the future status of Manor College of Technology and is a potentially sensitive issue.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet meeting on 19th March 2007.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

To determine whether or not to submit a response to the statutory notice in respect of the change of status of Manor College of Technology from a Community School to a Foundation School.

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: MANOR COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY:
CONSIDERATION OF FOUNDATION STATUS
– STATUTORY NOTICE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine whether or not to submit a response to the statutory notice in respect of the change of status of Manor College of Technology from a Community School to a Foundation School.

2. BACKGROUND

On 6th October 2006, the Director of Children's Services received a letter from the Chair of Governors of Manor College of Technology indicating that the governors had decided to investigate the possibility of seeking Foundation Status for the College. On 31st October 2006, the Director of Children's Services received via e-mail a letter from the College re-affirming this intention and inviting consultation responses to be submitted to the governors by 5th December 2006.

On 17th November 2006, the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services agreed a response to be submitted to Manor College of Technology Governors in relation to their wish to investigate the possibility of seeking Foundation Status. This response drew attention to:

- Hartlepool Borough Council's resolution of 13th April 2006 in connection with City Academies and Foundation Schools;
- the Council's wish for strong collaboration between schools;
- the potential impact of the move to Foundation Status on outcomes for children;
- the potential risk for staff at the school;
- the potential cost to Manor College in respect of undertaking its new responsibilities;
- the potential impact on the timescale for Building Schools for the Future and access to capital funding;
- the potential impact on relationships within the town;
- the consultation process.

The Council meeting on 26th October 2006 was made aware of receipt of the original letter from Manor College of Technology and on 14th December 2006, the Council noted the response to that consultation process submitted by Iain Wright MP.

The information submitted to the Portfolio Holder on 17th November 2006 contained a summary of the implications of Foundation Status. This has subsequently been updated in the light of more recent information and a copy is attached for information as **Appendix 1**. The amendments are shown in italics. In summary, this explains that a Foundation School takes ownership of the school land and buildings, become the employer of staff at the school and becomes its own admission authority. It is not, however, an independent school, but remains part of the Local Authority family of schools and funding arrangements in a similar way to voluntary aided schools.

3. **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

On 27th February 2007 the Director of Children's Services received a letter from the headteacher of Manor College of Technology indicating that the governors had considered the responses to the consultation process and had decided to proceed to the next stage of the process – the "Representation Period". The letter (which is attached as **Appendix 2**) sets out the arrangements for a statutory notice period which could result in Manor College formally becoming a Foundation School on 16th April 2007, subject to a further decision-making process by the Governing Body.

The letter also made arrangements for a surgery on 12th March 2007 during which it was possible to meet with a representative group of governors to discuss views about Foundation Status. The Director of Children's Services wrote to all Councillors on 5th March 2007 to make them aware of this opportunity.

A copy of the statutory notice published by Manor College of Technology Governing Body is attached as **Appendix 3** to this report.

The deadline for submitting any responses to the statutory notice is 4 weeks from the date of publication (i.e. 26th March).

4. **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

(i) Collaboration

As indicated above, the Portfolio Holder submitted a response to the governors of Manor College of Technology at the initial stage of consultation. This response was in line with the Council minute of April 2006 and emphasised the importance of collaboration as part of the future agenda for schools and the risk which increased school autonomy might bring to the local situation if one or more schools moved towards Foundation Status. It should be noted, however, that the headteacher has indicated that it is his intention of himself and the governors to work in close collaboration with other schools and Joe Hughes, Chair of the Secondary Headteachers' Group in Hartlepool had confirmed that Hartlepool secondary headteachers do not see Manor College becoming a Foundation School as posing any threat to future collaboration. In addition, recent research into strategic

leadership by Local Authorities published by the New Local Government Network (NGLN) an independent think tank on modernisation and transformation of public services found that a range of different types of school status within a local authority was not a significant barrier to effective collaboration. While authorities with a high proportion of community schools were more cautious or concerned about Trust status, authorities with a high proportion of independent and former grant-maintained schools were not fazed by the possibility of more Trust schools as they had already adapted to working with different types of schools. Much depended on the vision and skills of the Local Authority to maintain the sense of a “family of schools”. This sense of local collaboration is currently very strong in Hartlepool.

(ii) Potential impact on outcomes for children

In their original consultation letter, the governors of Manor College of Technology indicated that they wished to use Foundation Status to ‘continue the development of the school and raise standards’ and there is no reason why Foundation Status should have a negative impact on their students. Any potential negative impact on other schools through the new role of Admissions Authority will be limited by the new statutory Admissions Code.

(iii) Potential risks for staff and the college

The Portfolio Holder’s response to the governors referred to the potential risks to the school of pursuing Foundation Status in relation to staffing responsibilities, health and safety responsibilities and potential costs of any legal action. It may be possible, however, for the school to mitigate these risks to some extent through participation in appropriate service level agreements with the Council and through appropriate insurance arrangements.

(iv) Potential impact on Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Another potential risk was identified in relation to any potential impact of Foundation Status on the timescale for Building Schools for the Future and access to capital funding. This risk would emerge if the collaboration between schools weakened during the change of status of any schools. However, given the assurances from the headteacher and governors about their future intentions in terms of collaboration, this risk may be mitigated. The Council is required to treat all schools equally within its plans for BSF and not to discriminate against any school because of its status.

(v) Consultation

The Portfolio Holder’s response expressed concerns about the level of consultation undertaken by Manor College of Technology and the extent to which this allowed consultees to understand fully the issues involved in moving to Foundation Status. Consultees did not receive any detailed documentation explaining what Foundation Status meant, nor was any detailed information provided to stakeholders

about the implications of the governors' new roles in relation to assets, employment, admission and statutory responsibilities. Similarly, no detailed information was given about the additional autonomies or the additional freedoms which might be available and how these could be used to raise standards. Responses to the consultation (available on Manor College of Technology's website) were relatively few in number and reflected a range of opinion within the local community about the change in status.

The information given in the statutory notice is legally adequate in setting out the governors' intentions and is in line with DfES guidance, but is not accompanied by any kind of explanatory information for stakeholders which would make the issue more intelligible to the general public or consultees. Cabinet may, therefore, wish to comment to the governors on the degree to which a public debate has been facilitated in relation to the change of status.

(vi) Diversity of schools

In considering whether or not to respond to the statutory notice, Cabinet will also need to have regard to the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This requires that the Local Authority when it exercises its functions in respect of the provision of primary and secondary schools should do so: "with a view to:

- a) securing diversity in the provision of schools, and
- b) increasing opportunities for parental choice."

While this provision does not come into effect until May 2007, it nonetheless shows the importance which the government attaches to providing a diverse range of schools within a local area. It is the Government's intention to encourage more schools to pursue Foundation, Trust or Academy status over the coming years and it is understood that a representative of the Schools Commissioner will be visiting all local authorities to ensure that diversity is actively considered within BSF proposals.

Hartlepool currently has six mainstream secondary schools and one secondary aged special school. All of these schools have specialist college status as follows:

- Brierton Community School – Sport;
- Dyke House School - Technology;
- English Martyrs RC School – Art;
- St. Hild's CE School – Engineering;
- High Tunstall School – Science;
- Manor College – Technology;
- Catcote Special School – Business and Enterprise.

In addition, one school is a voluntary aided Roman Catholic school and one school is a voluntary aided Church of England School. There

are also examples of close collaborative arrangements between schools in both the primary and the secondary sector, which may in due course lead to federated arrangements. It could be argued, therefore, that Hartlepool is already encouraging diversity amongst its schools without the need for schools to consider Foundation Status. However, the DfES expectation is that local authorities will be promoting greater diversity.

5. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Cabinet is asked to determine what response, if any should be submitted to the statutory notice published by the governing body of Manor College of Technology.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, although the Council has expressed concerns about the potential impact of Foundation Status on local collaboration, there is local and national evidence that it is possible for strong local collaboration to continue in authorities with a “mixed economy” of schools. All Hartlepool secondary schools have expressed a strong wish to work in collaboration and this is reflected in the work they are undertaking to develop an Education Improvement Partnership in the town. Success in continuing the strong partnership will also be linked to the vision and leadership by the local authority which has traditionally been very strong in Hartlepool and praised by inspectors. It is unlikely therefore, that a change in status would destabilise this.

While Manor College is the first to consider formally Foundation Status, other schools are assessing the evidence and the government’s strong intention in the Education and Inspection Act 2006 is that Local Authorities will actively consider the diversity of schools within its planning. It is likely, therefore, that this will form part of the assessment of Local Authorities’ Strategy for Change within BSF and, given current government policy, the change in status of a school may be seen by DfES as strengthening rather than weakening the Local Authority’s strategy.

It is not clear, however, how far the local community understand the issues involved in the change of status of Manor College and Cabinet may wish to indicate to governors that a more in-depth consultation, including parent and public meetings should be undertaken prior to a decision being made.

7. RECOMMENDATION

To determine whether or not to submit a response to the statutory notice in respect of the change of status of Manor College from a Community School to a Foundation School.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Letter from Manor College of Technology, 6th October 2006
- E-Mail from Manor College of Technology, 31st October 2006
- Children's Services Portfolio report, 27th October 2006
- Children's Services Portfolio report, 17th November 2006
- Letter from Iain Wright MP to Manor College of Technology governors
- NLGN Schools of Thought: How Local Authorities drive improved outcomes in education
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Letter from Joe Hughes on behalf of secondary headteachers, 9th November 2006
- Responses to Manor College of Technology Consultation (Manor College of Technology website)

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services

**CABINET MEETING
19th MARCH 2007**

MANOR COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY: FOUNDATION STATUS

The Nature of Foundation Status

The government's Five Year Strategy for children and learners which was published in July 2004 included within its 8 key reforms, the freedom for all secondary schools to own their own land and buildings, manage their assets, employ their staff, improve their Governing bodies and forge partnerships with outside sponsors and educational foundations. As part of the move to implement this strategy, proposals have been put in place to make it much easier for community or voluntary controlled schools to become Foundation Schools through a fast track procedure which would enable a Governing Body over a period of 15 weeks to move from initial information gathering about Foundation Status to taking a final decision as to whether to become a Foundation School. The decision is taken by the Governing Body, not the Local Authority.

There is no single, clear set of information or guidance available from the DfES on Foundation Status. The information set out below is, therefore, drawn from a number of different documents but may be subject to further change/clarification arising from discussions with the DfES. In each of the subsequent paragraphs, the different elements of Foundation Status are examined.

Land, Buildings and Asset Management

The government's intention is that Foundation Schools should have more control over the use of school buildings, lettings and the use of redundant buildings. However, the way in which the Foundation School is funded will be no different from any other maintained schools. It will have access to a devolved formula capital allocation each year, which in the case of a reasonably sized secondary school might amount to approximately £100,000 each year, depending on the timing of BSF. As a Foundation School, the Governing Body would be able to spend this allocation as it saw fit for the purposes of the school without consultation with the Local Authority. However, it would require planning permission and building regulations approval for all significant projects. For all significant capital projects, such as those requiring access to modernisation funding, school access initiative funding, targeted capital funding and Building Schools for the Future, a Foundation School, just like a voluntary aided school would remain dependent to a large extent on the role of the Local Authority. The Local Authority is expected to provide educational leadership and vision for all schools in their area and will retain responsibility for important overarching roles where local co-ordination is essential, including the development of capital strategies for their areas. This would include projects such as Building Schools for the Future. If, therefore, a Foundation School wished to exercise its autonomy in respect of significant capital projects without Local Authority support, it would be reliant on its delegated budget, its own fundraising capabilities and/or potential external sponsorship.

Local authorities will continue to receive formulaic and capital funding based on all their schools and will be expected to prioritise their capital funding fairly through rigorous, transparent and consultative asset management planning based on the needs of all their schools.

In relation to Land Transfer, any land (before the implementation date) that was held by the Local Authority for the purpose of the Community School, will be transferred to the Governing Body of the Foundation School. Where there is dual usage of said land, then an agreement between the parties concerned must ensue. If this is not possible, then *from 2007* only the sale of playing fields will be referred to the Secretary of State; other non playing field land (and premises) issues will be considered by the Schools Adjudicator.

If a Foundation School wants to dispose of any non playing field land it will have to notify the Local Authority of its proposal, the amount of the sale proceeds and what they will be used for. If the authority is happy with the school's proposal then the school can sell the land. If the authority objects to the sale or wants to claim a share of the proceeds or object to the school's planned use of the proceeds, it must inform the school and notify the School Adjudicator who will determine any or all of these issues. If a Foundation School wants to dispose of playing field land it will have to apply for the Secretary of State's consent.

It must also be remembered that an employer has the ultimate responsibility for the health and safety of its premises. A Foundation School as the employer and owner of the premises could be potentially more vulnerable than a community school in the case of accident, litigation or health and safety contravention. *This risk could be mitigated by continuing the service level agreement with the Council's Human Resources team.*

Employment of Staff

As a Foundation School, the Governing Body would employ its own staff. The opportunities presented by the actual employer status are, however, limited by the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document, TUPE provisions and all relevant employment protection and discrimination legislation. As the actual employer of staff, the Governing Body of a Foundation School is probably more vulnerable than a community school if it were to be challenged in an employment tribunal and there would be potential liabilities in respect of awards including costs. *This risk could be mitigated by continuing the service level agreement with the Council's Human Resources team.*

Governing Body

Foundation Schools include a new category of Governors – partnership Governors. For this category, the Governing Body has to seek nominations from parents of registered pupils at the school and from other such persons in the community covered by the school as it considers appropriate e.g. local organisations or community groups which use school premises. It then appoints the required number in accordance with the Instrument of Government from among the eligible nominees. Partnership Governors may not be parents, people eligible to be staff Governors at the school, elected members or people employed by the Local Authority in connection with its functions as a Local Authority. The Governing Body of a Foundation School is required to have not less than nine and no more than 20 Governors. It needs to be constituted as follows:

- Parent Governors – at least one third;
- Partnership Governors – at least two, but more than one quarter; or Foundation Governors – at least two but not more than one quarter (relevant when a voluntary controlled school becomes a Foundation School);
- Community Governors – at least one tenth;
- Staff Governors – at least two, but not more than one third including the head. Where there are three or more in this group, one must be a non-teacher;

- LEA Governors – at least one, but no more than one fifth;

Ability to Forge Partnerships with Outside Sponsors and Educational Foundations

DfES information about Foundation Status makes clear that Foundation Schools can forge partnerships with outside sponsors and education foundations. It is, however, not clear how far this is something unique to Foundation Schools as all secondary schools will have the freedom to strengthen the Governing Body by adding to the number of sponsor Governors and have the opportunity to form links with a wide range of other partners either as a group or individually. All schools have the opportunity to seek Charitable Status.

Admissions

A Foundation School Governing Body is the admissions authority for the school rather than the Local Authority. It must prepare an admissions policy and ensure that a proper consultation process is carried out before implementing the policy. It also has to establish an admission appeals process. It is, however, bound by the statutory Code of Practice for Admissions and the Admission Appeals Code of Practice, together with Local Authority co-ordinated admissions schemes and hard to place pupil policies. Foundation Schools are represented on the Admission Forum but it is for the LA to determine how many representatives are on the Forum, provided that this is between 1 and 3 in total. A Foundation School cannot introduce new criteria for selection by ability. A Local Authority can object to a Foundation School's arrangements and the Schools Adjudicator would then make a final decision.

Ability to Publish Statutory Proposals for Other Changes

The Governing Body could make proposals and publish statutory notices in relation to changes to the school's organisation e.g. to establish a new school, increase the age range of a school or discontinue or enlarge the premises of an existing school. It would, however, have to generate its own funding to make such proposals viable and the Local Authority would be able to object to proposals. If there were objections, proposals would be determined by the Schools Adjudicator. The Local Authority can still make its own statutory proposals in relation to a Foundation Status school.

Financial Implications

No new government funding is available to Foundation Schools. As part of the Local Authority family of schools, they are funded on exactly the same basis as other Local Authority maintained schools. Within the constitution for the Hartlepool Schools Forum, which advises the Local Authority of the allocation of resources to schools within the Dedicated Schools Grant, there is no entitlement of a place for Foundation Schools. Secondary school places are allocated on the basis of an election.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

There is no change to the consultation process for Building Schools for the Future when Foundation Schools are involved. The Local Authority will need to submit a Strategy for Change which includes all maintained schools. This includes Community Schools, Foundation Schools and the Voluntary Aided Church Schools. The Local Authority is

expected to treat all schools fairly within Building Schools for the Future and not to discriminate against schools on grounds of status. *In developing its Strategy, the Local Authority has to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice.*

Other implications of Foundation Status

The DfES is keen to foster the view that Foundation Schools provide more independence, freedom, flexibility and autonomy to schools, but much of this is a matter of perception as can be seen from the above analysis. However, becoming a Foundation School is not the same as “opting out”. Foundation Schools continue to be maintained schools as part of the Local Authority family of schools. They also continue to be subject to the National Curriculum, will be inspected by OfSTED like other schools and subject to the same monitoring arrangements as other schools.

Foundation Schools are very similar in status to Voluntary Aided Schools. Hartlepool currently has two secondary Voluntary Aided Schools:

- English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College (a Roman Catholic school) which was established prior to Hartlepool becoming a unitary authority;
- St Hild’s School (a voluntary aided Church of England school) which was established in September 2001 in order to access funding for a replacement school and to regenerate a school which was a cause for concern.

The Local Authority works closely with both Diocesan Authorities as well as the schools to ensure a strong collaborative approach. It may be less easy to drive collaboration if more schools have Foundation Status on an individual basis.



Owton Manor Lane
Hartlepool, TS25 3PS
Tel: 01429 288338
Fax: 01429 288638
E-mail: info@manorcollege.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr A S White, BA Hons
Deputy Head Teacher:
Director of Technology: Mr M G Robson, MA

www.manorcollege.org.uk

ASW/SH

14th February 2007

27 FEB 2007

Mrs A Simcock
Director of Children's Services
Hartlepool Children's Services Authority
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool

Dear Mrs Simcock

Re: Change of Status to a Foundation School

Further to my letter of 2 November 2006 in which you were invited to express your views as part of the College's consultation exercise on changing status from a Community to a Foundation School, I am writing to you as part of the next stage in this process.

The Governing Body of Manor College of Technology met on 8 December 2006 to consider the responses we received during the informal consultation stage of the process to change status to a Foundation School. The deadline for the receipt of comments was December 5 2006.

As the meeting on 8 December, the Governors considered the responses and discussed the way forward. Eleven written responses, including a substantial statement from Hartlepool Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Education, Councillor Mrs Pam Hargraves, were received. All of these letters and in some cases, e-mails, are available for inspection on the College's website www.manorcollege.org.uk. The Governors also held a 'Surgery' during which stakeholders were given the opportunity to express their opinions and seek clarification regarding the College's reasons for considering changing status.

The Governing Body analysed the written responses and considered the issues raised during the Surgery before agreeing, unanimously, to proceed to the next stage of the process – the 'Representation Period'. As a result, the following timetable of events was decided;



Specialist Schools Trust

asw/changesofstatus/foundationstatus/07

PRODUCTS



DIVISION OF PEOPLE



www.vitaleducation.com



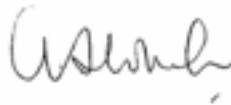
1. The statutory notice will appear in the Hartlepool Mail, Northern Echo and Evening Gazette on 26 February 2007. This begins the four week statutory representation period. You may wish to make further comments during this stage.
2. The potential date when Manor would formally become a Foundation School will be 16 April 2007.
3. The Governing Body will meet on 26 March 2007 to consider any responses during the statutory representation period.

At the meeting the Governing Body will make the final decision about whether or not to confirm the change of status.

The Governors have arranged for a further surgery to take place on 12 March 2007 during which it will be possible to meet with the Headteacher and a representative group of Governors to discuss your views regarding this matter. In order for this to take place you should request an appointment and this request should be made before 9 March.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Headteacher, or Governors Mr Mike Lister and Mr Frank Reid at the College on 01429 288338, should you require clarification about this letter.

Yours sincerely



Mr A S White
HEADTEACHER

Manor College of Technology proposes changing status from a Community to a Foundation School

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Schedule 8 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 that the Governing Body of Manor College of Technology propose that Manor College of Technology, Owton Manor Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 3PS shall change category and have made the following proposals for that purpose.

That with effect from 16th April 2007 the College will change category from Community to Foundation.

The College will not have a foundation body, or belong to a group of schools for which a foundation body exists.

If the College changes its category to Foundation, the land will transfer to The Governing Body of Manor College of Technology.

Within four weeks after the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending the representations to The Chair of Governors, Manor College of Technology, Owton Manor Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 3PS.

A.S. White
Headteacher

23.02.07

CABINET REPORT

19th March 2007



Report of: Head of Community Safety and Prevention

Subject: ANNUAL DRUG TREATMENT PLAN 2007/08

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report illustrates the detail and content of Safer Hartlepool Partnership Annual Drug Treatment Plan for Hartlepool 2007/08 and seeks the support of the Cabinet to the activity and performance management framework

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 Safer Hartlepool Partnership is responsible for the implementation of the National Drug Strategy with its associated monitoring and reporting requirements, and receives funding to implement national and local objectives associated with tackling drug misuse and crime.
- 2.2 Each year Drug Action Teams or Partnerships are required to provide a drug treatment plan for adults to the National Treatment Agency detailing the local drug situation, a self assessment of local services against the national service framework, a forecast of investment and action plans for service development and improvement.
- 2.3 The process required a draft plan to be provided to NTA by 12th January 2007 followed by interviews and meetings with a regional panel of agencies such as Government Office North East, Probation, Strategic Health leads, Prison Service and NTA with the final Adult Treatment Plan resubmitted, agreed and signed off by the end of March 2007.
- 2.4 The Annual Drug Treatment Plan 2007/08 has been informed by a Needs assessment and analysis of several data sources alongside Research. In addition there have been focus groups including agencies, providers, services users and carers, and the draft Plan was also presented through Neighbourhood Forums.

- 2.5 Over the past two years Hartlepool drug treatment strategy and services which include a number of criminal justice initiatives have been very successful and current performance is assessed by GONE and NTA as green.
- 2.6 The key performance indicators related to the drug strategy have been achieved and in most case exceeded with the delivery of Hartlepool Drug Intervention Programme acknowledged as one of best in the country. By the end of March 07 there should be 630 problematic drug users in treatment services.
- 2.7 Funding for the drug treatment services and initiatives is secured from a number of sources including Department of Health, Home Office, and the Primary Care Trust but is allocated on an annual basis. In 2006/07 the advised allocation of the Pooled Treatment Budget was reduced with final confirmation not received until June 06.
- 2.8 2007/08 is the final year of the national 10 year drug strategy and at this time there is knowledge of indicative levels of funding but not confirmation as to the exact level of funding nor the position and future direction of any government drug initiative post March 2008. This has significant implications for planning and agreeing outcomes and targets and although the Plan will be submitted to NTA in accordance with the above timescale it may still be subject to modification in year depending on guidance and final funding.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO CABINET

- 3.1 The Annual Drug Treatment Plan for 2007/08 is a multi agency Partnership document that seeks to tackle and alleviate some of the local concerns and issues associated with drug misuse and crime.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

- 4.1 Non-key

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

- 5.1 Cabinet Meeting 19th March 2007

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 6.1 To receive and support the activity and performance management framework of the Hartlepool Adult Drug Treatment Plan for 2007/08

Report of: Head of Community Safety and Prevention

Subject: ANNUAL DRUG TREATMENT PLAN 2007/2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.0 This report provides information and detail on the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Annual Drug Treatment Plan for 2007/08 and seeks the support of Cabinet to the activity and performance management framework in the Plan and agreed with the National Treatment Agency (NTA).

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Governments 10 year national drug strategy as detailed in Tackling Drugs Together then updated in 2002 requires local Partnerships or Drug Action Teams to deliver objectives and targets across 4 key areas:-
- Reducing supply and availability of drugs
 - Preventing young people becoming involved in drug use
 - Reducing the impact of drugs on communities
 - Providing more effective and better treatment
- 2.2 Since the merger of the local Drug Action Team into the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) in 2004 which is chaired by the Mayor the Partnership has been able to provide a strategic response to the often interlinked problems of crime, drugs, anti social behaviour and offending.
- 2.3 Following the update of the national drug strategy there has been a focus and introduction of initiatives dealing specifically with the links between crime and drugs. The Drug Intervention Programme (DIP), Prolific and Other Persistent Offender project (PPO), Restrictions on Bail (ROB) and from 2006 Tough Choices have been successful in contact and engaging more offenders into treatment.

3.0 FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY

- 3.1 Finance is provided annually to implement the treatment plan and specific initiatives from a variety of government departments with stringent targets and key performance indicators. The Home Office Drug Directorate, The National Treatment Agency (NTA) and Government Office North East (GONE) all monitor and require regular reporting on the different aspects of the plans.

- 3.2 Statistical and strategic Information is provided through the Plan, quarterly progress reports, monthly statistical returns, mid and year end meetings with a Regional Panel and NTA/GONE representatives attend the relevant Safer Hartlepool Partnership meetings. In addition the criminal justice projects have additional performance measure frameworks
- 3.3 The 10 year national drug strategy is due for completion in March 2008. To date there is no guidance or information available yet as to any future government drug initiative, focus or direction. This is having significant impact on the planning of service developments which would normally be the focus of the Drug Treatment Plan.
- 3.4 In addition the funding allocations advised may be subject to change. This may mean that the Plan being submitted to NTA now may have to be modified later in the year as in 2006/07 when final monies were not confirmed until June 06.

4.0 ADULT DRUG TREATMENT PLAN 2007/08

- 4.1 The Plan (Appendix 1) relates to adult drug treatment services only and consists of four discrete Parts or sections :-
 - (i) Part 1 - A strategic statement of the local drug situation, priorities for current and proposed service developments and targets.
 - (ii) Part D – A financial and investment profile from drug specific and mainstream budgets.
 - (iii) Part 2 - A self assessment of progress against a number of areas or tiers of service which form the national health service framework or Models of Care quality standards
 - (iv) Part 3 - Specific action planning grids detailing objectives, tasks lead agencies, timescale and finance. This grid will continue to be developed and informed by ongoing consultation.
- 4.2 The 2007/08 strategic summary in Part 1 and need assessments confirm that heroin continues to be the adult primary illegal drug of choice. There is an increase in use of crack and cocaine but not at a pace that other areas have experienced. Increasingly there is misuse of alcohol but with no funding available to address alcohol related need.
- 4.3 There is improvement in both national and local databases that allow more accurate analysis of the drug activity in Hartlepool. By the end of March 07 there will be approximately 630 problematic drug users in treatment services, nearly 25% of whom have been engaged through the criminal justice projects.
- 4.4 Part 2 of the Plan illustrates through a means of traffic light assessment the progress Hartlepool has made against service development and objectives. The NTA and GONE assess the current drug treatment performance as green, all the key performance indicators are achieved and Hartlepool Drug Intervention Programme were the second project nationally to achieve all 6 of their specific performance indicators.

- 4.5 Part 3 – Planning grids are still being developed and there are some gaps which will continue to be completed throughout March. In addition Part D the financial profile is also incomplete at this time but when funding is confirmed the detail will be updated and again the latest copy will be available at cabinet.
- 4.6 Overall Priorities for 2007/08 continue to be the development of primary and shared care service that will release capacity in the specialist drug treatment service which is currently reaching maximum.
- 4.7 Housing and secure accommodation will also be a key area for 2007/08. Ongoing negotiations with Supporting People, the Authorities Homeless section and key housing providers will consolidate the recent changes to allocation process with further work needed to review and improve supported housing services.
- 4.8 The current drug treatment model for Hartlepool was agreed with Partners over four years ago and with the annual developments which have included the construction of a community drug centre, increased provision of wraparound support, the reconfiguration of the specialist prescribing service and introduction of various criminal justice initiatives the model has in the main been achieved.
- 4.9 Being mindful of the end of the national strategy and without guidance as to the future, other priorities for SHP in regard to the drug system will include reviews and evaluations of services and systems and a number of contingency plans in preparation for action when advised of future objectives or programmes.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members are asked to receive and confirm their support to the activity and performance management framework of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2007/08.

CONTACT OFFICERS: Chris Hart, Planning and Commissioning Manager

Background Papers

National Drug Strategy
NTA Guidance for Annual Treatment Plan 2007/08
Audit and Performance detail
JCG Minutes and financial papers

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Partnership name – Safer Hartlepool

Adult Drug Treatment plan 2007/08

Part 1

Section A: Strategic summary

Section B: National targets

Section C: Partnership performance expectations

Published by NTA: 2 October 2006

This strategic summary incorporating national targets and partnership performance expectations, together with the funding profile, self assessment and attached planning grids have been approved by the Partnership and represent our collective action plan.	
<i>Signature</i>	<i>Signature</i>
Chair, Partnership name	Chair, Adult Joint commissioning group

Section A: Strategic summary

A1: Partnership drug treatment strategy:

The model and operation of a fully integrated drug treatment and support services was agreed 4 years ago and annual action plans since then have built upon and led to current position where the majority if not all of model has been achieved.

The provision and modality components as illustrated in Models of Care are now in place, many co-located in the same facilities. Communication, referral processes and joint working are effective. There are common assessment and case management structures applied in multi agency settings. Support and aftercare provision (such as education, benefits, complementary therapy, obstetrics) is available with an emphasis on reintegration into community and mainstream services.

Provision and analysis of data is improved with POPPIE IT system established in all drug services and Mi-case IT package being installed in year for criminal justice services. Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and the drug strategy delivered through Safer Hartlepool Partnership (previously the responsibility of Drug Action Team) are assessed as green with key performance indicators achieved and exceeded in many cases, Hartlepool is recognised as one of the better performing areas particularly in regard to DIP.

During 2006/07 the Safer Hartlepool Partnership were able to align the crime, drugs and prevention agenda with increased opportunity for joined up responses and initiatives. From January 07 the criminal justice drug initiatives (DIP and Persistent and Other Priority Offenders (PPO) will join to improve both practical operations but also ensure effective responses, care coordination and strategic developments.

There has been progress in delivery of harm reduction services with additional facilities commissioned e.g. 7 x 7 supervised consumption and HBV vaccinations are now in place. There continues to be concern in regard to the development of shared care with proposals for procurement of primary care underway.

The national 10 year drug strategy is due for completion in March 2008 with no guidance about future focus or direction. In addition there is no confirmation as to financial allocations for 2007/08 and beyond.

Safer Hartlepool Partnership Drug Treatment Plan for 2007/08 has been determined within this framework and the emphasis this year will be to consolidate, review and evaluate provision and effectiveness of the model. There will be ongoing needs assessment, analysis and quality reviews of all services with a strengthening of service level agreements and contractual arrangements across Partnership. These reviews will inform the Drug Treatment Strategy and Commissioning Strategy for 2008-2013 and future annual plans

A2: Summary of outcome of needs assessment in relation to problem drug situation:

The nature of drug use in Hartlepool is relatively static perhaps due to the geographic boundaries and lifestyle of residents. The numbers of drug users and drug dealers does not tend to be influenced by any transient population impacting on trends or activity.

The Glasgow study concludes that there are 846 problematic drug users (pdu's) in Hartlepool though local research would suggest up to 1200 individuals. Using 'bulls eye' treatment data from National Treatment Agency, National Drug Treatment Monitoring System data (NDTMS) and local information the majority of drug using individuals will be white, male and in their early twenties.

Heroin continues to be the primary drug of choice, though there is an increase in use of crack and

cocaine. (1% increase crack alone, 20% decrease Heroin alone, 12% increase heroin and crack
This trend is not however at the pace that other partnership areas have experienced.
The use of alcohol is a major concern especially as treatment provision is for drugs and not wider substance misuse. There are chaotic drug users not accessing services who drink alongside their poly drug use but more of those in treatment and addressing their drug addiction are turning to alcohol too.

Worryingly there is wider use of tablets being accessed via the internet which have contributed to a higher level of drug related deaths this year.

Number of pdu's in treatment for 2006/07 expected to be 630, currently 86% are staying in treatment for longer than 12 weeks leading to more successful outcomes meaning a penetration rate of 75% (nearly 83% if figures for young people accessing treatment is included).

Access to treatment by individuals across the town is evidenced through POPPIE and service case file data. There is a significant proportion of drug users living in the centre of the town where the majority of private rented accommodation is located but focussed and outreach work is undertaken in other wards to ensure information is widely distributed. There will be continued assessment in regard to movement within private sector as the NDC demolition and regeneration in the centre of Hartlepool has begun. This analysis will be informed through the implementation of new housing/accommodation process and policies recently developed.

There does not appear to be a sector of drug using population that in principle could be having problems accessing treatment apart from stimulant users and consideration is being given to appropriate response. Women clinics, obstetrics, crèche and home safety projects are in place. Links are made for sex workers who are accessing Hartlepool services, Women's Aid, MESMAC and SECOS. There is liaison and joint working with Hart Gables to advertise and increase access with gay, lesbian and transgender drug users and drug services have contact through Salaam Centre, faith groups and other diversity projects to improve engagement with homeless, alcohol/drug misusers, minority groups.

When DIP and Restrictions on Bail (ROB) were introduced there was some identification and referral of new/naïve individuals into treatment, however the majority of those contacted this year via DIP and arrest referral service are already in treatment which has led to further analysis and joint working to address offending behaviours. Use of the Impact Needs Assessment has also informed discussion and led to reconfiguration of systems or programmes. For example the aligned criminal justice programmes now includes identification and referral of young people appearing in custody to specialist treatment; processes to address prevent and deter agenda particularly the transition between YOS/DIP/PPO; changes to maintain DIP intensive support and contact following transfer to generic services.

Safer Hartlepool Partnership conducts research and studies of the whole drug system and specific elements of services to maintain effective delivery and performance The mapping of treatment services and analysis of blocks and barriers is a regular activity for the partnership, drug managers and providers. This ongoing review of systems and processes has ensured that individuals are consistently able to access modalities and support within the national target times and usually within a maximum of 5 working days

The needs assessment will continue throughout the year to better inform future strategic development post March 2008.

A3: Partnership key treatment priorities:

- ? Procurement of Primary/Shared Care services
- ? Housing and Accommodation

- ? Family intervention and support/Parental Substance Misuse
- ? Harm Minimisation including blood borne virus, drug related deaths and overdose prevention
- ? Alcohol Strategy links
- ? Integration of Drug, Crime and Community Safety

Section B: National targets

B1 Numbers of drug users in treatment (Adults and Young People)

B1.1 Estimated number of problem drug users (PDU) in Partnership area	846	Source	University of Glasgow National Study Local estimates
	1200		

DATA TO BE USED IS ALWAYS <u>DAT OF RESIDENCE</u>		Performance 2005/6	Target 2006/07	Performance April – September 2006	Target 2007/08
B1.2 Total number in treatment	LDP(T43)		533	534 adults 66 young people	750
	Partnership Target	601 Adults 59 Young People	630	534 adults 66 young people	750

B2 Retention rates – Adults only

DATA TO BE USED IS ALWAYS <u>DAT OF RESIDENCE</u>	Performance 2005/06	Target 2006/7	Performance July 2005 – June 2006	Target 2007/08
B2 Percentage retained in treatment for 12 weeks or more (LDP and partnership target)		77%	86%	84%

B3 Waiting times - Adults only

B3.1 Waiting time to first treatment intervention <i>See Models of care 2006 for definitions of structured treatment interventions</i>	Partnership performance %	Planned performance %	
	Quarter end - 30 September 2006	2006/07	2007/08
Inpatient drug treatment	n/a	82%	85%

Residential rehabilitation	n/a	77%	85%
Specialist prescribing	100%	83%	85%
Primary care/shared care prescribing	n/a	88%	88%
Day programmes	100%	74%	85%
Psychosocial interventions	100%	77%	85%
Other structured treatment	93%	72%	85%

B3 Waiting times - Adults only

B3.2 Waiting time to subsequent treatment intervention See Models of care 2006 for definitions of structured treatment interventions	Partnership performance %	Planned performance %	
	Quarter end - 30 September 2006	2006/07	2007/08
Inpatient drug treatment	n/a	82%	85%
Residential rehabilitation	n/a	85%	85%
Specialist prescribing	100%	85%	85%
Primary care/shared care prescribing	n/a	90%	90%
Day programmes	n/a	75%	85%
Psychosocial interventions	80%	80%	85%
Other structured treatment	100%	78%	85%

Section C: Partnership performance expectations

C1 Planned discharges

Planned discharges who complete treatment drug free, complete treatment or are referred on for other services See Models of care 2006 for definitions of structured treatment interventions	Partnership performance 2005/06	Planned performance 2006/07	Partnership performance April - September 2006	National upper quartile performance April – September 2006	Planned performance 2007/08
Inpatient drug treatment	50%	65%	n/a	70%	75%
Residential rehabilitation	70%	75%	n/a	63%	75%
Specialist prescribing	54%	65%	38%	65%	75%
Primary care/shared care prescribing	40%	50%	n/a	64%	55%
Day programmes	36%	60%	n/a	65%	65%
Psychosocial interventions	66%	75%	43%	56%	80%
Other structured treatment	45%	54%	30%	60%	60%

C2 Places in treatment

See Models of care 2006 for definitions of structured treatment interventions	Number of places commissioned	
	Actual 2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Inpatient treatment	17	24
Residential rehabilitation	12	24
Specialist prescribing	630	750
Primary care/shared care prescribing	15	150
Day programmes	90	150
Psychosocial interventions	85	100
Other structured treatment	380	350

C3 Care planning

	Partnership Performance 2005/6	Partnership Performance	Planned performance %	
		April – September 2006	2006/07	2007/08
Proportion of individuals starting treatment who have a care plan		99%	98%	100%

C4 GP Prescribing

	Actual Performance 2006/07	Planned Performance 2007/08
C4.1 Percentage of GPs who provide treatment within a locally or JCG defined shared care arrangement.	1.6% * nil since mid year	9%
C4.2 Percentage of GPs in the partnership area who are prescribing to drug users outside of shared care, but within a commissioned service model.	0%	9%
C4.3 Percentage of GPs in the partnership area who have completed successfully <u>Part 1</u> of the RCGP Certificate in the Management of Drug Misuse	11%	17%
C4.4 Percentage of GPs in the partnership area who have completed successfully <u>Part 2</u> of the RCGP Certificate in the Management of Drug Misuse	3%	5%
C4.5 Number of GPs employed either as practitioners with a Special Interest in drug and alcohol treatment or as addiction specialists within a local treatment system.	3	5

C5 Criminal Justice Drug Treatment

C5.1 Drug Interventions Programme – Compact targets		RAG Performance as at October 2006	
Number	Intensive areas : Key performance indicators		
1	95% of adults arrested for a trigger offence to be drug tested		
2a	95% of adults who test positive and have a required assessment imposed, to attend and remain at the required assessment.		
2b	85% of adults who test positive and who are not already on the caseload, with whom contact is made via the required assessment, to engage further with the CJIT		
3	60% of adults who have not tested positive, with whom initial contact (as defined in the DIR guidance) is made and who are not already on the caseload, to be assessed by the CJIT		
4	85% of adults assessed as needing a further intervention, to be taken onto the caseload		
5	95% of adults taken onto the caseload to engage in treatment		
6	80% of CARAT clients who are transferred to a CJIT to have follow up action taken by that CJIT	Deleted	
	Non Intensive areas : Key performance indicators		
1	60% of adults with whom initial contact (as defined in the DIR guidance) is made and who are not already on the caseload, to be assessed by the CJIT	Not applicable to Hartlepool	
2	85% of adults assessed as needing a further intervention, to be taken onto the caseload	Not applicable to Hartlepool	
3	95% of adults taken onto the caseload to engage in treatment	Not applicable to Hartlepool	
4	80% of CARAT clients who are transferred to a CJIT to have follow up action taken by that CJIT.	Not applicable to Hartlepool	

C5.2 Community sentences with drug rehabilitation requirement				
	Performance 2005/06	NPD Target 2006/07	Partnership Performance April – September 2006	NPD Target 2007/08
C5.2.1 Commencements	47	44	22	To be negotiated
C5.2.2 Successful completions (number)	7	14	5	To be negotiated

C5.3 Integrated drug treatment in prisons: Not applicable to Hartlepool			
Please complete Section 5.3 for each prison in the partnership area. See guidance for more details about which prisons this applies to.			
Name of Establishment:			
Assessment and Care Planning	Baseline Performance 2005/06	Performance 2006/7	Planned performance 2007/08
C5.3.1 Number Receiving Comprehensive Assessment			
C5.3.2 Number of Drug Users with Care Plans			
Treatment Delivery			
C5.3.3 Number of stabilisations commenced			
C5.3.4 Number of detoxifications completed			
C5.3.5 Number Maintenance Prescribed			
C5.3.6 Number of 28 day psycho-social interventions successfully completed			
C5.3.7 Number of drug users discharged into DIP schemes			
Harm Reduction			
C5.3.8 Number of drug users who are assessed for harm reduction needs			
C5.3.9 Percentage of drug users offered HBV vaccination in the prison setting			
C5.3.10 Percentage of drug users offered HBV vaccinations who take up HBV vaccination, who are not already immunised			
C5.3.11 Percentage of current or ever injecting drug users in the prison tested for HCV who do not know their HCV status and have injected within the past six months			

C5.3.8 – C5.3.11 refer to interventions that should already be planned for and funded by PCTs as part of their wider responsibilities for prison healthcare

C6 –Supported housing

Number identified with a primary drug problem by supporting people providers	Number identified with a primary drug problem by supporting people providers	Proportion identified with a primary drug problem in current contact with treatment services	Target proportion to be in current contact with treatment services
2005/06	April – September 2006	April – September 2006	2007/08
24	Supported People figs 0 Local figures 45	Supported People figs 0 Local figures 45	85%

C7 Harm reduction initiatives

C7.1 Vaccinations against Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)	Performance 2005/06	Planned performance 2006/07	Partnership performance April – September 2006	Planned performance 2007/08
C7.1.1 Percentage of new presentations offered HBV vaccinations	n/a	100%	77%	100%
C7.1.2 Percentage of new presentations who accept the offer of HBV vaccination who commence the vaccination programme	n/a	90%	100%	90%

C7.2 Hepatitis C Virus Screening	Performance 2005/06	Planned performance 2006/07	Partnership performance April – September 2006	Planned performance 2007/08
Percentage of current or ever injecting drug users presenting for treatment tested for HCV who do not know their HCV status and have injected within the past six months	n/a	0%	0%	1%

C7.3 General healthcare assessment	Performance 2005/06	Planned performance 2006/07	Partnership performance April – September 2006	Planned performance 2007/08
Percentage of new presentations completing a general healthcare assessment	63%	80%	86%	90%

C7.4 Specialist and pharmacy-based needle exchange programmes	Performance 2005/06	Planned performance 2006/07	Partnership performance April – September 2006	Planned performance 2007/08
C7.4.1 Number in contact with specialist needle exchanges	700	730		750
C7.4.2 Number in contact with community pharmacy exchange schemes	0	80	0	80
C7.4.3 Total number of community pharmacies in partnership area	17			
C7.4.4 Percentage of community pharmacies providing needle exchange as a locally enhanced service	0	11%	0	11%
C7.4.5 Percentage of community pharmacies providing basic healthcare advice and referral	n/a	Not set	36%	75%

C7.5 Supervised consumption	Performance 2005/06	Planned performance 2006/7	Planned performance 2007/8
Percentage of community pharmacies providing dispensing, supervised consumption and shared care as a LES	n/a	71%	82%

Partnership name: Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Adult drug treatment plan 2007/08

Section D

Funding Profile - *Draft*

Published by NTA: 2nd October 2006

Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2007/08

Partnership name:Safer Hartle

Part

Annual Summary - Pooled treatment budget allocation and funding profile DRAFT

Table 1: Planning Grid breakdown of spend					Table 2: Funding Source 2007/08											
Grid	Tier	Description	Likely spend 2006/7 £	Planned spend 2007/08 £	Pooled treatment budget	PTB Underspend from 2006/7	Drug Interventions Programme	Police	Primary Care Trust	Social Services	Section 31/28a funding	Probation partnership	Supporting People	Other	DH Capital	Total funding for Grid
1		Commissioning System	200,000	152,454	140,000		5,000									145,000
2		Workforce Development	30,000	32,000	25,000		2,000		3,000			2,000				32,000
3		User Involvement	60,000	55,000	50,000							5,000				55,000
4		Carer Involvement	50,000	60,000	60,000											60,000
5		Harm Reduction Strategy	60,000	187,000	147,454			7,000	35,000			5,000				194,454
6	1	Non-drug treatment specific services	180,000	104,000	60,000			7,000	32,000			5,000				104,000
7	2	Open access drug treatment services	910,000	467,121	131,121		10,000		150,000	20,000				156,000		467,121
8	3	Structured community based treatment services	800,000	759,000	300,000		130,000		299,000					30,000		759,000
9	4	Residential and inpatient drug treatment services	25,000	45,000	15,000					30,000						45,000
10		Drug Interventions Programme	803,000	663,000			524,000	40,000				59,000		40,000		663,000
		Total Treatment Plan Allocations Grids 1-10	3,118,000	2,524,575	928,575	0	671,000	54,000	519,000	50,000	0	76,000	0	226,000	0	2524575

Table 3: Funding Profile			
		Funding 2006/7 £	Funding 2007/8 £
D1	Substance misuse pooled treatment budget	994,528	994,528
D2	Young people treatment budget	65,953	65,953
D3	SMPTB for adult drug treatment	928,575	928,575
D4	SMPTB underspend from 05/06 or 06/07	125,000	n/k
D5	Drug Interventions Programme main grant	799,327	671,000
D6	Police	54,000	54,000
D7	Primary Care Trust mainstream	519,046	519,000
D8	Social Services	50,000	50,000
D9	Section 31/28a funding		
D10	Probation partnerships	76,000	76,000
D11	Supporting people		
D12	Other	414,862	226,000
D13	DH Capital grant	30,000	
D14	Total Pooled Treatment and DIP Funding	2,996,810	2,524,575

Adult Drug Treatment Plan 2007/08

Partnership name: Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Part 1, Section D - Funding and budget allocation

Annual Summary - funding and allocation 2007/08 - IDTS

Not applicable to Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Table 4: Name of prison establishment:			
Note	Funding source	2006/07	2007/08
D15	DH Prison IDTS Healthcare		
D16	Prison healthcare mainstream funding for clinical management of drug users		
D17	Funding for Psychosocial Interventions - for information only		
D18	CARAT Service Mainstream Funding - for information only		
D19	Other: (please list below)		
	e.g. DIP money, additional Prison Service funding, Reducing Re-offending Projects etc		
D20	Total funding (D15 – D19 inclusive)	0	0

Has the partnership created a pooled budget for adult drug treatment, fully available to the joint commissioning group?

YES

Partnerships in receipt of the NTA pooled treatment budget since 2001 must maintain mainstream investments, including inflation uprating, which is subject to audit checking. Lead PCT directors of finance will be required to verify this through the local delivery plan (LDP) reporting process.

Have **all** mainstream funding commitments been maintained and inflation uplifted?*

YES

*If the answer is NO, please supply a written explanation as an appendix to this strategic summary.

Partnership name
Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Adult drug treatment plan 2007/08 Part 2: Self-assessment checklist

Date published: 2 October 2006

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Introduction

Please refer to the corresponding guidance notes *Adult drug treatment planning 2007/08: Guidance notes on completion of the plan for strategic partnerships* available on www.nta.nhs.uk when completing this checklist.

Drug system management

The major focus of the NTA's treatment effectiveness strategy (2005-08) is on service providers. Parallel developments need to take place to further improve the management of local treatment systems.

Commissioning a local drug treatment system

This self assessment system recognises that drug treatment systems are complex and require appropriate management and support. The standards included in this self-assessment section are taken from the consultation version of *Models of care update 2005*.

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Local commissioning mechanisms have formal strategic partnerships with key stakeholders including health, social care, criminal justice, housing and employment services, drug treatment providers and local drug users and carers	GREEN	
Annual needs assessments are conducted in line with nationally agreed methodology to profile the diversity of local need for drug treatment which includes rates of morbidity and mortality, the degree of treatment saturation or penetration, and the impact of treatment on individual health, public health and offending	GREEN	
Partnership has, as a result of the needs assessment, a clear understanding of the extent to which services at all tiers meet the different needs of diverse communities and gaps in service provision, and actions to address any gaps within the roll out of the treatment effectiveness strategy are detailed across all planning grids	GREEN	
Drug treatment plan is in line with <i>Models of care update 2006</i> with focus on reducing harm to individuals and communities, improving clients' journeys through treatment and predicting client flow through local treatment systems and improving the effectiveness of local drug treatment systems	GREEN	
Partnerships demonstrate best practice in handling public money, contracting with providers and monitoring of service level agreements	GREEN	
Partnerships performance manage local systems of drug treatment using data and key performance indicators in line with all partnership organisations requirements and plans	GREEN	
Commissioning functions are "fit for purpose" and have involvement from key stakeholders at an appropriate level of seniority to deliver a strategic response	GREEN	
Commissioning mechanisms have formal arrangements with local drug user groups to enable consultation and involvement in the planning, commissioning and review of the local drug treatment system	GREEN	
Commissioning mechanisms have formal arrangements with service providers to enable consultation and involvement in the planning, commissioning and review of the local drug treatment system	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Information systems

At local partnership level an assessment should be made as to the effectiveness of local IT and reporting arrangements which will support national developments. Additional guidance on the self assessment is included in the treatment plan guidance on the NTA website.

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Compliance with NDTMS monthly returns by tier 3 and 4 treatment providers in line with service level agreements	GREEN	
Compliance with NDTMS core data set requirements in terms of data quality Red=<85% Amber=85%-94% Green=95%+	GREEN	
Data sharing protocols	GREEN	
Appropriateness (or adequacy) of IT systems in treatment provider services to provide regular and accurate supply of data to NDTMS and commissioners	GREEN	POPPIE & Mi-case
Investment plans for the purchase/development of new/enhanced IT systems to meet clinical needs of providers and NDTMS needs	GREEN	Maintenance and development budgets

Workforce development

The required expansion and improvement of the treatment sector cannot be achieved without significant expansion in the workforce, and a step change in the training and professional development of these employees. Additional guidance on the self assessment is included in the treatment plan guidance on the NTA website

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Partnership workforce strategy (see workforce development guidance for details of workforce strategy requirements)	AMBER	Workforce Strategy being reviewed
Provider services progress towards creating a supportive learning environment which includes plans for work based assessment of competence and numbers registered for awards	GREEN	
Service level agreements specify required workforce activities including induction, individual training plans, appraisal, supervision, CPD (continued professional development), and NVQ3 in Health and Social Care with all provider services job descriptions, person specifications and recruitment processes expressed in line with DANOS and other relevant national occupational standards, together with funding for training and development of staff and managers	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

User involvement in drug treatment system

The involvement of users in the design of the local treatment system and their involvement throughout the implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation processes and the development of advocacy services is an essential element of developing effective drug treatment systems. Additional guidance on the self assessment is included in the treatment plan guidance on the NTA website

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Service users who are representative of the diverse communities within the partnership area, are involved in needs assessment, setting partnership plan priorities and are consulted on plan at draft stage and throughout the process with evidence that the involvement has resulted in action at partnership and provider level	GREEN	
Partnership service user involvement strategy which includes current, ex and potential service users	GREEN	
Resources and investment including user involvement expenses and remuneration arrangements, child care and transport costs; grant aid/funding to local user groups	GREEN	
Network of advocacy and support services aimed at drug users which involves, where appropriate, PALS (NHS), local authority and independent sector	GREEN	
Service level agreements require services to: display a service user charter, include user consultation in service reviews, and promote access to advocacy for users	AMBER	No charter display

Carer involvement in drug treatment system

The involvement of carers in the design of the local treatment system and their involvement throughout the implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation processes is an essential element of developing effective drug treatment systems. Additional guidance on the self assessment is included in the treatment plan guidance on the NTA website

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Carers who are representative of the diverse communities within the partnership area, are involved in needs assessment, setting partnership plan priorities and consulted on plan at draft stage and throughout the process with evidence that the involvement has resulted in action at partnership and provider level	GREEN	
Resources and investment for carer involvement covering appropriate remuneration, expenses and organisational costs	GREEN	
Service level agreements include a requirement for services to include carer consultation in service reviews	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Drug treatment system delivery

Harm reduction strategy

Effective harm reduction requires a strategy that spans partner agencies and is delivered at all tiers of the treatment system. Last year, additional guidance and a Harm Reduction Self-Audit Toolkit were issued with the treatment plan to guide partnerships in the development of such a strategy. It is anticipated that for the 2007/8 plan progress on the implementation of the strategy will be reviewed via a re-refresh of the audit toolkit and the checklist below, with any remaining actions or new ones entered at planning grid 5.

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Partnership harm reduction self audit completed and re-freshed for 2007/8 (or equivalent agreed with NTA Regional Office).	GREEN	
Partnership harm reduction strategy agreed and delivered across the drug treatment system which clearly identifies needs and responds with policies, programmes, services and actions that will reduce harm	AMBER	
Harm reduction partnership lead reports to Partnership quarterly on progress against key harm reduction targets and milestones. Remedial actions agreed and implemented as required	GREEN	
Blood-borne virus control (BBV)		
Multi-agency strategy for BBV control across all partner agencies including (and agreed by) the local Health Protection Unit	AMBER	
Universal BBV prevention activities across all services	GREEN	
Training plan to support delivery of BBV prevention activities across all services	AMBER	
BBV testing in place for all at risk drug users	GREEN	
Vaccinations routinely provided to drug users for HAV and HBV	GREEN	
Treatment care pathway for drug users with hepatitis and HIV	GREEN	
Drug-related deaths		
Multi-agency strategy to reduce drug-related deaths, that builds on previous work to meet the DH target to reduce deaths by 20% by 2004	GREEN	
Multi-agency DRD review group for confidential enquiries, has conducted review(s) in past 12 months in line with DH guidance	GREEN	Hpool yes Tees No
Programme of overdose training supported by overdose agreements, for users, carers and emergency service staff	GREEN	
Interventions to minimise the risk of overdose and diversion of prescribed drugs	GREEN	
Specific harm reduction interventions		
Named/dedicated post holder overseeing needle exchange services	GREEN	
Open access advice and information service including motivational and brief interventions	GREEN	
Pharmacy, centre based, and, if appropriate, outreach needle exchange with comprehensive range of harm minimisation equipment and information. (Significant coverage of community pharmacies >25% with appropriate geographical spread across partnership area)	AMBER	
Community pharmacies have private area for patient consultation	AMBER	
Needle exchange outlets offer general health advice and, where appropriate, assessment and have referral routes to primary, sexual, dental health care services	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Outreach services (detached, peripatetic and domiciliary) targeting high risk and priority groups	GREEN	
General healthcare assessment is routinely provided to all service users and this is required within service level agreements	GREEN	
Specialist drug treatment and needle exchange services have staff competent to deliver harm reduction interventions (DANOS equivalent or above)	GREEN	
Protocols to ensure staff safety from BBV exposure are in place in all specialist and needle exchange services, are specified in SLAs, and cover requirement for universal precautions and procedures for access to post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), testing and counselling and Hep B vaccination	GREEN	SMS protocol in place ?

Treatment journey

This section focuses on improving the impact of treatment, alongside consolidation of improvements in access and capacity. This requires partnerships to evaluate the service user treatment journey including retention in treatment for long enough to impact on behaviour, have a care plan which identifies their needs and a programme of action to deliver their treatment goals, promote progression through the system for all individuals including support for positive lifestyles including access to stable accommodation, education, training and employment. The outcome of the treatment journey should deliver improvements in individual drug user's health and social functioning, lower public health risks from blood borne viruses and overdose, and improvements in community safety.

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Drug treatment engagement		
Screening, assessment and referral for structured drug treatment from open access services (tier 2 referrals to tier 3 and 4 services) in sufficient detail to identify drug treatment needs and inform individual care plans (where required)	GREEN	
Open access drug interventions which attract and motivate drug misusers into local treatment systems including engagement with offenders (tier 2 interventions)	GREEN	
Service provision is based on local need providing access that is appropriate to service users from all backgrounds and characteristics within the partnership area	GREEN	
Waiting times within national targets and providing timely access to structured drug treatment interventions	GREEN	
Management and, where required, reduction of waiting times action plan which includes delivery of NTA improvement programme and includes routine review and exceptions reporting of all waiting times of over 6 weeks	GREEN	
CJIT assessment of target offender population i.e. those testing positive or those arrested/charged with trigger offences	GREEN	
Waiting times for DIP clients accessing structured treatment (including CJIT case management) and particularly substitute prescribing where appropriate	GREEN	
Where restriction on bail is implemented, effective arrangements to communicate test results to courts and undertake assessment and follow on treatment	GREEN	
Target of retention in treatment of more than 12 weeks achieved or bettered with all client groups including offenders	GREEN	
Management and, where required, improvement of retention rates action plan	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Drug Treatment delivery		
Each service user is supported to improve their health, social circumstances and well being by the provision of a written individually tailored care plan which tracks their progress and is regularly reviewed	GREEN	
Care plans cover areas related to drug and alcohol use, physical and psychological health, criminal involvement and offending and social functioning	GREEN	
Annual qualitative audits of care plans are undertaken in all provider services	GREEN	
Individuals receive information, advice, injecting equipment and brief interventions and treatment to help reduce potential harm due to the transmission of blood borne virus's, drug related infections and overdose, and improves their physical health	GREEN	
Service user "significant others" have access to support and interventions to reduce harm related to drug misuse including access to support in their own right.	GREEN	
Drug treatment services identify and record the existence of clients' dependent children and contribute actively to meeting their needs either directly or through referral to or liaison with other appropriate services, including those in the non-statutory sector. This includes protocols that set out arrangements between drug and alcohol services and child protection services.	GREEN	
Full range of evidence based structured treatment interventions as outlined in Models of care: Update 2006	GREEN	
Effective continuity of care arrangements between tier 3 services, inpatient drug treatment and residential rehabilitation including aftercare and relapse prevention services	GREEN	
Comprehensive and robust case management arrangements in place within the CJIT	GREEN	
Effective continuity of care arrangements between prisons, CJITs and specialist treatment providers	GREEN	
Range of drug treatment interventions for drug misusing offenders in DIP	GREEN	
Range of drug treatment interventions for drug misusing offenders subject to community based court orders	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Community integration and treatment completion		
Drug services have defined pathways to enable service users to integrate into the community during and following the completion of treatment, including access to appropriate housing, education and mainstream health	GREEN	Housing
A range of aftercare, 'move on' and support services are commissioned within specialist services to facilitate clients' transition from specialist drug services into wider resettlement, aftercare and community integration services	GREEN	
Partnership (including all relevant stakeholders) has a written joint strategy explicitly linked to the Local Authority Homelessness Strategy and Supporting People Strategy to increase access to housing and housing support by drug users in order to assist stabilisation and resettlement	GREEN	
Joint strategy is supported by an action plan which ensures all key partners have shared definitions, objectives and outcomes	GREEN	
Partnership has undertaken a local assessment of met and unmet need for housing and housing support by drug users	AMBER	Dated Review in hand
Specific operational protocols between the partnership, the LA Supporting People Team and housing providers	GREEN	Protocols being implemented
Partnership has a written strategic plan to increase access to education, training and employment by drug users in order to assist stabilisation and resettlement	GREEN	
Partnership has identified current performance in terms of planned and unplanned discharges for treatment with plans in place to improve performance year on year	GREEN	Need to improve
Service level agreements with all service providers clearly stipulate planned discharge performance expectations and are reviewed quarterly with agencies	GREEN	
All those who have left structured drug treatment have access to drug related support and mutual aid groups. This includes easy access back to structured drug treatment in the case of relapse.	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Criminal justice and treatment

From April 2006 there has been an expectation that all partnerships commission criminal justice based interventions based on the Criminal Justice Intervention Team model already implemented in intensive DIP areas. The aim of DIP is to provide timely, appropriate and joined up treatment and rehabilitation for drug-using offenders. Partnerships need to continue developing an integrated and enhanced care management system for offenders entering the treatment system, from all points of access within the criminal justice system. This will include pre-arrest, at arrest, at court, on drug rehabilitation requirements and other community sentences and on release from prison. The provision of integrated drug treatment in prisons also requires arrangements to be in place for continuity of care to be embedded into local drug treatment systems for those going into and being released from custody.

The national expectations are that offenders can access treatment at every stage of their passage through the Criminal Justice System and local treatment systems are able to absorb 1000 criminal justice referrals per week in 2007/08.

Drug Interventions Programme

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Leadership and stakeholders		
Steering group comprising key local partners, Prisons, CPS, Police etc – and working with Government Office and NTA - to oversee implementation of the Programme.	GREEN	
Named DIP Champion at a sufficiently senior level to be able to influence local partners.	GREEN	
Steering Group have procedures in place to maintain delivery of the programme, including RA, RoB etc.	GREEN	
Links with Housing provision through local authorities to ensure DIP client needs are taken into account.	AMBER	GREEN
DIP priorities are taken into consideration and are properly reflected in local commissioning and treatment planning processes.	GREEN	
Steering of the programme includes learning from UCLAN projects and the DIP Race and Equality Plan.	GREEN	AMBER
Relevant information exchange using appropriate protocols and processes to ensure effective inter-agency working and to support continuity of care e.g. Prison, Prolific and Priority Offenders	GREEN	
Involvement of Service Users in developing, monitoring and reviewing delivery	GREEN	
Involvement of Carer/family support in developing, monitoring and reviewing delivery	GREEN	
All partners and stakeholders understand the end to end DIP process and contribute to ensuring the most effective and appropriate pathway for each client.	GREEN	
Programme delivery		
Criminal Justice Integrated Team to deliver DIP in the local area, working towards the integration of interventions delivered at all points of the CJS, from arrest through working with probation and prison service CARAT teams and beyond to deliver aftercare services.	GREEN	
Sufficient capacity, and appropriate working hours / practices to cover custody suites and courts (Crown and Magistrate) in line with DIP priorities and demand, including the need to carry out Required Assessments promptly (intensive areas only), and Restriction on Bail relevant assessments where necessary	GREEN	

RED	Not in place or not at standard required and significant needs/improvements identified
AMBER	Progress being made but further work/investment required to meet identified need/standard
GREEN	Provision in place and/or good progress being made against assessed need and required standards

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Arrangements to accept and continue treatment for those who live in local areas, referred to them from other CJITs, including those who have been required to have a Required Assessment or have been given Restriction on Bail conditions	GREEN	
Single point of contact for professionals (i.e. a single telephone number for use by professionals during office hours) such as treatment agencies, probation, the police etc to make contact with the CJIT in order to facilitate effective continuity of care	GREEN	
Pathways (that can be evidenced) to local and mainstream programmes for wraparound support (such as housing, employment, training and education).	GREEN	
Links to other services (such as alcohol and mental health services) as appropriate.	AMBER	
Communication methods (where applicable) to inform Probation, PPO schemes etc of CJIT interventions	GREEN	
Single point of contact 24/7 phone line to deliver advice, support and referral to services to clients, particularly for those most vulnerable leaving prison/treatment	GREEN	
Relapse prevention support (outside existing treatment provision), support for families (Tier 2), peer support for drug users leaving treatment and mentors	AMBER	
Data collection and management processes are clear, appropriate and communicated to all parties	GREEN	
Drug Interventions Record is properly completed, data submitted in a timely manner and workers are trained to an appropriate level in its use.	GREEN	

Integrated Drug Treatment System – Prisons Not applicable to Safer Hartlepool

Assessment of services, provision and standards	R/A/G	Planning grid ref
Prisons included in roll out of enhanced clinical services		
Statement of readiness completed and approved		
Plan with milestones agreed with Prison Partnership Board		
Commissioning and clinical governance structures and roles defined and agreed		
Healthcare expenditure planned signed off with drugs partnership and Prison Partnership Board		
Needs assessment completed to support appropriate use of a range of clinical interventions		
Care pathways in place for all structured drug treatment interventions		
Protocol in place for the receipt of prisoners into custody who are already in treatment to facilitate continuity of care		
All prisons (with prisoners who are aged 18 or over)		
Case management structure and co-ordinated planning in place between prison, healthcare, probation, CARATs, DIP Single point of contact, Learning and Skills Council and Job Centre Plus which include prolific and priority offender and Multi-agency public protection cases		
Discharge protocols agreed with DIP schemes to cater for continuity of care on release especially for releases direct from courts, Friday discharges and holiday periods		

Partnership name
Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Adult drug treatment plan 2007/08
Part 3: Planning grids

Date published: 2 October 2006

Planning grid 1: Commissioning a local drug treatment system

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to:

- Commissioning, financial, performance management and information activities to support delivery of the treatment plan
- Development of strategic local partnerships
- Information systems
- Delivery of support services – and in particular access to stable accommodation, education, employment and training
- Implementation of NTA Outcome monitoring tool (see supporting guidance “Information Systems”)

Summary of self-assessment

Safer Hartlepool Partnership provides an integrated structure to address the drug and crime agenda as well as linkages to the wider community safety, youth offending and alcohol strategies. In addition the Partnership is also leading on the RESPECT and Family Intervention Programme all of which have an influence on drug issues and solutions.

There is appropriate representation and commitment from all parties and strong links to Hartlepool Partnership (LSP) and across to other themed partnership groups.

Treatment services are providing robust information to national databases and local IT system will be operational by April 07. POPPIE is being utilised for ndtm s returns and prescribing with key administrators now accessing databases for analysis and reports. Training on case management and crystal reporting in POPPIE is scheduled, Mi-case is installed and being tested with initial trial and Home Office submission successful (Dec 06) Outcome Monitoring Tool will be utilised as available.

Increased ETE services were commissioned in 2006/07. Hartlepool LAA 06/07 has specific targets re drug user education and employment opportunities with joint working that includes NACRO/P2W, HBC Econ Development, Probation, Job Centre, LSC and NE Employer Coalition. Benefits, Housing and Job Club advice established alongside specialist and assertive outreach services. Aftercare leisure, art and sport opportunities in place with emphasis on reintegration into mainstream services.

Housing and Accommodation still major priority. Situation is improving with ongoing negotiations and work with Supporting People, HBC Homeless section and key housing providers. New protocols and process for allocation established. Guarantee Bond scheme will be in place Q1-07/08. Development of new facility for adults with complex needs may not proceed with Housing Corporation capital monies already secured in jeopardy.

6.3 APPENDIX 1

--

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08

Objective 1
Implement and extend use of IT systems POPPIE and Mi-Case

Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Crystal Reporting training scheduled for key staff then cascaded	April ongoing	HL	
Training on use of Mi-Case	April ongoing	HL	
Increase hardware provision	July 07	CH	
Develop info sharing protocols and fire walling as move towards central server links		HL/CH	

Objective 2
Outcome Monitoring Tool

Actions and milestones for objective 2	By when	By whom	Costs/budget

Objective 3
Increase Housing and Accommodation Opportunities

Actions and milestones for objective 3	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Continue work with Homeless section and housing providers to improve protocols	April 07	SP/HBC/SHP	

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Establish Allocation Panel and implement changed joint allocation protocol	April 07	SP/SHP/HBC	
Review Supporting People commissioned services for improvement	April - June 07	PT/CH	
Continue work with landlords re assisted tenancies guarantee bond schemes furniture packages	Ongoing	LG/PT/SHP	
Increase and coordinate floating support across agencies	Ongoing	SP/SHP	

Objective 4 Review and strengthen Supported Housing available in Scott Grange, Avondene and Gainford House with Supporting People
--

Actions and milestones for objective 4	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Review activity against SLA and commissioned service	April 07	SP/CH	
Analysis and consultation with service users and staff about improvements	April 07	SP/CH	
Agree action plan with organisations for improvement	April 07	SP/CH	
Develop and deliver training and enhancement programme	May 07	All	
Consider short term support whilst improvements underway	April 07	SP/CH	

Objective 5 Maintain current structures that support SHP functioning

Actions and milestones for objective 5	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Review and commission as appropriate e.g. Consultants, training, attendance at conferences	April onwards	CH/JCG	

Planning grid 2: Workforce development

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to the required expansion and improvement of the treatment sector workforce, and recognise the step change in the training and professional development of these employees that is required to deliver the effectiveness agenda.

Summary of self-assessment

6.3 APPENDIX 1

The Partnership encourage and support services financially to ensure workforce development. Majority of service providers have completed QUAD's and are involved in DANOS with job descriptions etc DANOS compliant. All services have training programmes for professional development including NVQ3 Social Care. Assessors available locally with another 3 funded for 2007/08. SLA and ongoing reviews require evidence of training and development plans

Commissioning training undertaken by SHP postholder. 2 SHP support posts advertised Q4-06/07. Manager of Substance Misuse Service to be appointed

Annual programme of free courses available to all, including user, carers and wider community, in regard to drug awareness, advanced drugs, crack, harm minimisation, alcohol, overdose prevention and first aid. Funding provided for attendance at events, conferences, specialist training including encouragement of users and carers to develop skills

Multi agency networking and events held to share knowledge and advise Workforce Development Strategy of need/gaps.

Objective for 2007/08

Proactive training programmes for volunteering and mentoring

Work placements

Review and update of current Workforce Development Strategy

Contingencies for any changes post March 2008

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08

Objective 1

Proactive training programmes for volunteering and mentoring

Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Identify and commission appropriate training programmes (HVDA + Others)	April 07	CH	
Negotiate practical opportunities within services	June 07	CH+	
Implement and evaluate	Sept 07	CH+	

Objective 2

Develop work placement within drug services

Actions and milestones for objective 2	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
--	---------	---------	--------------

6.3 APPENDIX 1

As above			
Objective 3 Review and Update Workforce Development Strategy			
Actions and milestones for objective 3	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Audit of training records	May 07	CH/EM	
Update services progress against DANOS	June 07	CH+	
Collate Training Audit 06/07	April – June 07	Providers group	
Update and promote WDS	June 07 onwards	SHP	
Objective 4 Consider development programmes with voluntary sector and self help groups			
Actions and milestones for objective 4	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Training Audit with sector	June 07	Consultant	
Discuss need with HVDA to determine programme and providers	August 07		
Commission, recruit and evaluate	As appropriate	CH	

Planning grid 3: User involvement

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to the involvement of users in the design of the local treatment system and their involvement throughout the implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation processes and the development of advocacy services.

Summary of self-assessment

Safer Hartlepool Partnership has extensive and robust contact with individual service users who make direct contact with SHP officers as well as having links with groups of drug users, service users and ex-users. The town also has an extensive, mature infrastructure of voluntary, community and self help groups with developmental support available from a number of networks and forums. This along with SHP funding and support over the past four years has led to the formation of 3 key user groups at different stages of development.

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Advance have in excess of 75 members and have been a key partner for three years. Funded by SHP they provide practical support to users, are involved in DIP/PPO/Assertive Outreach services, participate in service reviews and now regularly conduct research and needs assessment studies for SHP. Whitby Street has an active group that work closely with the Treatment Centre Manager advising on service development and changes to improve environment of community drug centre. During 2006/07 Hartlepool User Forum was established with a view of being an umbrella group that could bring all users groups together and allow a coordinated voice or representative view from users. The progress and development of this Forum has been disappointing and in March 07 there is a review as to how the Partnership can encourage linkages across these groups and ensure a structure that enables robust representation of users views.

User involvement in terms of consultation and participation at a strategic level or in terms of service reviews is not a particular concern however there has been a reluctance on behalf of users to formalise that relationship and be involved in either regional activity or formally be engaged in SHP task groups despite there being invitation in previous years. There is however good representation at SHP.

Priority in 2007/08 will be to support the development of a Resource Centre which will host one of the key user groups, consider ways of stimulating and facilitating a collective means of user representation, and to revisit user representation on Joint Commissioning Group and other associated task groups.

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08

Objective 1			
Develop and support Resource Centre and Advance services/base from facility			
Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Offer practical support in negotiating area within proposed Resource Centre	April 07	CC	
Facilitate partnership/lease agreement for Advance activity within building	April 07	CC/CH	
Negotiate and secure SLA re Advance activity	April 07	CH	
Review and evaluate SLA and activity	Oct 07	CH	
Provide ongoing support in regards to tenancy position and liaison with other organisation	Ongoing	CC/CH	

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Objective 2 Stimulate and facilitate user representation			
Actions and milestones for objective 2	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Review remit and progress of HUF	March 07	CH	
Consultation across all user groups and individual sasto needs and gaps	April 07	CH	
Discuss and advise user groups of need to increase user development	April 07	CH	
Potential to appoint post for 12 months to stimulate and facilitate coordination or umbrella user structure	April 07 onwards	CH	
Evaluate and determine way forward	Dec 07	CH	
Objective 3 User representation on Joint Commissioning Group and other task groups as appropriate			
Actions and milestones for objective 3	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Discuss and consult with service users on SHP need for representation	May 07	PL&CO	
Develop and promote specification for responsibilities of representative at JCG etc	May 07	PL+CO	
Establish induction and support programmes for interested and potential candidates	June – August 07	CH	
Undertake elections to identify potential candidates and assist with induction and mentoring.	September 07	CH	

Planning grid 4: Carer involvement

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to the involvement of carers in the design of the local treatment system and their involvement throughout the implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation processes and the development of advocacy services.

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Summary of self-assessment

Not dissimilar to user involvement in terms of SHP has funded a self help group (Parent in Need of Support) for the past three years to provide practical support to parents and carers but also stimulate and encourage carers to develop their confidence and participate in a wider arena representing their issues and being more proactive. When promoting the regional groups and forums there was some initial attendance but feedback from the group emphasised their interest in delivering services and liaising in Hartlepool.

Reviews and Audits are in hand with PINS to determine role and future SLA with discussion about structures to encourage and recruit carers to have a higher profile and involvement in the wider system. There is some movement with 3 parents although apprehensive now suggesting that they would like some peer mentoring training and could over a period of time become more active.

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08

Objective 1

Review and stimulate Carer involvement

Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Questionnaire/exercise to ascertain need for support	April 07	PINS/CH	
Confirm PINS business plan and capacity	April – June 07	CH	
Potential for short term project to stimulate carer profile	June 07	CH	
Proceed as above for Users			

Planning grid 5: Harm reduction strategy

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to the development of a comprehensive harm reduction strategy agreed across all partner organisations. Effective harm reduction initiatives will be delivered across all aspects of a comprehensive drug treatment system, often requiring pathways between primary and secondary care, may have workforce, infrastructure, and user and carer implications

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Summary of self-assessment

It is acknowledged that Hartlepool has had some delays in developing a Harm Reduction Strategy though there were elements of a strategy taking place. During 2006/07 SHP with PCT were able to consolidate and establish the strategy which is now agreed by key parties and continue to be promoted to wider agencies. The merger and reconfiguration of PCT operation and posts particularly future Public Health posts will impact on current relationships and progress however.

The Harm Minimisation Service was extended in 2006/07 with increased advertising, campaigns literature and advice being available.

Mobile needle exchange service now involved directly with community drug centre rather than discrete isolated service. Negotiations in hand with Pharmacists to develop needle exchange increase 7 x 7 supervised ingestion and other healthcare services to drug misusers.

Progress has been made on Confidential Inquiries and Drug Related Deaths with Teesside protocol in place and local arrangements linked to that.

Contact with A&E has always been positive but now working on links with Ambulance and primary care services. Overdose prevention and first aid drug training open to anyone continue to be available and open to anyone with focussed sessions targeted at drug mis-users, carers and front line Tier 1 workers. Health visitors and play workers now attending and involved in prescribing clinics.

Initiative with Fire Brigade and outreach drug service to provide home safety checks, install safety cabinets and provide fire retardant bedding very successful and being extended which allows access to users homes and opportunity for increased holistic package of care.

Hep B vaccinations in place now and negotiations with Teesside Positive Action confirm Hep C tests and counselling available by April 07 to strengthen current referral links to James Cook hospital.

Objectives for 2007/08

Pharmacy based Needle Exchange

Establish comprehensive 'overdose' protocol

Consolidate DRD/Confidential Inquiry protocol

Planned spend 2007/08	Likely spend 2007/08	Planned spend 2007/08

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Objective 1 Establish Pharmacy needle exchange and other healthcare service			
Actions and milestones for objective	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Agree pharmacy payments and contracts	March 07	CH+PCT	
Consult and negotiate	April 07	PCT	
Provide training for staff re approach and data collection	April/May 07	PCT+ Providers	
Implement and promote	May 07	PCT+CH	
Evaluate	Nov/Dec07	PCT+CH	
Objective 2 Establish comprehensive 'overdose' protocol			
Actions and milestones for objective 2	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Contact relevant agencies			
Establish working group			
Revisit best practice protocols and process			
Agree			
Training & promotion			
Objective 3 Consolidate DRD/Confidential Inquiry protocol			
Actions and milestones for objective 3	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Review local activity in regard to DRD/CI	June 07	SCMG	
Modify as appropriate in light of Tees protocol	September 07	SCMG	
Attend and participate in Tees process to test effectiveness	Ongoing	CH/KC	
Support costs of % post	April 07	CH/JCG	

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Evaluate	December 07	CH/SCMG	
Objective 4 Commission and maintain harm minimisation services			
Actions and milestones for objective 4	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Following 06/07 review negotiate and commission as appropriate	April 07	CH	
Evaluate and prepare for post march 2008	September onwards	CH	

Planning grid 6: Drug-related information and advice, screening and referral to specialist drug services

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to interventions that provide drug-related information and advice, screening, assessment, and referral to specialist drug treatment services. These will be delivered by services who work with a wide range of clients including drug users, but their sole purpose is not simply substance misuse.

Summary of self-assessment

Hartlepool benefits from close networks with positive working across a number of services and the community sector. Multi agency drug training and contact over past three years has enabled wide engagement of agencies who are aware of drug services and referral links. Representatives attending training include residents groups, neighbourhood wardens, community police support officers, remand carers, health outreach workers which has provided a valuable source of community and peer activists able to provide information and assist in appropriate referrals.

Outreach and targeted work undertaken in wards linking with New Deal for Communities, Neighbourhood Renewal and Neighbourhood Action Plans. NDC and NRF co-fund drug services and initiatives with presentation and reports to residents groups, boards and forums to extend knowledge.

Processes for assessment improved with basic identification and screening undertaken in variety of settings home, community venues, police and probation, homeless section, voluntary and self help groups.

Objectives for 2007/08

Increase advice, screening and support in supported housing facilities

Develop and deliver training for pharmacists, new community nursing teams, and neighbourhood policing team

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Audit awareness and knowledge in Tier 1

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08

Objective 1 Increase advice, screening and support in supported housing facilities

Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Assess effectiveness of current provision and activity in conjunction with Supporting People commissioner	April 07	CH	
Consult and audit response with users/residents	March – April 07	CH	
Develop and deliver specific training programme to staff	May 07 – July 07	CH+	
Review	Sept 07	CH	
Strengthen within commissioning structures	Dec 07	CH+	

Objective 2 Targeted training for Pharmacists and other specific groups
--

Actions and milestones for objective 2	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
With PCT Pharmaceutical lead assess training needs and develop programme	May 07	CH+	
Arrange programmes and recruit 4 x sessions	June 07	CH+	
Deliver training with partners	Ongoing in year	PCT+	
Evaluate effectiveness through consultation with users and providers	Ongoing	CH+PCT	
Market test effectiveness in target groups	Sept 07	CH+	

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Conduct training audit with target groups and Tier 1 to shape future programmes	December 07	CH+	
Objective 3 Audit awareness and knowledge in Tier 1			
Actions and milestones for objective 3	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Market Test across sample of Tier 1 providers	July 07	Users	
Consult with users and providers	May – June 07	HVDA	
Analysis of referrals into treatment	June 07	HL	
Questionnaire to Tier 1	July 07	Users/HVDA	
Conduct training audit across Tier 1 to shape future training programmes	Sept 07	CH+	

Planning grid 7: Open access drug interventions

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to interventions which provide accessible services for a wide range of drug misusers referred from a variety of sources, including self-referrals. The aim of these interventions is to help drug misusers to engage in treatment without necessarily requiring a high level of commitment to more structured programmes or a complex or lengthy assessment process. Interventions comprise drug-related information and advice, screening, assessment, referral to structured drug treatment, brief psycho-social interventions and harm reduction services including needle exchange, and aftercare.

Summary of self-assessment

Good progress has been made to extend and ensure a comprehensive range of services and support with quickly and easily available. During 2006/07 and following the reconfiguration of the specialist substance misuse service there has been an increase in commissioning of open access interventions followed by further reconfigurations of some of the other services which will continue into 2007/08.

No waiting lists for any client group and services achieving access to first treatment and subsequent treatments within national targets.

There is a multi agency duty team with a common assessment and referral tool operating daily to ensure speedy and appropriate access to services. Complimentary Therapies, Advice, Motivational work and Counselling are all accessible without the requirement to engage in structured treatment however the majority of referrals do engage in the comprehensive programme of care.

Benefit advice, Job Club, Outreach support, are all available without the requirement to access specialist services.

6.3 APPENDIX 1

The establishment of a harm minimisation service linked to mobile needle exchange, and targeted outreach work with homeless substance misusers has provided a base through which additional provision can be delivered. Contact with faith projects, community projects and housing projects have been revisited and will continue to be strengthened.

Emphasis in past has been to develop system that would encourage numbers into treatment with maintenance on substitute medication
acknowledgement now to widen choice and provide reduction and abstinence programmes

Objectives for 2007/08

Maintain current provision with stringent reviews around effectiveness and quality

Strengthen knowledge and understanding of services, pathways and routes

Develop and support Resource Centre to provide Open access services

Commission abstinence programmes

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08

Objective 1

Maintain current open access drug treatment services

Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Negotiate and commission services	April 07	CH	
Review and strengthen SLA	April – June 07	CH	
Review, assess targets and monitoring performance	September 07	CH	
Prepare providers for post March 2008 with potential for closure, re tendering or other	September ongoing	CH	

Objective 2

Develop and support establishment of 'Resource Centre'

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Actions and milestones for objective 2	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Continue support for refurbishment and capital programme	Ongoing	CC	X ref User grid
Assist in partnership agreement between parties	June 07	CC/CH	X ref User grid
Confirm SLA requirements for services with tenant group	April 07	CC/CH	X ref User grid
Negotiate open access drug services within Resource Centre	June 07	CH	
Develop and agree care pathways and processes	June 07	CH+ Providers	
Implement and Review regularly	Ongoing	CH+	
Promote services	Ongoing as appropriate	All	

Objective 3

Establish services and links from Resource Centre

Actions and milestones for objective 3	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Negotiate potential for transfer of service or satellite provision from Resource Centre and community venues	June 07	CH+	
Develop and agree ICP and protocols	June – August 07	All	
Pilot key services initially	June 07 onwards	Advance Providers +	
Evaluate and extend as appropriate	December 07	CH	

Objective 4

Commission Abstinence programmes

Actions and milestones for objective 4	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Identify potential services	April 07	CH/JCG	
Negotiate SLA	April – June 07	CH	

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Pilot and evaluate	November 07	CH	
Consider further commissioning	Jan 08	JCG	

Objective 5

Maintain and then significant review of all commissioned services

Actions and milestones for objective 5	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Following 06/07 commission/maintain services	April 07	CH+	
Strengthen SLA's, targets and reporting	Ongoing	CH+	
Audit and review pending end of strategy and future direction	Ongoing	CH+	
Decommission/commission as appropriate through tendering	Ongoing	CH+	

Planning grid 8: Structured community based drug treatment interventions

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to interventions providing community based interventions which will include comprehensive drug treatment assessment, care planning and review, community care assessment, care co-ordination for those with complex needs, integrated harm reduction activities, prescribing, structured psychosocial interventions, structured day programmes and liaison services with social care and acute medical and health services.

Summary of self-assessment

The Hartlepool model of structured drug treatment intervention offers an integrated response for those requiring structured intervention which includes self-referees and those within the criminal justice initiatives (DIP/PPO/DRR). There is a multi disciplinary team conducting comprehensive assessment at first contact, key workers are identified at that stage and care coordinators within week for complex cases. Case files and information are shared to reduce duplication within process. Dual Diagnosis team are integrated into structured intervention and operate from Drug Centre facility, as are through care teams, Counsellors, Assertive Outreach and Reintegration services.

No waiting lists for any client group. Access to first treatment and subsequent treatment within national target.

Alcohol use is a major factor, many of drug misusers are using alcohol alongside poly drug use and needs assessment indicates that those in recovery are consistently turning to alcohol. Although limited resources available for alcohol treatment Safer Hartlepool Partnership are considering integrated response and looking to appropriate funding streams.

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Structured drug interventions for the criminal justice initiatives DIP/PPO are also delivered through this mechanism with a further alignment of the teams and operation taking place into 2007/08. Social Services, some primary health, community health workers and obstetrics are also involved in the drug centre facility and integrated care planning.

Element of DISC Outreach team refocused to maintaining individuals in treatment. Assertive Outreach includes process for contacting all individuals that do not attend within 2 working days. This has led to increased information as to blocks to access with opportunity to undertake assessment and some treatment in the home setting. It has also increased potential for family involvement in care programmes which will be strengthened in 2007/08.

The IT systems are installed with all providers through a central server and Hartlepool is now moving to a position to be able to improve care coordination and packages and tracking journeys more effectively.

Planned discharge targets are biggest concern and SHP will develop an action plan to improve situation. Shared Care access is still progressing slowly delayed now by PCT changes. Key development will be the procurement of primary care services into 2007/08

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08

. Objective 1

Maintain current community based drug treatment interventions

Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Negotiate and commission services	April 07	CH	
Review and strengthen SLA	April – June 07	CH	
Review, assess targets and monitoring performance	September 07	CH	
Prepare providers for post March 2008 with potential for closure, re tendering or other	September ongoing	CH	

Objective 2

Procurement of Primary Care/Specialist services

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Actions and milestones for objective	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Finalise specification	March 07	PCT	
Advertise for expressions of interest	April 07	PCT	
Proceed with tender process, documentation, advertise and commission	June 07?	PCT	
Reconfigure service as appropriate			

Objective 3 Improve Planned Discharge

Actions and milestones for objective	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Meet with all providers to explore issue and develop action plan	Ongoing	CH+	X ref Procurement and Shared Care
Confirm accurate data and interpretation of planned discharge	Ongoing	HL	
Implement action plan and review	Ongoing	Working group	

Planning grid 9: Residential and inpatient drug treatment interventions

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to residential specialised drug treatment which is care planned and care co-ordinated. These interventions may be aimed at individuals with a high level of presenting need and usually will require a higher level of motivation and commitment from the service user.

Summary of self-assessment

Linked process for agreeing residential and inpatient intervention with negotiations underway for pooling of resources and move to multi agency panel for assessment. These negotiations have been delayed due to changes within SSD/health team and PCT but are a priority for 2007/08.

Review of process concluded retain spot purchase from variety of facilities. Dedicated worker in place for leading on preparation of service user, the contact whilst individual at facility and ensuring package of care for return.

Involved in regional consultation about Tier 4 developments - at moment have been able to access appropriate facilities within reasonable distance.

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08	
Objective 1 Establish new process with Assessment Panel			
Actions and milestones for objective	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Agree remit, membership and criteria			
Training on assessment to key agencies			

Planning grid 10: Drug Interventions Programme

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to the delivery of the Drug Interventions Programme as outlined in Home Office guidance. The planning grid should cover those arrested, referred to and where appropriate, case managed via the CJIT (Criminal Justice Integrated Team) who are engaging offenders in interventions including rapid or dedicated prescribing, and referring into specialist treatment interventions as required (which may be delivered within the CJIT setting). The DIP Main Grant is intended to finance integrated community based drug intervention teams to undertake the case management of these offenders. This team will also seek to sustain treatment gains with the development and delivery of aftercare and holistic packages of support.

Summary of self-assessment

Hartlepool DIP and the Tough Choices expansion (Testing on Arrest, Required Assessment and Restrictions on Bail) continues to be highly successful and is recognised as the best performing programme in the north east by GONE, regularly achieving indeed exceeding national KPI's.

Introducing the integrated approach for assessment at first point of contact, usually custody suite has provided more efficient and effective access to treatment service. Drug users receive full level 2 assessment in line with Models of Care, an initial care plan, risk assessment is undertaken and allocation of a key worker is usually within 24 hours of contact with arrest referral.

Rapid access to prescribing continues with a priority given to ROB and DIP clients. There are no waiting lists for scripts and DIP clients enter treatment within 2/3 days. Increased assertive outreach, along with rapid enforcement for non-compliance for ROB has improved engagement with treatment services.

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Broadening of membership of ROB working group has enabled more focus on operation of all drug/offending programmes and improved communication and joint working across all relevant agencies

Purchase of Mi-case is agreed across Teesside DIP area with installation and full data submission to Home Office (tested without error) in December 06.

Objectives for 2007/08 are to consolidate and maintain the success of DIP; progress the alignment of criminal justice projects; review and strengthen DIP processes and systems; plan with contingencies for future strategic direction and programmes

Planned spend 2006/07	Likely spend 2006/07	Planned spend 2007/08
£274,240 (DIP only)	£798,792 (DIP,PPO,ROB)	£671,000 loss of PPO monies

Objective 1

Review and Commission DIP services

Actions and milestones for objective 1	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Review funding and budget for programme	March 07	CC	
Review current service to include PPO alignment	April 07	CC	
Confirm/amend specification and negotiate SLA and target	June 07	CC	
Establish any new monitoring requirements	June 07	CC/CH	

Objective 2

Review and as appropriate improve DIP process with emphasis on consolidation of Tough Choices

Actions and milestones for objective 2	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Collection and analysis of data	Ongoing	HL	
Develop enhanced model	April 07	CC	
Advise and implement	April 07	CC	
Integrate use of Mi-Case	April 07	HL	

6.3 APPENDIX 1

Objective 3			
Integrate new Follow up Assessment and Conditional Cautioning			
Actions and milestones for objective 3	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Advise and train on guidance for FUA and CC	March 07	CC	
Develop and advise care pathways and processes	April 07	CC	
Implement including use of Mi-case	April 07	CC	
Objective 4			
Extend intensive support for DIP clients beyond first point of contact			
Actions and milestones for objective 4	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Review current position and increase assertive outreach as appropriate	Ongoing	EM	
Analysis and local impact assessment	Sept 07	HL	
Review and modify where necessary	Oct 07	CC	
Objective 5			
Improve access to Housing and Accommodation			
Actions and milestones for objective 5	By when	By whom	Costs/budget
Implement Guarantee Bond Scheme	April 07	CC	
Consult with service users	June 07	CC/EM	
Participate in SHP negotiations with Supported People and Homeless section	June 07	CC	

Planning grid 11: Integrated drug treatment in prisons – Not applicable to Safer Hartlepool Partnership

This planning grid should include objectives and action plans in relation to the key elements of the IDTS which includes better treatment for people in prison as defined by Models of Care and the NTA's effectiveness strategy, offering a range of effective needs-based interventions, realistic treatment opportunities, including to remain drug free; improved clinical management with greater use of maintenance prescriptions and the number of treatment/stabilisation programmes in the first wave prisons in 2007/08; intensive CARATs support during the first 28 days of clinical management; greater integration of drug treatment generally but a particular emphasis on clinical and CARATs services, with the objective of creating multi-disciplinary teams; better targeting of interventions to match individual need; and strengthening links to Community Services including Primary Care Trusts, Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs), Drug Treatment providers etc.

CABINET REPORT

19th March 2007



Report of: Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Subject: CORPORATE ASSESSMENT / JOINT AREA
REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Cabinet with the results of the Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review of Services for Children and Young People.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The publication of the results of the Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review of Services for Children and Young People are embargoed until 13th March 2007 (and given the deadline for papers for this meeting cannot be included)

The results have been communicated to Elected Members directly on the 13th March. At the meeting of Cabinet a verbal update will be given on the results.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

This relates to the overall performance of the Council.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

No decision

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Not applicable

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet to

- i) note the results of the assessments
- ii) agree to receive further reports detailing improvement plans resulting from the inspections

Report of: Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services

Subject: CORPORATE ASSESSMENT / JOINT AREA
REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Cabinet with the results of the Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review of Services for Children and Young People.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The publication of the results of the Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review of Services for Children and Young People are embargoed until 13th March 2007 (and given the deadline for papers for this meeting cannot be included)

The results have been communicated to Elected Members directly on the 13th March. At the meeting of Cabinet a verbal update will be given on the results.

3. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Cabinet to

- iii) note the results of the assessments
- iv) agree to receive further reports detailing improvement plans resulting from the inspections

CABINET REPORT

19th March, 2007



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services and
Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUES

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. This report provides information on:

- a) the recommendations made to the Government by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) and the Government's response to the report.
- b) an overview of NuLeaf (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum) and an outline of its current work programme.
- c) the current position on the Government's consideration of future energy generation including the option of proposals for new nuclear build.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

2.1 This report updates the Cabinet on three areas of policy development related to nuclear energy issues. Key points are:

- a) the Government has accepted in large measure the recommendations of CoRWM on radioactive waste management, notably the selection of geological disposal as the best available long-term solution, but with a robust programme of interim storage in the several decades needed to plan and deliver geological disposal.
- b) the Government has also accepted CoRWM's recommendation that there should be continuing public and stakeholder engagement in developing the management approach, including the siting of facilities. The Government indicates that it is not seeking to impose a geological disposal facility for

higher radioactive wastes on any community and is committed to seeking a solution based on a partnership approach with potential host communities.

- c) the Government plans further consultation on these matters in the summer of 2007.
- d) NuLeaf are also feeding into the process of developing the implementation framework for managing radioactive wastes.
- e) the Government is likely to publish a White Paper on Energy and a new consultation on the options for future energy generation in May 2007, following the High Court judgement in February which ruled that earlier consultation had been inadequate. That new consultation and the White Paper will enable the Government to make decisions on these matters in the autumn of 2007.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The report provides a position statement on these matters, which have potential environmental, economic and social well-being implications for Hartlepool.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Item for information only.

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet, 19th March, 2007 (future reports will provide more detailed information as it becomes available).

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That Cabinet notes the report.

Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services and
Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. This report provides information on:

- a) the recommendations made to the Government by the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) and the Government's response to the report.
- b) an overview of NuLeaf (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum) and an outline of its current work programme.
- c) the current position on the Government's consideration of future energy generation including the option of proposals for new nuclear build.

2.0 CoRWM BACKGROUND

2.1. As previously reported CoRWM was appointed jointly by ministers of the UK Government and administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, to oversee a review of options for managing solid radioactive waste in the UK and recommend the option(s) that can provide a long term solution, providing protection for people and the environment.

2.2. The Committee took a phased approach to its work:

- Producing an inventory of wastes requiring management
- Identifying a long-list and then a short-list of options for managing the wastes in the long term
- Producing detailed criteria for assessing the options

CoRWM then assessed the short-listed options against the criteria and produced recommendations on how these could be implemented.

2.3. It is important to stress that CoRWM only considered different types of long-term storage and did NOT assess specific locations.

2.4. CoRWM submitted its final report and recommendations to the Government on 31st July 2006.

- 2.5. Following consideration of the Final Report and in response to the Scrutiny Referral the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee to hold a members' seminar on this issue.
- 2.6. The members' seminar was held on 23rd October 2006 and presentations were given to the members by Prof. Brian Clark and Mark Dutton on behalf of CoRWM.
- 2.7. The Government responded to the Report and Recommendations from CoRWM on 25th October 2006.

3.0 SUMMARY OF THE CoRWM REPORT'S MAIN FINDINGS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

- 3.1. **Recommendation 1:** Within the present state of knowledge, CoRWM considers geological disposal to be the best available approach for the long-term management of all the material categorised as waste in the CoRWM inventory when compared with the risks associated with other methods of management. The aim should be to progress to disposal as soon as practicable, consistent with developing and maintaining public and stakeholder confidence.

Government accepts this recommendation. It intends to move forward as fast as is practicable to develop a strategy for the delivery of geological disposal, in a manner that is scientifically sound, develops and maintains public confidence, and ensures the effective use of public monies.

- 3.2. **Recommendation 2:** A robust programme of interim storage must play an integral part in the long-term management strategy. The uncertainties surrounding the implementation of geological disposal, including social and ethical concerns, lead CoRWM to recommend a continued commitment to the safe and secure management of wastes that is robust against the delay or failure in the repository programme.
Due regard should be paid to:

- Reviewing and ensuring security, particularly against terrorist attacks
- Ensuring the longevity of the stores themselves
- Prompt immobilisation of waste leading to passively safe waste forms
- Minimising the need for repackaging the wastes
- The implications for transport of wastes

Government accepts this recommendation. The planning and development to deliver geological disposal will take several decades. Government considers that it is essential that radioactive waste is stored safely and securely.

- 3.3. **Recommendation 3:** CoRWM recommends a flexible and staged decision-making process to implement the overall strategy, which includes a set of decision points providing for a review of progress, with an opportunity for re-evaluation before proceeding to the next stage.

Government accepts this recommendation. It agrees that flexible and staged decision making will be the basis for successful implementation, as has been demonstrated by international experience. Government will set out the main elements and stages in an implementation framework for consultation as soon as possible in 2007. This will include consideration of the process for site selection and the approach to partnerships and public and stakeholder engagement.

- 3.4. **Recommendation 4:** There should be a commitment to an intensified programme of research and development into the long-term safety of geological disposal aimed at reducing uncertainties at generic and site-specific levels, as well as into improved means for storing wastes in the longer term.

Government accepts, in light of CoRWM's work and wider international experience, that there is sufficient evidence of the effectiveness of geological disposal as a means of managing the UK's higher activity radioactive waste in the long term. It is on this basis that it accepts CoRWM's recommendation that geological disposal is the best available approach, and has taken the decision to proceed to an implementation and siting programme.

- 3.5. **Recommendation 5:** The commitment to ensuring flexibility in decision making should leave open the possibility that other long-term management options (for example, borehole disposal) could emerge as practical alternatives.

Developments in alternative management options should be actively pursued through monitoring of and/or participation in national or international R&D programmes.

Government accepts that failure to recognise the inevitability of change would only serve to constrain consideration of future policy and operational issues leading, potentially, to inappropriate decisions. The timescales are lengthy and issues, along with our understanding of the scientific and environmental considerations, may change.

- 3.6. **Recommendation 6:** At the time of inviting host communities to participate in the implementation process, the inventory of material destined for disposal must be clearly defined. Any substantive increase to this inventory (for example creation of waste from a new programme of nuclear power stations, or receipt of waste from overseas) would require an additional step in the negotiating process to allow them to make a decision to accept or reject any additional waste.

Government accepts that the inventory of materials for disposal will need to be clearly defined before agreements with host communities can be finalised and before technical options are developed in any depth. Government will ensure that decisions on the classification of the existing materials, and those committed from ongoing or new activities are made in a timely manner.

Consideration of wastes from any nuclear new build will be part of the considerations in developing a partnership approach.

- 3.7. **Recommendation 7:** If a decision is taken to manage any uranium, spent nuclear fuel and plutonium as wastes, they should be immobilised for secure storage followed by geological disposal.

Government accepts this recommendation. These materials are not currently considered wastes. The UK has large stocks of spent nuclear fuel, uranic materials, plutonium (from the reprocessing of spent fuel), Magnox Depleted Uranium (MDU, a by-product of Magnox reprocessing) and 'hex tails' (a by-product of the uranium enrichment process). The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is developing and assessing options for the future management of these materials for discussion with Government.

- 3.8. **Recommendation 8:** In determining what reactor decommissioning wastes should be consigned for geological disposal, due regard should be paid to considering other available and publicly acceptable management options, including those that may arise from the low level waste review.

Government accepts this recommendation. The NDA will review whether a safety case could be made for other non-geological disposal of reactor decommissioning wastes, including on-site, or near-site, disposal in order to minimise transport.

- 3.9. **Recommendation 9:** There should be continuing public and stakeholder engagement, which will be essential to build trust and confidence in the proposed long-term management approach, including siting of facilities.

Government accepts this recommendation. It recognises the extensive and highly successful and innovative public and stakeholder engagement work carried out by CoRWM. Government is committed to continue to work with the public and stakeholders and to build on the foundation of trust and confidence that CoRWM established.

- 3.10. **Recommendation 10:** Community involvement in any proposals for the siting of long-term radioactive waste facilities should be based on the principle of volunteerism, that is, an expressed willingness to participate.

- 3.11. **Recommendation 11:** Willingness to participate should be supported by the provision of community packages that are designed both to facilitate participation in the short term and to ensure that the radioactive waste facility is acceptable to the host community in the long term. Participation should be based on the expectation that the well-being of the community will be enhanced.

- 3.12. **Recommendation 12:** Community involvement should be achieved through the development of a partnership approach, based on an open and equal relationship between potential host communities and those responsible for implementation.

- 3.13. **Recommendation 13:** Communities should have the right to withdraw from this process up to a pre-defined point.
- 3.14. **Recommendation 14:** In order to ensure the legitimacy of the process, key decisions should be ratified by the appropriate democratically elected body/bodies.

Government is not seeking to impose a geological disposal facility for higher radioactive wastes on any community. It agrees that previous experience in the UK and abroad has demonstrated the failures of earlier non-consensual approaches to implement long-term waste management facilities. Government is committed to seeking a solution based on a partnership approach. It believes there is merit in the approach CoRWM has recommended.

- 3.15. **Recommendation 15:** An independent body should be appointed to oversee the implementation process without delay.

Government believes that an independent advisory committee should be established to provide advice on the development and implementation of the geological disposal facility development programme.

Experience with CoRWM and its predecessor- the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC) - demonstrates that visible independent scrutiny and advice can provide reassurance to the public and stake holders. Government therefore accepts the need for independent advice and scrutiny of the implementation process and the importance of appointing such a body without delay.

- 3.16. A full version of the Government's response is attached (Appendix 1).
- 3.17. Government is discussing with CoRWM the precise terms of reference for a CoRWM successor body in the continued development of policy in these areas. CoRWM is also advising Government on various issues – communities and volunteering, partnerships and packages and staged decision-making – to be included in a planned Government consultation in the summer of 2007.

4.0 NuLEAF

- 4.1. NuLeaf (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum) is the Local Government Association Special Interest Group on Nuclear Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Management. NuLeaf was created in November 2003, when a group of concerned local authorities recognised the need to develop an organisation that could speak for local government at a national level on nuclear legacy management.

- 4.2 The Forum seeks to ensure effective communication and efficient information sharing amongst Local Authorities. It also consults its members on issues of national nuclear waste and legacy management that are brought forward from bodies such as the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. A copy of the group's terms of reference is attached to the report (Appendix 2).
- 4.3 Hartlepool Borough Council are contributing members of NuLeaf and are participating members of the NuLeaf Steering Group.
- 4.4 NuLeaf are currently undertaking a series of liaison meetings with Government (DEFRA, DTI and NDA) to present and discuss NuLeaf proposals for developing specific aspects of the implementation framework for the managing of radioactive wastes which has emerged from CoRWM's work. The meetings are addressing such issues as establishing partnership working with potential host communities, siting and planning requirements and rights of withdrawal.
- 4.5 NuLeaf's work programme for the coming year will be reviewed and confirmed during April. Any issues that emerge from NuLeaf meetings that have a direct relevance to Hartlepool will be subject to more detailed reports.

5. NUCLEAR NEW BUILD

- 5.1 Members may recall authorising a response to the DTI's consultation on a policy framework for new nuclear build in autumn 2006. That response stressed the need for re-assurance that the consultation process and procedures involved in the proposed policy framework would be inclusive, transparent and comprehensive, paying genuine regard to the views of potential host communities.
- 5.2 The Council had concerns at that time about the poor consultation approach used by the DTI in seeking views on this issue. That exercise was initiated by the DTI's Energy Review Report, published in July, 2006. As members may be aware, the Government's consultation processes preceding the publication of that report have been strongly criticised in a high court judgement in February, 2007, after Greenpeace had applied for judicial review of the consultation. The court ruled that the consultation process had not been adequate, indicating that the consultation document lacked information of any substance on the financial cost of new build and the disposal of radioactive waste.
- 5.3 The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has indicated that the Government accepts the court's judgement and shall therefore conduct a new consultation endeavouring to meet the court's requirements. The SoS statement indicated that it is likely that the White Paper on energy policy and the new consultation will be published in early May. The statement added that the Government continue to believe, subject to consultation, that there is

a case for having new nuclear power stations as one of the options companies should consider. The Government intends that the new consultation document will bring together the evidence and analysis so that people can take an informed view on whether nuclear power should continue to be part of the country's energy mix, enabling the Government to make decisions on these matters in the autumn of 2007.

- 5.4. Further reports will be submitted to Cabinet as information becomes available.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet notes the report.

Response to the Report and Recommendations from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)

By the UK Government and
the devolved administrations



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Department of
the Environment
www.doeri.gov.uk



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

Response to the Report and Recommendations from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)

By the UK Government and the devolved
administrations



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Telephone 020 7238 6000
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2006

The text in this document (excluding the Royal Arms and departmental logos) may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Crown copyright and the title of the document specified.

Any enquiries relating to the copyright in this document should be addressed to
The Information Policy Team, Office of Public Sector Information, St Clements House, 2-16
Colegate, Norwich, NR3 1BQ.
Fax: 01603 723000 or e-mail: OPSlicensing@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

This document is also available on the Defra website.

Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Printed on material that contains 100% recycled fibre for uncoated paper and a minimum of 75% recycled fibre for coated paper.

Argraffwyd ar ddeunydd sy'n cynnwys 100% o ffeibr eildro ar gyfer papur heb ei orchuddio ac o leiaf 75% o ffeibr eildro ar gyfer papur wedi'i orchuddio.

Product code PB 12303

Contents

Contents	1
Section 1: Overview	2
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 CoRWM Process and Report	2
1.3 Government Response	3
1.4 Implementation of Stage 3 of the MRWS Programme.....	4
1.5 Indicative Timetable for MRWS Stage 3.....	4
Section 2: Detailed Response to CoRWM's 15 Recommendations ..	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2 Detailed Response to CoRWM's Recommendations	6
Annex A Future Advisory Committee: Reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) Draft Terms Of Reference	16

Section 1: Overview

1.1 Introduction

In September 2001, Government (UK Government and the devolved administrations) instigated the first stage of its Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Programme (MRWS). The second stage began in July 2002¹ when Government published its response to the 2001 consultation, followed in 2003 by the appointment of the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). Government commissioned CoRWM to oversee a review of options for the long term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste, and to recommend the option, or combination of options, that could provide a long-term solution, providing protection for people and the environment. Their objective was to provide recommendations which inspired public confidence and were practicable in securing the long term safety of those wastes. CoRWM began its work in November 2003 and delivered its recommendations in its report to Government on 31 July 2006.

Government has now considered CoRWM's report and is content that the Committee's method of working has resulted in a report which enables Government to be satisfied that the recommendations on the long term management option do "inspire confidence and are practicable". This document completes Stage 2 of the programme. It provides Government's response to those long term management recommendations, as well as to others in the report on public and stakeholder engagement. It also outlines the steps Government will take and the beginning of the next stage – Stage 3 of the MRWS programme – on implementation of the long term management option for higher activity radioactive waste.

1.2 CoRWM Process and Report

In summary, the three main elements of CoRWM's recommendations are that:

- geological disposal is currently the best form of long term management for the UK's higher activity radioactive waste;
- there should be a commitment to the safe and secure interim storage of the waste during the period it will take to plan and construct the geological disposal facility; and
- the UK should look to develop partnership arrangements, linked to appropriate involvement and benefit packages, with local authorities/communities as a means of securing facility siting.

Its report also contains a wealth of more detailed material on how these three main elements could best be delivered.

CoRWM undertook extensive engagement with stakeholders, and members of the public as well as considering expert and scientific evidence in arriving at its

¹ The MRWS programme stages set out in the Government's July 2002 way forward statement were: Stage 1 – the MRWS consultation; Stage 2- appointment of CoRWM, delivery of the committee's recommendations and Government policy decision; Stage 3 – formulation, including public debate, of implementation arrangements; and Stage 4 – start of implementation process.

recommendations. The Committee considered and reflected a range of viewpoints in its work and, on that basis, it arrived at a unanimous report.

In addition to the extensive quality assurance and peer review mechanisms established by CoRWM, an expert panel set up by Defra's Chief Scientific Advisor provided quality assurance and peer review on behalf of Government. CoRWM's final report has also been considered and reviewed by the cross-Government MRWS Implementation Planning Group.

1.3 Government Response

The reflection of a wide range of viewpoints, and a basis in sound science is key to providing recommendations which inspire public confidence for managing the wastes in the long term, providing protection for people and the environment. The open and transparent manner in which CoRWM has conducted its business has been ground breaking.

Accordingly Government welcomes CoRWM's report and believes it provides a sound basis for moving forward. Most recommendations can be acted on immediately; others require us to undertake more work.

In particular, Government accepts that geological disposal coupled with safe and secure interim storage is the way forward for the long term management of the UK's higher activity wastes. As CoRWM's report observes, geological disposal is the approach being adopted in the majority of other nuclear nations, including in Belgium, France, Finland, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the US. CoRWM's work has shown that this is also the appropriate way forward for the UK. Nevertheless, securing geological disposal represents a major challenge and will require commitment over many decades.

The circumstances surrounding the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive wastes are unique. In this context, Government is supportive of exploring how an approach based on voluntarism (that is, willingness to participate) and partnership, as recommended by CoRWM, could be made to work in practice. There are also important issues of how this could be integrated with the assessment of the geographical and geological suitability of possible sites. Government therefore proposes to undertake more work on these issues. In doing so, it will engage with stakeholders, including the nuclear safety and environmental regulators², to prepare an implementation framework on which it will consult more widely as soon as practicable next year.

It is clear that the implementation programme itself will have a number of stages at which decisions will have to be taken. Therefore, Government also accepts CoRWM's recommendation that the process should be staged so as to incorporate a series of appropriate decision points. This will allow the programme and progress to be kept under review, including on cost and value for money grounds, so as to allow further decisions to be taken at the appropriate points. Equally, Government needs to set the desired end point and to make the intended direction of travel clear.

² the Health & Safety Executive, the Environment Agency the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security

This document supports statements made by Ministers of the UK Government, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government to their Parliaments and Assembly in response to CoRWM's report.

1.4 Implementation of Stage 3 of the MRWS Programme

In light of CoRWM's report and recommendations, Government has been considering not only how it might take forward the next stage but also which body, or bodies, should do so. This has been on the basis that the key immediate matters to be resolved are the identification of:

- how the process will proceed, including how potential host sites would be identified, recognising that only sites which are deemed to be geologically suitable will be considered; and
- the body which will have responsibility for the long term implementation of geological disposal and for an interim safe and secure storage programme which protects the environment.

Government has decided that:

- it will further develop and consult on the process for implementation, including site selection criteria; and
- the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority will be given the responsibility for developing and ensuring delivery and implementation of the programmes for interim storage and implementing geological disposal.

Further detail on these decisions is included in Section 2 in our response to CoRWM's individual recommendations.

1.5 Indicative Timetable for MRWS Stage 3

The timetable for the first steps to implement CoRWM's recommendations is indicative and recognises the staged approach that we have agreed will be taken.

2006

- begin a programme of public and stakeholder engagement on the detail of implementation of geological disposal, including a voluntarist/partnership approach, and site selection process and criteria.
- development of an interim storage programme based on the NDA's current "forward stores" project as described in its Strategy (March 2006).

2007

- public consultation on:
 - the Government's framework on the implementation process, including a voluntarist/partnership approach and site selection;
 - an outline geological disposal delivery programme.
- decisions on the interim storage programme.

2007/8

- decisions on:

- the siting process;
 - the partnership approach;
 - the geological disposal delivery programme.
- begin Stage 4 of the MRWS programme – implementation of the interim storage and geological disposal programmes.

The development and implementation of future stages of the MRWS programme will require commitment by Government, other bodies directly involved in its delivery and continued public and stakeholder support over many decades. CoRWM's report, and the proposals set out in this response, provide the basis for achieving the long term management of the UK's higher activity wastes.

Government is committed to taking forward this important and long-term task to ensure the safe and secure management of our radioactive waste. It is committed to continuing the high standards that CoRWM has set, and we commend the members of the Committee for the work they have done on our behalf.

Section 2: Detailed Response to CoRWM's 15 Recommendations

2.1 Introduction

This section provides Government's response to the 15 specific recommendations in CoRWM's report. In some cases this has been made on individual recommendations but, where a number of recommendations are clearly interrelated, such as on public and stakeholder engagement we have provided a consolidated response.

2.2 Detailed Response to CoRWM's Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Within the present state of knowledge, CoRWM considers geological disposal to be the best available approach for the long-term management of all the material categorised as waste in the CoRWM inventory when compared with the risks associated with other methods of management. The aim should be to progress to disposal as soon as practicable, consistent with developing and maintaining public and stakeholder confidence.

Government accepts this recommendation. It intends to move forward as fast as is practicable to develop a strategy for the delivery of geological disposal, in a manner that is scientifically sound, develops and maintains public confidence, and ensures the effective use of public monies.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) will be given responsibility for planning and implementing geological disposal. The NDA already has statutory responsibility, under the Energy Act 2004, for the disposal and the safe and secure interim storage of its waste in designated circumstances, and this is being provided for in its Strategy and Annual Plans³. Bringing together these two roles will create a single national organisation with a single point of responsibility for managing the UK's higher activity waste in both the shorter and longer term. The NDA will be responsible for both the programme to develop and deliver geological disposal, and for the programme of safe and secure storage until geological disposal is delivered.

This arrangement has the advantage of allowing one organisation – the NDA – to take an integrated view across the waste management chain, thereby enabling both long and short term issues to be addressed in planning and strategy development. The Government will require the NDA to develop the geological disposal concept and to agree an outline development plan that will be put out for consultation in 2007. The preparation of this outline plan will also help to define the costs and timescales of the programme.

Although the important skills and functions of Nirex will be required in developing geological disposal it is not required that these are maintained in a stand-alone organisation. By having a single body, the NDA, accountable for both the shorter term

³ It is acknowledged that the NDA does not have responsibility for all UK wastes as MoD, nuclear operators and non-nuclear industry sectors also produce some higher activity wastes. The NDA will act as a UK-wide provider of geological disposal, and other waste producers will, where appropriate, pay their full and equitable share of the costs of long-term management of its radioactive wastes, including the operators of any new nuclear power stations as set out in the 2005 Energy Review.

management of its wastes and securing their ultimate disposal, the potential for blurring of responsibilities and accountabilities is avoided.

In order to enable the NDA to begin to undertake its new responsibilities as soon as possible, in the most efficient and effective way, Government proposes to augment the NDA's capabilities by incorporation of skills and technology from United Kingdom Nirex Ltd (Nirex). Following the Government's statement there will be a short period of consultation between Nirex and its Government-owned holding company, Nirex CLG Ltd⁴, on this proposed ownership transfer and how it could best be brought about. A transfer of Nirex to the NDA would be prior to it being wound up as a separate company. Nirex is not a regulator. Rather it is an advisor to industry on the preparation of safety cases for submission to the regulators.

The independent nuclear safety and environmental regulators⁵ are content with the Government's decision, that the NDA will be responsible for implementing the geological disposal programme. The regulators' main focus is on the technical and organisational components of delivery on the ground. Under the NDA's model of good practice, development work and day-to-day operation of a geological disposal facility would be undertaken by a contractor, chosen on the basis of an open competition. CoRWM set out how the geological disposal process will take decades, but there are good arguments for conducting a competition to appoint the contractor as soon as is practicable. The regulators believe that the Government's approach will present a framework that they can regulate in a strong and effective manner. From initial discussions, the regulators are also content with the NDA's implementation approach which they consider can be made to work in a satisfactory manner.

The regulators' support is of major importance, as strong independent regulation is key both to ensuring the safety of people and the environment and securing confidence and trust in the delivery arrangements for these.

The regulators are committed to continuing and constructive engagement with the NDA. They will take a particular interest in the NDA's plans not only to maintain but also enhance its skill base and intellectual property, and in ensuring that regulatory independence will not be compromised. Current arrangements for regulating the conditioning and packaging of intermediate level radioactive waste, which will be appropriately ring-fenced within the NDA's operational structure, will remain in place, and will be reviewed and improved as the geological disposal programme proceeds. Regulatory procedures covering the authorisation and licensing of geological disposal facilities will also be reviewed and updated.

Government will continue to review and develop policy as the geological disposal programme proceeds. Government will ask the NDA to develop a strategy and plans for the implementation of these proposals, and to ensure that the agreed arrangements are suitably reflected in its future Strategy and work plans. Revised governance arrangements for the NDA will be set in place later in 2006 which will recognise the existing joint statutory responsibilities of the DTI and the Scottish Executive, but also acknowledge the radioactive waste management policy interests of Defra and the National Assembly for Wales. DTI Ministers are answerable to the UK Parliament for the work of the NDA, which is an executive Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) set

⁴ Nirex CLG Ltd is jointly owned by Defra and DTI.

⁵ the Health & Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security.

up under the Energy Act 2004. There will also be appropriate consideration of the NDA's Strategy and programme for long term radioactive waste management by the independent advisory body proposed in the response to Recommendation 15 as part of its role in advising Government on its overall programme.

Government itself will lead in identifying the process and criteria to be used to decide the siting of facilities. This will include exploration of the concept of voluntarism and partnership arrangements and the procedures for assessing the suitability of sites. This is referred to in more detail in the responses to recommendations 10-14.

Development and construction of a geological disposal facility will take several decades, after which it will take many decades more to complete the conditioning and emplacement of the waste. In developing and implementing geological disposal, regard will be paid to consultation and legislative requirements, including strategic environmental assessment, environmental permitting and planning law.

Recommendation 2: A robust programme of interim storage must play an integral part in the long-term management strategy. The uncertainties surrounding the implementation of geological disposal, including social and ethical concerns, lead CoRWM to recommend a continued commitment to the safe and secure management of wastes that is robust against the risk of delay or failure in the repository programme.

Due regard should be paid to:

- i. reviewing and ensuring security, particularly against terrorist attacks**
- ii. ensuring the longevity of the stores themselves**
- iii. prompt immobilisation of waste leading to passively safe waste forms**
- iv. minimising the need for repackaging of the wastes**
- v. the implications for transport of wastes.**

Government accepts this recommendation. The planning and development to deliver geological disposal will take several decades. Government considers that it is essential that radioactive waste is stored safely and securely at all times until its emplacement in a facility, in a manner that protects both people and the environment.

Safe and secure storage of radioactive waste is already a responsibility of the NDA, who manage this through Life Time Plans that are owned by NDA site licensee contractors who run the existing civil public sector nuclear sites. As detailed in its current Strategy, the NDA is reviewing its interim storage needs and it will now be required to take account of this recommendation by CoRWM in conducting the review. The outcome of the NDA's interim storage review will require approval by Government and, subject to that approval will be incorporated in a future review of the NDA's Strategy.

This review will pay due regard to the possibility of unforeseen circumstances in its planning, including possible delays in geological disposal facility development. It will ensure that a holistic view is taken through the complete waste management chain, ensuring that both long and short term issues are addressed in a fully coordinated and integrated manner.

In response to CoRWM's more specific points:

(i) The security of all stores is of paramount importance. The NDA's contractors are regulated and advised by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and already take account

of such matters including the design and engineering of new stores and the refurbishment of existing ones in light of the risks to the security of their contents, now and into the future. This includes, but is not limited to, the vulnerability of the waste form and the degree of protection provided against attack.

(ii) The design of new stores will allow for a period of interim storage of at least 100 years to cover uncertainties associated with the implementation of a geological repository. The replacement of stores will be avoided wherever possible, but the NDA will ensure that its strategy allows for the safe and secure storage of the waste contained within them for a period of at least 100 years.

(iii) Government and regulators agree that wastes should be made passively safe as soon as practicable, consistent with the need to avoid any requirement for future repackaging and the attendant double handling of wastes. The NDA will consider this need in developing its Strategy and plans and will report on progress in its annual reports.

(iv) In developing its Strategy and plans the NDA will keep under review the packaging requirements, so as to minimise the possibility that waste will have to be repackaged whilst in storage, which, as CoRWM note, is considered undesirable by the regulators. The Strategy and plans will continue to be subject to independent regulatory scrutiny as at present.

(v) In developing its storage and disposal strategy in the coming years, the NDA will consider the implications for waste transport, in particular, to minimise movements of unconditioned waste as far as possible. In this it will also pay due regard to the existing waste distribution, and possible future arisings, as well as the need for safe and secure stores, and the uncertainties regarding siting of future disposal facilities.

A robust programme of interim storage must play an integral part in the long-term management strategy. Interim storage will also provide for certain categories of new wastes arisings which will require storage before disposal even after a disposal facility is operational.

Recommendation 3: CoRWM recommends a flexible and staged decision-making process to implement the overall strategy, which includes a set of decision points providing for a review of progress, with an opportunity for re-evaluation before proceeding to the next stage.

Government accepts this recommendation. It agrees that flexible and staged decision making will be the basis for successful implementation, as has been demonstrated by international experience. Government will set out the main elements and stages in an implementation framework for consultation as soon as possible next year. This will include consideration of the process for site selection and the approach to partnerships and public and stakeholder engagement. We refer also to the comments in response to recommendations 11 to 14.

Recommendation 4: There should be a commitment to an intensified programme of research and development into the long-term safety of geological disposal aimed at reducing uncertainties at generic and site-specific levels, as well as into improved means for storing wastes in the longer term.

Government accepts, in light of CoRWM's work and wider international experience, that there is sufficient evidence of the effectiveness of geological disposal as a means of managing the UK's higher activity radioactive waste in the long term. It is on this basis that it accepts CoRWM's recommendation that geological disposal is the best available approach, and has taken the decision to proceed to an implementation and siting programme.

In doing so, Government accepts that there is a requirement for ongoing research and development to ensure optimised delivery of the geological disposal programme, and the safe and secure storage of the radioactive waste in the interim. The NDA has a supplemental function under the Energy Act 2004 to carry out research into matters relating to the functions it has been given by direction of the Secretary of State under the Act, which currently include the storage and disposal of radioactive waste from those nuclear installations and sites it has been given designated responsibility for decommissioning and clean up. The NDA therefore already has the function of carrying out research related to the design, construction and operation of future facilities for intermediate level waste (ILW) and high level waste (HLW).

Ultimately, such research and development will have to support the preparation of a facility safety case that is acceptable to the regulators. Government will also expect the NDA to undertake appropriate horizon scanning activities which could have the potential to improve the future manner in which these functions and the long term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste are delivered, including learning from and engaging with overseas programmes.

In undertaking this work, the NDA will be required to have due regard to the views and requirements of Government and the independent regulators, as well as the advice received by Government from the independent advisory body referred to in the response to Recommendation 15.

Recommendation 5: The commitment to ensuring flexibility in decision making should leave open the possibility that other long-term management options (for example, borehole disposal) could emerge as practical alternatives. Developments in alternative management options should be actively pursued through monitoring of and/or participation in national or international R&D programmes.

Government accepts that failure to recognise the inevitability of change would only serve to constrain consideration of future policy and operational issues leading, potentially, to inappropriate decisions. The timescales are lengthy and issues, along with our understanding of the scientific and environmental considerations, may change.

Government recognises the need to take account of developments in storage and disposal options, as well as possible new technologies and solutions, and the need therefore to ensure that there is flexibility of decision-making in a process which is expected to take a number of decades. Government and the NDA will develop a framework which allows for the flexible delivery of a geological disposal programme. The framework will include monitoring of international research & development (R&D) programmes into safe and secure treatment and storage of waste and geological disposal technology as well as any new options that emerge (e.g. the use of deep boreholes for the disposal of some wastes).

Recommendation 6: At the time of inviting host communities to participate in the implementation process, the inventory of material destined for disposal must be clearly defined. Any substantive increase to this inventory (for example creation of waste from a new programme of nuclear power stations, or receipt of waste from overseas) would require an additional step in the negotiation process with host communities to allow them to take a decision to accept or reject any additional waste.

Government accepts that the inventory of materials for disposal will need to be clearly defined before agreements with potential host communities can be finalised and before technical options are developed in any depth. Government will ensure that decisions on the classification of the existing materials, and those committed from ongoing or new activities, are made in a timely manner. Consideration of wastes from any new nuclear build will be part of the considerations in developing a partnership approach. The NDA, working with Government will clarify such inventory estimates, based on CoRWM's work, decisions taken, and other developments, and publish its progress. These will take into account not only wastes that will arise from sites owned by the NDA but also wastes that have arisen, or will arise, from other organisations' UK nuclear activities.

Recommendation 7: If a decision is taken to manage any uranium, spent nuclear fuel and plutonium as wastes, they should be immobilised for secure storage followed by geological disposal.

Government accepts this recommendation. These materials are not currently considered wastes. The UK has large stocks of spent nuclear fuel, uranic materials, plutonium (from the reprocessing of spent fuel), Magnox Depleted Uranium (MDU – a by-product of Magnox reprocessing) and 'hex tails' (a by-product of the uranium enrichment process). The NDA is developing and assessing options for the future management of these materials for discussion with Government. The proposed approach will be reflected in future revisions of the NDA Strategy, which will require Government approval. The Ministry of Defence, working with the NDA, will also produce similar strategy. The Government will work with other owners, such as British Energy, to develop similarly clear strategies.

If, as a result of this work, a decision is taken to manage any uranium, spent nuclear fuel or plutonium as wastes, Government agrees that they should be immobilised for secure storage prior to geological disposal, and the NDA will publish progress on this.

Whether or not they are declared as wastes, Government accepts that such materials must be stored safely and securely at all times, and provisions are in place for such storage.

Recommendation 8: In determining what reactor decommissioning wastes should be consigned for geological disposal, due regard should be paid to considering other available and publicly acceptable management options, including those that may arise from the low level waste review.

Government accepts this recommendation. The NDA will review whether a safety case could be made for other non-geological disposal of reactor decommissioning wastes,

including on-site, or near-site, disposal in order to minimise transport. In doing this it will take account of the outcome of the Government's Low Level Waste management policy review, as well as public and stakeholder views. The NDA will use the outcome of these reviews, which will be published, in developing its outline geological disposal implementation plan.

Recommendation 9: There should be continuing public and stakeholder engagement, which will be essential to build trust and confidence in the proposed long-term management approach, including siting of facilities.

Government accepts this recommendation. It recognises the extensive and highly successful and innovative public and stakeholder engagement work carried out by CoRWM. Government is committed to continuing to work with the public and stakeholders and to build on the foundation of trust and confidence that CoRWM established.

Government and the NDA will therefore continue to develop a variety of mechanisms for engaging and working with the public and stakeholders. This coordinated, multi-mechanism approach will ensure that effective and early opportunities for ongoing engagement are offered. Mechanisms will include public consultations, site stakeholder group meetings and other forms of engagement. The outcome will influence decisions that are taken.

The NDA has a statutory obligation to consult with regulators and other bodies in carrying forward its programmes and plans. The NDA's Strategy, published in March 2006, affirms its commitment to open and transparent engagement with stakeholders.

Additionally, the advisory body (Recommendation 15) will operate in an open and transparent way taking public and stakeholder views into account and advising Government on the public and stakeholder engagement process.

Recommendations 10 to 14: *As has been said in Section 1, we are responding to these recommendations in a consolidated manner because these recommendations are interrelated.*

Recommendation 10: Community involvement in any proposals for the siting of long-term radioactive waste facilities should be based on the principle of volunteerism, that is, an expressed willingness to participate.

Recommendation 11: Willingness to participate should be supported by the provision of community packages that are designed both to facilitate participation in the short term and to ensure that a radioactive waste facility is acceptable to the host community in the long term. Participation should be based on the expectation that the well-being of the community will be enhanced.

Recommendation 12: Community involvement should be achieved through the development of a partnership approach, based on an open and equal relationship between potential host communities and those responsible for implementation.

Recommendation 13: Communities should have the right to withdraw from this process up to a pre-defined point.

Recommendation 14: In order to ensure the legitimacy of the process, key decisions should be ratified by the appropriate democratically elected body/bodies.

Government is not seeking to impose a geological disposal facility for higher activity wastes on any community. It agrees that previous experience in the UK and abroad has demonstrated the failures of earlier non-consensual approaches to implement long-term waste management facilities. Government is committed to seeking a solution based on a partnership approach. It believes that there is merit in the approach CoRWM has recommended.

The details of exactly what a voluntarist and partnership approach might entail, and how it would operate in practice, need to be considered and developed into the proposed Government framework for future stages of the MRWS programme. These matters will be considered in Government's work to develop an implementation and siting process framework on which we will shortly begin to engage stakeholders and which will be published for wider consultation in the first part of next year.

This framework is also closely related to Recommendation 5 and will consider the key stages for implementation. In developing this framework we will consider such matters as:

- What voluntarism and partnership arrangements could entail and how this might work in practice, including identification of key stages and decision points, and how willingness to participate and any ability to withdraw might be incorporated into arrangements;
- how key stages of a voluntarist and partnership process link with other key steps in the delivery of a geological disposal programme;
- how local communities, Government, local authorities and the implementing body would be involved including, in particular, the role of local and national democratically elected bodies;
- how interest from local communities could be mandated, registered and evaluated;
- how decisions would be taken at both the local and national level, including the role of local and national democratically elected bodies;
- how access to knowledge and information by the local community, appropriate stakeholder groups, and the wider scientific community is ensured;
- how potential suitable sites would be identified and assessed;
- the key decision-making points and how possible withdrawal at such points could be managed;
- what could be included in any possible participation and benefits packages, and when and how they would be defined and how we determine whether they are likely to be affordable or offer good value for money;
- aspects of siting and facility design that could be determined by the local communities; and
- how any new build wastes would be dealt with in the process.

Ultimately the facility developer will need to assure the regulators, through the development of safety cases, that the proposed facility will provide the required levels of protection. Therefore geological disposal facilities will only be built in a geologically suitable area. The suitability of potential sites or areas will be assessed against appropriate criteria in an open and transparent way. We will also consider how geological and scientific considerations will be meshed with other societal considerations as all of these criteria will need to be met for a successful programme.

Government will consider how the community involvement mechanisms used by the NDA and CoRWM might be developed to deliver a geological disposal programme and decisions on the siting of a facility. It recognises that partnership arrangements will be needed between host communities, Government and the NDA. We also recognise that local authorities will have a key role.

CoRWM's draft '*Proposals for Implementation*' report⁶, published alongside its main report, provides a useful contribution to developing this framework. Government invites comments on this CoRWM report, including on any of the above matters, to be sent to the addresses below before **31 January 2007**. Government will be seeking CoRWM's advice in the coming months to inform the framework which will go out to consultation in 2007.

We will also develop the proposed framework in discussion with local government associations and their relevant sub-groups, for example NuLeAF (the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum), and also any individual local authority, or group of local authorities, which believe they have an interest at this stage. Expressions of interest in participating in these early discussions to inform policy formulation should be directed to the addresses below.

In England:

The Minister of State for Climate Change and the Environment
The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

or to the following email address: radioactivewaste@defra.gsi.gov.uk

In Scotland:

The Minister for Environment and Rural Development
Scottish Executive
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh
EH14 1TY

or to the following email address: RadioactiveWasteTeam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

In Wales:

The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside,
Welsh Assembly Government,

⁶ CoRWM Document number 1703. Available from www.corwm.org.uk

Cathays Park,
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or to the following e-mail address: env-p&q@wales.gsi.gov.uk

In Northern Ireland:

Environmental Policy Division,
Department of the Environment,
Room 204,
20-24 Donegall Street,
Belfast
BT1 2GP

or to the following e-mail address: epd@doeni.gsi.gov.uk

Recommendation 15: An independent body should be appointed to oversee the implementation process without delay.

Government believes that an independent advisory committee should be established to provide advice on the development and implementation of the geological disposal facility development programme.

Experience with CoRWM and its predecessor – the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC) – demonstrates that visible independent scrutiny and advice can provide reassurance to the public and stakeholders. Government therefore accepts the need for independent advice and scrutiny of the implementation process and the importance of appointing such a body without delay.

Accordingly Government will look to a reconstituted CoRWM, with modified terms of reference and expertise in its membership, to scrutinise the future MRWS programme and its implementation on behalf of Government and to provide it with independent advice on the programme. This will require the Committee to deliver an agreed programme of review and advice. Under the proposed arrangements sponsoring Ministers could also ask the committee to undertake reviews of other key radioactive waste management issues, of the kind undertaken by RWMAC in the past, as and when the need arises. When CoRWM was set up, Government announced that RWMAC would be put into abeyance and its position would be reviewed following delivery of CoRWM's report. Government has decided that RWMAC will not be reactivated. The reconstituted CoRWM will be Government's source of independent advice on radioactive waste matters.

Revised terms of reference are attached at Annex A, and a process of appointment for all posts in this Committee will commence shortly, and will be undertaken in line with Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) guidelines.

Annex A Future Advisory Committee: Reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) Draft Terms Of Reference

1. The reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) will provide independent advice to UK Government and Devolved Administration Ministers on the long term management, including storage and disposal, of radioactive waste.
2. Sponsoring Ministers (from Defra, DTI and the Devolved Administrations) will agree a two-year rolling programme and budget for CoRWM's work on an annual basis. Any in-year changes will be the subject of agreement by sponsoring Ministers.
3. CoRWM will provide appropriate and timely expert advice on the delivery of a geological disposal facility for higher activity wastes under the Managing Radioactive Waste Safety programme. The work programme may include activities from assessing waste packaging options, reviewing geological disposal facility delivery programmes and plans (including those of the NDA), exploring site selection processes and criteria, and advising on the optimal approach to public and stakeholder engagement. The scientific and technical basis of these arrangements and plans will be a key component of the work. The committee will provide an annual report of its work to Government.
4. CoRWM shall undertake its work in an open and consultative manner. It will engage with stakeholders as required and it will publish advice (and the underpinning evidence) wherever possible in a way that is meaningful to the non-expert. It will comply, as will sponsoring departments, with Guidelines on Scientific Analysis in Policy Making (<http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file9767.pdf>). Published advice and Annual Reports will be laid in respective Parliaments/Assemblies and CoRWM's Chair will attend Parliamentary evidence sessions as and when required.
5. With the agreement of CoRWM's sponsoring Ministers, other parts of Government, the NDA and the regulatory bodies may request independent advice from CoRWM. Relevant Parliamentary Committees may also propose work to sponsoring ministers, for consideration in the advisory committee work programme. Sponsoring Ministers may also ask the Committee to provide advice on other radioactive waste management issues.
6. The Committee will liaise with Health and Safety Executive advisory bodies, and any advisory bodies established by the environment agencies, in setting its annual work programme, and where there is a common interest.
7. CoRWM shall consist of a Chair and up to fifteen members. Seats will not be representative of organisation or sectoral interests and the skills and expertise which will need to be available to the Committee will vary depending on the programme of work. The relevant skills may include: radioactive waste management, nuclear science, radiation protection, environmental law, future environment changes, social science (including public and stakeholder engagement), geology/ geochemistry/hydrogeology, finance, economics, civil

engineering/underground construction technology, repository performance/safety issues, materials science, environmental impact assessment, local government, planning, regulatory processes and ethics. Sponsoring Ministers may review the membership of the Committee, and the skills and expertise required.

8. Appointments will be made following Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) guidelines. Initial appointments will be for three years and sponsoring Ministers retain the right to terminate appointments at any time in light of individual members' performance, changes in CoRWM's work requirements, or completion of the work required of CoRWM.
9. The Committee, as agreed in the annual plans, may co-opt additional expertise to form temporary sub-groups to examine specific and defined problems.

PB 12303

Nobel House, 17 Smith Square,

London SW1P 3JR

www.defra.gov.uk

Terms of Reference and Aims

The goals of NuLeaf are to;

- provide a mechanism to identify a common, local government view point on nuclear clean-up issues
- act as an interface with Government and regulatory bodies as they consult on waste management and clean-up policy and practice
- influence government policy in the interests of the communities affected.

The current Terms of Reference are;

Bearing in mind the renewed emphasis on stronger local government and the recognition by Government of each authority's role as leader of its community, the LGA SIG on radioactive waste management and decommissioning issues will:

- seek to ensure that all nuclear waste management and nuclear decommissioning activities operate to the highest safety, security and environmental standards by contributing to best practice in the development of a policy framework for radioactive waste management and NDA strategy and implementation
- provide a forum through which to seek to establish a common local government view about
 - (i) the Government's radioactive waste management policy development process
 - (ii) policies to monitor, inform and influence the formation, strategy and operation of the NDA, and
 - (iii) other nuclear issues
- seek to promote such agreed views by engaging with Government, the NDA and other agencies about legacy issues in the short and long term
- provide advice and support to local authorities that request it, and
- having regard to the foregoing, hold meetings as appropriate, seek appropriate local government representation on relevant bodies, provide for the briefing of LGA members on the issues concerned, publicise the issues within the local government community, and seek a mechanism that will ensure appropriate community representation in all relevant decision making.

The current Aims are;

- to seek to ensure that all nuclear, waste management and decommissioning activities operate to the highest safety, security and environmental standards

- to raise the profile of debate within local government on any issue with very significant implications for any area affected by future proposed radioactive waste development
- to increase and aid 'capacity building' within local government and enable informed responses to Government and the NDA from a broader based local government grouping
- to be an interface with government and the NDA on future strategic radioactive waste policy, decommissioning and liabilities management issues
- to confer greater democratic legitimacy on Government and NDA engagement processes in the decommissioning and legacy management sphere
- to add weight and credibility to the current local government input into the radioactive waste, decommissioning and liabilities engagement processes now in hand
- to effectively utilise the democratic legitimacy of local government and increase influence over policy and strategy proposals that will be critical to national progress on nuclear industry legacy issues
- to provide representatives on Government and NDA consultative, stakeholder and advisory bodies reporting back to local government through the SIG mechanism
- to lever resources, in addition to those conferred through the establishment of a SIG*, to enable 'capacity building' within local government so that Government policy can develop with broad based democratic consent

(*Note: Resources 'conferred through the establishment of a SIG' are room use free of charge at LGA House)