

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



Thursday 1st December 2005

at 10 am

in Committee Room B

MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:

Councillors Belcher, Coward, Cranney, Ferriday, Fortune, Hall, Henery, Iseley, Kaiser, Kennedy, Lauderdale, London, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Sutheran, Tumilty, R Waller, Worthy

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Dave Berry, Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Patrick Finnan, Clive Hall, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd, Billy Lynch, Norma Morrish

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2005 (*attached*).
 - 4.2 To receive the minutes of the Police and Community Safety meeting held on 3rd November 2005 (*attached*).
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools Strategy – Director of Children's Services
- 6.2 First Consultative Draft of Children and Young People's Plan – Paul Briggs, Education Consultant
- 6.3 Statement of Community Involvement – Tom Britcliffe - Regeneration & Planning
- 6.4 Cleveland Fire Brigade – Integrated Risk Management Plan – Cleveland Fire Brigade representative

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Local Transport Plan (2006-11) – Highway Improvements York Road – Alex Gough – Neighbourhood Services

8. WARD ISSUES

9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd February 2006 at 10 am – Committee Room B, Civic Centre.

WARDS

Burn Valley
Elwick
Foggy Furze
Grange
Park
Rift House
Stranton

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM

6th October 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair: Councillor Lilian Sutheran - Rift House Ward

Vice-Chair: Clive Hall (Resident Representative)

Councillor Stephen Belcher	- Rift House Ward
Councillor Gerald Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Gordon Henery	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Bill Iseley	- Grange Ward
Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Frances London	- Foggy Furze Ward
Councillor Robbie Payne	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Vic Tumilty	- Grange Ward
Councillor Gladys Worthy	- Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives: James Atkinson, Dave Berry, Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd, Billy Lynch and Norma Morrish

Public: Mr Atkins, Mr Dring, Mr Forbes, Miss Jenkins, M. E. Lumley, Brian McBean, Mr McKinnon, Mr Morrish, Dr Pickens, Julie Rudge and Mr Smailes

Council Officers: Dave Stubbs, Head of Environmental Management
Denise Ogden, Town Care Manager
Jon Wright, Senior Neighbourhood Services Officer
Dacre Dunlop, Sports Consultant
Brian Neale, Safe in Tees Valley Project Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Cleveland Police Representatives: Chief Constable Sean Price, PC Shelley Watson, PCSO Bell and PCSO Frankland

Primary Care Trust (PCT) Representative: Kevin Aston

New Deal for Communities Representative: Brian Dixon

Housing Hartlepool Representative: Janis Ledger

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stanley Fortune, Jean Kennedy, Dr George Morris and Ray Waller.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

26. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH AUGUST 2005

Confirmed.

27. MATTERS ARISING

Town Care Manager, Denise Ogden, gave a verbal update on issues from the minutes of 11th August 2005.

- The request for a meeting to be set up between various interested parties to discuss licensing issues – this had been provisionally arranged for the evening of the 8th November. Res Rep Ian Campbell asked if the members of the Licensing Act Committee could be invited. This was confirmed.
- Stephen Street problems – there had been no disorder reports for the last two weeks. Anti-Social Behavior Officers, Police, Taskforce and Neighbourhood Managers were meeting regularly. Evictions had taken place.
- Transport interchange – likely start date early 2006.
- Vicarage Gardens flooding – gullies had been cleansed. NWA to be contacted.
- Proposed Windermere Road to Belle Vue Way cycle route – passed to the

Transportation Team Leader for consideration.

- Russell Street manhole cover – this had been covered.
- Request for bins on Seaton Coach Park – passed on to the South Forum
- Letter to PCT re chair – sent
- Weldeck Road parking problems – area now subject to monitored visits by patrol officers.
- Taxis parking outside Yates – day time enforcement as part of regular patrols but selective out of hour enforcement being considered
- Match day parking in Cameron Road, Belk, Furness etc – have received parking patrols on four of the last five matchdays.
- Cyclists on pavements – this remains a police matter
- Parking near schools – Planning Officers to work in conjunction with schools re travel plans, road safety etc. Reactive enforcement also an option.
- Hart Lane parking problems – double parking and HGV usage are police enforcement matters. New signs erected and Traffic Liaison Group monitoring their effect.
- Stranton Ward Drug/Youth Centre – Will not be occupying Cromwell House. Alternative accommodation being explored.
- Mobile needle exchange unit – the officer concerned was unable to attend the meeting but would speak to residents and be available in the future.

Res Rep Ian Campbell raised an issue relating to consistency of titles in the minutes. This was noted.

Brian McBean (resident) paid tribute to P.C. Andy Ward, the local police officer who was leaving the service. He said he

hoped his successor was as good as he had been.

Ron Smailes (resident) said officers had still not given an answer to the problem of flooding on the Burn Valley Park and it was not satisfactory simply to pass this off. He said that part of town had not received any attention on the flooding report two years ago and if nothing was done there would be another flood like 2003. Denise Ogden said improvements were being made to the beck and she would continue to work on the situation with Northumbrian Water. This would be passed to Northumbrian Water and Jon Wright would contact Mr Smailes and Res Rep Evelyn Leck when information became available.

Councillor Gerard Hall asked if it could be clarified that the decision on the Hartlepool Local Plan referred to in the minutes was a recommendation to cabinet as the Forum did not have any decision-making powers. This was noted.

28. UPDATE ON POLICING ISSUES

Chief Constable Sean Price gave a verbal update on current issues facing the police. He informed those present that in the last 12 months –

- Crime was down 7.5%
- Burglary was down 29%
- Robbery was down 39%
- Car Crime was down 30%
- Over 5 thousand people had not been the victims of crime
- There had been an increase in the number of arrests
- Budget savings of over £7million had been made without any job losses
- 98% of emergency calls are answered within 10 seconds, compared to 60% two years ago

- 97% of non-emergency calls are answered within 30 seconds, compared to 66% two years ago

However he said there was still work to be done and highlighted two areas for concern

- Violent crime was on the increase. He identified this as “low-level alcohol fuelled thuggery” and said one of the reasons for the increase was that previously it had not been reported. The Chief Constable cited the example of Operation Tranquillity in Stockton whereby licensees pay voluntarily for extra policing using officers on leave. This meant officers did not have to be pulled away from residential areas to deal with town centre trouble. He said he hoped to bring something similar to Hartlepool.
- Anti-Social behaviour. The Chief Constable said this was probably the biggest problem facing police at the moment. The “don’t walk by” programme was launched earlier this year whereby officers would go to identified hotspots and remove the core troublemakers in the group. It was hoped that by doing this the less troublesome elements would not be as inclined to cause trouble. The Chief Constable called on everyone in the community to get involved in the programme. He said every young person was someone’s son, daughter, grandson etc and parents needed to take more responsibility. He urged those present to stop blaming everyone else and to try to work together.

Res Rep Evelyn Leck asked why the police had to wait for an area to become a hotspot before they would do anything. She said any problems should be nipped in the bud earlier. The Chief Constable agreed that previously the police had tended to concentrate on other crimes at

the expense of anti-social behaviour but this would not be the case now. He said "Don't walk by" needed everyone's support to make it work.

Res Rep Dave Berry asked why there had been no police objections to the recent space of licensing applications. The Chief Constable said they had submitted objections but it was hard to stop premises getting licences as there were no limits to the amount of premises there could be in an area. This had led to premises competing with special offers and promotions.

Councillor Stephen Belcher asked what was being done about illegal motorbike riding. The Chief Constable said this was a huge danger not just a nuisance. The problem was that police could not confiscate the bikes from people, only prosecute them for creating a public nuisance. He said the force had recently purchased four scrambler bikes and were catching illegal riders every day. There were also plans to distribute leaflets and posters in the run up to Christmas.

Councillor Bill Iseley said the Planning Committee, which he chairs, had tried to establish a policy with the police to restrict the opening hours of premises near residential areas to a reasonable time but this had been overturned by the Licensing Act Sub-Committee decision. He said given licences until 4am for premises such as Loons and 42nd Street was also a reversal of Planning Committee policy contained in the Hartlepool Local Plan. When he asked Licensing Act Committee members about this he was told that they had no choice but to grant if there were no objections. He felt the law was creating future difficulties. Denise Ogden advised such concerns were the reason for the future licensing meeting.

Res Rep Norma Morrish asked if cyclists riding on pavements were aware that they were committing an illegal act and could be fined. She said there were no signs informing them. The Chief Constable said the problem was there were a lot of cycle paths on the pavements so it became confusing. He also called on car drivers to be more considerate of cyclists so there would be less need for them to ride on the pavements. He agreed to work with the Council regarding signage.

Res Rep Norma Morrish also asked about local policing in the Burbank area. She said in the past years they had lost one PCSO and the PC tended to be called away a lot. She acknowledged that crime had dropped but felt it would rise if the situation continued. The Chief Constable said Hartlepool had been selected for the trial of a new neighbourhood policing set up. His ideal was to have a PC in each ward and this was achievable.

Councillor Carl Richardson asked when another Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator would be appointed. Inspector Tony Green said the current co-ordinator was on sick leave and his duties were being transferred to another officer in the short term. The permanent appointment would be made in due course. The Vice-Chair said the ringmaster telephone system used by Neighbourhood Watch had completely collapsed leaving hundreds of people unable to get any information. The Chief Constable said he would investigate the matter as it was not acceptable.

Res Rep Evelyn Leck asked what the Chief Constable's commitments to Neighbourhood Watch was. He said he felt it was one of the most important schemes. He was disappointed to hear about the problems and pledged to solve them.

Councillor Carl Richardson asked the Chief Constable about threats made by those arrested for anti-social behaviour to witnesses. The Chief Constable confirmed these were classed as witness intimidation or perverting the course of justice and would be dealt with accordingly. He also asked for details of the incident to be discussed outside the meeting for investigation purposes.

Julie Rudge (resident) asked if the police could be more proactive when dealing with licensed premises conducting after hours activities. The Chief Constable said he would look into this.

Councillor Frances London complemented Cleveland Police force on the last 12 months, saying it was good to know Hartlepool had turned a corner. She called on schools to play their part in teaching children to be better citizens. The Chief Constable thanked her for her comment, saying all the team had worked hard.

Councillor Vic Tumilty asked when Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) would be given additional powers. The Chief Constable praised the job done by the PCSOs and said the new policing plan would increase their numbers and the number of Police Constables. However he advised caution against given PCSOs and PCs the same powers as the levels of training were different and it would place an unfair burden on the PCSOs. He said he was cautious about giving PCSOs additional powers.

Brian McBean (resident) said anti-social behavior could be carried out by people from the ages of 17-30 and was not the preserve of youths. He asked if tagging had been a success. The Chief Constable agreed with his point and said tagging had been a good idea on balance but needed more to support it.

Councillor Gladys Worthy said kids would be kids and until the law was altered the situation would continue the same. She said something needed to be done by parents and schools and called on MPs to experience the problem day to day before passing legislation.

Moss Boddy (resident) expressed his concerns on plans to enlarge the Cleveland Police operating area to merge with Northumbria. He felt this would diminish the importance of Hartlepool from a policing standpoint. The Chief Constable explained the merger suggestion had come about as a result of Home Office concerns about terrorism and organised crime. As Cleveland Police had come out well in these areas it had been suggested to join forces with Durham and Northumbria to share best practice. He said this was one of a number of options and they needed to do what was best for the people. 70% of people had voted against a regional assembly and they did not want to let one in by the back door.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable for his attendance.

29. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Res Rep Norma Morrish thanked the Council's Street Lighting Team Leader for fixing the lights in her area so promptly.

Res Rep Alan Lloyd asked when officers would take action about the paving stones in York Road. Jon Wright said routine inspections and repairs were carried out every month. There were major issues with York Road and Victoria Road and a meeting was due to take place the next day to look at ways of remedying the situation.

Joan Jenkins (resident) said she had previously been hospitalised after falling

on a pavement. She had made a claim but had still not heard anything. She asked if this was ever recorded and Jon Wright agreed to speak to her outside the meeting.

Ron Smailes (resident) said he had stumbled over the pavement in the Park area in the past but nothing had been done as the pavement had not been reached the significant criteria. He felt this was unreasonable as the raise did not have to be much for someone to stumble. He asked for all the pavements to be replaced with tarmac. Dave Stubbs explained that budget considerations meant that only legally required repairs were carried out. However Council policy meant that almost all the town pavements would be replaced with tarmac in the future, apart from certain areas including conservation areas. He also assured Mr Smailes that the area where he had fallen would be inspected for trip hazards.

Res Rep Evelyn Leck asked if anything was being done to crack down on illegal parking on York Road and Stockton Road. Denise Ogden said the parking wardens were out there and urged those present to ring 523333 with any complaints, making sure to give them as much information as possible.

Bill Morrish (resident) said car parking patrols had been out that morning but there were still cars parked illegally on the grass. Denise Ogden explained that under decriminalisation traffic wardens could only enforce places that already had traffic orders. If there were no traffic orders in place they could only write to offenders asking them to be more considerate.

Res Rep Norma Morrish asked if anything more had been done to make Middleton Grange Shopping Centre a no-smoking zone. She also asked if the tiles on the floor of the Centre could be repaired or

replaced. Denise Ogden said the manager of the Centre would be invited to the next Central Neighbourhood Forum to answer questions. The Chair informed those present that a statement on the future of smoking in the Centre was due next year and the news was expected to be positive.

Mr McKinnon (resident) raised the issue of the Headland SRB project asking how much this would cost the Council and taxpayers. Dave Stubbs explained that as this was an SRB project there had been no Council funding. Private contractors did the design and while Council employees carried out the co-ordination work the Council was paid for it. There had recently been an increase in the estimate but reducing the specification could alleviate this.

30. MULTI-USE AREA GAMES STRATEGY

Dacre Dunlop gave a short presentation on the current consultation on a strategy for Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA's) in Hartlepool. A copy of the first draft report was handed out and those present were asked to submit their comments to Dave Stubbs by 24th October.

Mr Dunlop gave a summary of the key issues as follows –

- The need for a co-ordinated and strategic approach to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable framework of facilities to meet identified needs, shortfalls and deficiencies
- The need to address the important aspect of management and use of facilities and to strengthen bids for internal and external funding
- The importance of addressing provision for young people in relation to the need for and demand upon open spaces

- The need to establish priorities to reflect local need/demand, shortfalls in provision, the Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and anti-social behaviour "hot spots"
- The preference for MUGAs to be linked to an existing or proposed facility (school base, Community Centre, Young Centre etc)
- The use of MUGAs to address issues such as health, anti-social behaviour, crime, social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, community well being and improving the environment

With reference to the Church of Nazarene location in the Stranton Ward Julie Rudge (resident) said she applauded the consultation but Mr Dunlop had failed to consult the NDC or the Church of the Nazarene land representatives. She demanded the removal of this provision from the strategy. Mr Dunlop said the NDC and Church representatives would be consulted but the provision would probably be dropped from the final draft.

Res rep James Atkinson asked what the response of the youth groups had been. Mr Dunlop said he would be attending a meeting of the Youth Forum in the next week. The headteachers of all the town's schools had also been consulted and it was hoped that they would have gathered the pupils' opinions. Res Rep Bob Farrow invited Mr Dunlop to come to the Belle Community Sports and Youth Club.

Brian McBean (resident) said the consultation should be part of the Council's regeneration programme and urged Mr Dunlop to involve the residents groups.

The Chair queried the problem of age limits on youth sites. Mr Dunlop said only two of the sites were youth-orientated and the rest were schools.

Moss Boddy (resident) asked who had decided on the priorities in the draft. He was told they had been taken from the Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. Mr Boddy also criticised the speed of the consultation as there would be no opportunity to discuss the issues at a Forum before giving opinions.

Joan Jenkins (resident) handed her copy of the report back to the Chair with the words "forget it – from a Council tax payer and lover of sport" written on the front, saying "actions speak louder than words"

31. THE ACUTE SERVICES REVIEW

Kevin Aston of the PCT advised those present of the current consultation being carried out on Professor Sir Ara Darzi's report "Acute Services Review – Hartlepool and Teesside". He said the consultation period was 23rd September to 23rd December and urged people to give their comments. He also gave information on a series of meetings to be held on the subject and said he would be happy to talk to other residents groups as required.

32. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

The Forum were asked to consider schemes for potential funding from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Budget.

The report gave full details on schemes for landscaping and related work in a number of locations and highway schemes in two areas.

The Forum approved the expenditure of all schemes as described in the report, subject to the final approval of the Portfolio Holder. The total cost of the schemes approved was £29,569.

Moss Boddy (resident) asked if the removal of grass verges should be a centrally funded issue as he felt it did not qualify as minor works. Denise Ogden told him that each of the three forums had been given an extra £15,000 for grass verge problems.

Mr Boddy also asked if anything could be done about the parking in Weldeck Road and Hart Lane by school traffic and the resultant use of Stephen Street and Suggitt Street as a rat run. Denise Ogden said a traffic study had been carried out on the area in question and recommendations for a crossing were being put forward. However traffic management in the area would be integrated.

33. WARD ISSUES

Burn Valley

Councillor Gerard Hall asked if there could be better lighting in the St Matthews Hall area, specifically the garage area. Denise Ogden said an inspection was being carried out in the area that night.

In an update to a matter previously raised Councillor Hall said British Telecom were prepared to remove one of the telephone kiosks on Elwick Road and would make adjustments to the others.

Res Rep Norma Morrish asked if there had been any decision on the removal of Crown House. Denise Ogden said the demolition was a Council priority.

Elwick

No issues raised

Foggy Furze

Res Rep Evelyn Leck said a second petition had been started for the provision

of alleygates at the back of Stockton Road. The NDC had rejected them due to the number of objections received but residents still felt there was a need for them.

Res Rep Bob Farrow said the needle van had been parking in Oxford Street and he felt it should not park in a residential area. Denise Ogden advised that Chris Hart, the Drug Unit Manager, was prepared to meet residents and she would ask her to contact Mr Farrow.

He asked if the phone booth on Oxford Street could be removed as drug addicts were using it. However Mr MacKinnon (resident) said it would be outrageous to remove it as not everyone had a telephone and the police should stop the drug users. Denise Ogden agreed to liaise with the police to gain evidence and then talk with British Telecom.

Res Rep Bob Farrow also raised the problem of rats in the drains at Kathleen Street, back street gullies in the Belle Vue area and the Brenda Road/Windermere traffic lights being out of sequence. Denise Ogden agreed to pass this on to the appropriate departments.

Councillor Frances London asked if the building at the bottom of Oxford Road could be looked at. Dave Stubbs said it was owned by Tones and officers would ask them about it.

Grange

Councillor Vic Tumilty asked if the control zone for residents only parking could be extended to Collingwood Road, Bruce Street and Murray Street. This was supported by Councillor Carl Richardson who called on drivers to use the town centre car parks. Denise Ogden said this was what decriminalisation was intended to do and the request would be passed on.

Brian McBean (resident) said Hartwell residents had restarted leaving their bins out since the alleygates had been fitted. Denise Ogden said a letter would be sent out to them informing them that they could be prosecuted if they did not desist.

Evelyn Leck, Resident Rep reported that drug pushers were following the needle van. DS noted this to pass to relevant officers.

Park

Res Rep Ian Campbell asked if access to Worsett Lane in the Naisberry Park Area could be closed off to stop people taking off-road bikes onto it. He also asked if barriers could be installed at Summerhill for the same purpose. Denise Ogden said barriers could be investigated at Naisberry and she would speak to the Public Rights of Way Officer and pass the request to Summerhill.

With reference to litter Res Rep Ian Campbell asked if litter on the Naisberry footpath and grassed area and litter near the bridge could be removed. He asked if both these areas could be checked regularly. Denise Ogden said the existing litter would be removed but the bridge could not be added to the existing cleaning programme as it was not a priority area and would be to the detriment of other areas. However this would be passed to the countryside wardens to find a solution.

Rift House

Councillor Gladys Worthy asked if the grass verges currently being dug up for pipe installation could be replaced with tarmac. Denise Ogden said the utility companies only had a duty to replace like with like but Council Officers were looking at asking them to replace with tarmac. Councillor Worthy asked if the tarmac on

the other side of the road would be raised for pipe installation and was told this had been investigated and would not happen.

Councillor Stephen Belcher said he had received complaints from residents about fires on the allotments. Kingsley Avenue residents in particular were not satisfied with the Council's response and intended to take the matter further

Councillor Belcher also highlighted problems with the traffic lights on Catcote Road/Oxford Road which were making it difficult for drivers to get onto Oxford Road. He also said dog fouling was causing problems in the Kingsley Avenue and Sinclair Road areas.

With reference to parking issues Councillor Belcher asked if barriers could be erected in Garrick Grove to prevent parking on the tarmac. He also asked if parking bays and resident only parking could be introduced to Masefield Road and said he would be campaigning for better parking facilities in Orwell Walk. However Denise Ogden said this would almost amount to a new road, pointing out that the residents had garages. She said decriminalisation officers would soon be deployed in Masefield Road once the new traffic management scheme is installed.

Stranton

Res Rep Dave Berry asked if there had been any progress on the Lowthian Road closure. Also the promised zebra crossing had not been installed. Denise Ogden said work on the zebra crossing would start after Christmas. Councillor Robbie Payne, the Portfolio Holder in charge of Culture, Housing and Transportation said he had approved the road closure the day before.

34. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
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Thursday 1st December commencing at 10am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre.

Next Central Police and Community Safety Forum to be held on Thursday 3rd November commencing at 10am - also in Committee Room B.

L SUTHERAN

CHAIR

WARDS

Brinkburn
Elwick
Grange
Jackson
Park
Rift House
Stranton

***CENTRAL POLICE &
COMMUNITY SAFETY
CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

3rd November 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



PRESENT:

Chair:	Lilian Sutheran	Rift House Ward
Vice-Chair	Clive Hall	Resident Representative
	Councillor Stanley Fortune	Park Ward
	Councillor Gerard Hall	Burn Valley Ward
	Councillor Jean Kennedy	Foggy Furze Ward
	Councillor Frances London	Stranton Ward
	Councillor Dr George Morris	Park Ward
	Councillor Carl Richardson	Grange Ward
	Councillor Vic Tumilty	Grange Ward
	Councillor Gladys Worthy	Rift House Ward

Resident Representatives:

James Atkinson, Dave Berry, Ian Campbell, Bob Farrow, Patrick Finnan, Evelyn Leck, Alan Lloyd and Billy Lynch

Residents: M E Lumley, Brian Neale and Julie Rudge

Council Officers:

Alison Mawson, Head of Community Safety and Prevention
Denise Ogden, Town Care Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Police Representative:

Inspector Peter Knights

Cleveland Fire Brigade Representatives:

ADO Tony Dale, Derek Minton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Belcher, Gordon Henery, Bill Iseley and Ray Waller and Resident Representative Patrick Finnan

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting held on 7th July 2005 were confirmed as a true record with the amendment by Councillor Vic Tumilty that there were no bus lay-bys on Murray Street.

Resident Representative Dave Berry drew attention to the parking problems in York Road and was asked to bring this up later in the meeting.

3. YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AND PROJECTS AND GENERAL UPDATE FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

ADO Tony Dale and Derek Minton, who is employed by HBC Youth Service, seconded to the Fire Brigade, gave presentations and showed a video on the following:

Young Fire-fighters Association (YFA) – a scheme that gives young people from all areas of the local community the opportunity to develop, personally and socially, using the Fire Brigade as a positive role model. The aims of the YFA were outlined:

- To promote the Fire Service, to educate and increase awareness of arson, to highlight the consequence of hoax calls and fire safety at home and in the community.
- To offer Young Fire-fighters the opportunity to undertake the Fire Service Youth Training Association

accredited B-TEC Development Programme.

- To promote the opportunity of delivering the fire safety messages to family, peer groups, the general public and all community partners.
- To assist in the promotion of self development both mentally and physically, whilst promoting self discipline, Social consciousness, community awareness and good citizenship.
- To foster the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership amongst the members.

The YFA is housed in a new building near the Fire Station and courses are for 3 years, one night a week for 13 year olds onwards.

The video showed participants in the Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) scheme. The purpose of the 5 day scheme, for 13 to 17 year olds, being to provide training and development opportunities to young people who have been referred by various agencies. The aim being to encourage them to make the most of their physical and mental capabilities and to become more responsible, safer and caring members of their communities.

The culmination of the week's Life Skills and personal development course is the Passing out Parade and the presentation of their Certificates in First Aid, Fire Fighting Awareness and a Profile of Achievement by a Senior Fire Brigade Officer. The young people have an opportunity to demonstrate, in front of relatives and friends, the skills that they have learned over the five day intensive fire brigade experience.

The Fire Officers commented on the noticeable changes in personalities and attitude as the course progressed.

Resident Representative Bob Farrow asked if attendance on the course could lead to employment with the fire brigade. Mr Dale said it could but there were no guarantees. In response to a further question from Mr Farrow he said that children could be referred onto the course but there were limited places on it at the moment.

Councillor Gladys Worthy commented that all the youngsters shown on the presentation had been male. Mr Dale said they had to run segregated courses owing to bathroom facilities at the premises used for the course. Councillor Worthy went on to ask how the participants on the course were selected. Mr Minton said they ranged from children with no social skills and behavioural problems to those deemed gifted and talented. It was not designed purely for "bad kids".

Resident Representative Patrick Finnan asked who decided which children would lead the various teams during the programme. Mr Minton said the facilitators of the programme tried to bring the weaker children forward if possible but no-one was forced to do anything they didn't want to.

The Chair praised Mr Dale and Mr Minton for the presentation, saying it was good to see these children get the chance to turn their lives around.

4. UPDATE FROM THE POLICE

Inspector Peter Knights gave a brief presentation on reported crime figures July to September 2005. When compared with the same period in 2004 there had been a 13% increase in crime as a whole in the Central Forum area. However crime in the Park Ward had dropped by 21%. A table showing the figures for individual wards in the area was circulated.

Inspector Knights then gave a verbal update on the following issues

Bonfire Night

Inspector Knights said there had been additional police patrols in place for the three weeks preceding 5th November and there had been no significant increase in activity. This had been helped by the tighter timescales relating to the sale of fireworks. Those present were asked to inform the police of any inappropriate sales.

Neighbourhood Watch

Inspector Knights acknowledged this was not in the best state of health but it would take time to fix. The communications system was archaic but he could make no promises on how long it would take to mend. Those present were encouraged to pass on any ideas they had as Inspector Knights considered Neighbourhood Watch a good tool for the police.

Councillor Carl Richardson asked when the Ringmaster communications system would be fixed. Inspector Knight said he would expect it to take no longer than six months but could make no guarantees. Use of e-mail was a possible communication solution. Councillor Stanley Fortune asked if an interim scheme could be put in place in the meantime in view of the dark nights but Inspector Knights said he wanted long-term solutions to the problem.

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said £300 had been spent on the Ringmaster licence by Neighbourhood Watch but nothing had come of it. She said not everyone had e-mail access. Resident Representative Patrick Finnan said it was imperative Ringmaster was repaired and called on the Council and MP to help speed up the process, saying six months was too long to wait.

The Vice-Chair asked Inspector Knights if there could be a greater police presence at Neighbourhood Watch meetings as it would help residents to know their concerns were being passed on.

Binge drinking

Additional police patrols would be assigned to the town centre and there were several associated initiatives underway. Inspector Knights felt that by handling disorder in the town centre there would be a positive knock-on effect on the outlying estates.

Councillor Gladys Worthy asked if publicans would be invited to contribute to the cost of additional police patrols rather than it being covered by the taxpayer. In response the Town Care Manager said there would be a public meeting the following evening to discuss such matters. Expected to attend were the Chair of the Licensing Act Committee, Licensing Officers and representatives of the police and the licensed trade.

Operation Sabre

A weapons amnesty would take place in the coming weeks as part of a drive to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Similar amnesties had been run in the past and been very successful at removing weapons of all kinds from the streets.

Following Inspector Knight's presentation Councillor Frances London praised the police for their continued efforts.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION REPORT

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention gave a verbal update on the following issues –

Hartlepool CCTV system

A review of this was currently underway, the results were expected by the end of March 2006. It was felt that the town centre was well serviced but the provision on the estates could be improved.

Anti-social behaviour

A dispersal order would be coming into force in the Dyke House area. Although this was in the North area there was a possibility that any dispersed youths may come over into the Central area.

Binge drinking

A major campaign "Think before you drink" would be launched aimed at the health impact of binge drinking on young people. Police patrols would also be increased in the town centre for the introduction of the new licensing laws and the festive season.

Resident Representative Ian Campbell asked how vigorously police prosecuted adults buying alcohol for under-age children. Inspector Knights said they were prosecuted if possible but it was often difficult to identify those responsible as they were usually strangers approached by children on the street. Off-licence managers were aware of the situation and appropriately vigilant.

Taxis

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said she was trying to encourage more taxis to frequent the town centre on an evening.

Community Wardens

The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said a review into the future of Community Wardens was due to be completed by Christmas. More police officers would be brought into town in April 2006 and the introduction of neighbourhood policing was being considered.

Resident Representative Bob Farrow said the wardens did an excellent job and

public feeling should be taken into account when making any decisions. Resident Representative Billy Lynch said a Government meeting on Regional Wardens was taking place in Stockton that day and he would forward any information from that meeting to the next Forum.

Resident Representative Alan Lloyd asked if Cleveland Police had any plans to recruit more Police Community Safety Officers if the Wardens were removed but Inspector Knights was unable to answer. The Vice-Chair said community policing was also effective.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Stockton Road

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck asked what was being done to stop the sale of alcohol to under-age children in Stockton Road. The Town Care Manager said the shop in question had been prosecuted twice and the new year had promised there would be no under-age sales. She would check if this agreement had been breached.

Burn Valley

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck drew attention to anti-social behaviour in the Burn Valley. The Town Care Manager said the police were increasing patrols in the Burn Valley and there were plans to introduce CCTV and a new lighting system into the park.

Resident Representative James Atkinson asked what was being done to nip any future problems in the bud. Inspector Knights referred to the Cleveland Police "Don't walk by" initiative and said officers were now going into nurseries to talk to the children. In addition cautioning young people had an 80% success rate

Fireworks

Resident Representative Evelyn Leck said residents were being tortured by fireworks in the run up to bonfire night. Councillor Gladys Worthy called for the sale of fireworks to private individuals to be banned. The Chair reminded those present of the Council's official display at Seaton Carew on 5th November.

Under-age drinking

Resident Representative Billy Lynch asked what was being done to combat this, suggesting the use of a colour-coded bottle scheme for off-licences in order to determine where the alcohol was being bought. Inspector Knights said he would look into it.

Crime statistics

Councillor Gladys Worthy asked how the use of crime statistics had been combined with the recent Ward changes. The Head of Community Safety and Prevention said the system used for calculation allowed them to show the information on the new wards while bringing in the previous wards.

7. ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Anti-social behaviour in the Grange Ward

Councillor Vic Tumilty said in recent weeks gangs of children had been running riot and he was concerned that the Dyke House dispersal order would move even more of them into the area. He also commented on the lack of police presence on the streets.

Councillor Frances London called on the police to take a tougher line on the parents. Resident Representative Ian Campbell asked how under-age drinkers were able to pay for the alcohol.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR
--

Resident Representative Ian Campbell commented on the lack of named speakers in the previous minutes. The Town Care Manager explained that the decision to include names in the minutes had been made after the previous meeting.

LILIAN SUTHERAN

CHAIRMAN

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: DRAFT CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS STRATEGY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Central Neighbourhood Forum on a draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools strategy (attached).

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

- 2.1 The government's Ten Year Childcare Strategy published in December 2004 requires local authorities to develop Children's Centres across the borough by 2010. Children's Centres need to offer early education integrated with childcare, family support and outreach to parents and child and family health services.
- 2.2 In addition the local authority is required to ensure that a core offer for extended schools is in place by 2010. The core offer for extended schools consists of study support activities, childcare available 8 am - 6pm, parenting support and swift and easy referral to a range of specialised support services for pupils.
- 2.3 The draft strategy has been developed with a wide range of partners and stakeholders and sets out the process of ensuring these two requirements are met and brings them together in one coherent strategy.

3.0 ACTION

- 3.1 The views of the Central Neighbourhood Forum are sought on the draft strategy. Comments/issues should be fed back to:

Ian Merritt, Senior Education Officer, Children's Services, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY, (Tel. 01429 533774), email ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk

or Danielle Swainston, Early Years Manager, Children's Services, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY (Tel 01429 523671), email danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Children's Services Department

Every Hartlepool Child Matters



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Children's Centres & Extended Schools 2006 – 2010

Draft Strategy

Contact Officers:

Danielle Swainston
Early Years Manager
danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk
01429 523671

Ian Merritt
Senior Education Officer
ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk
01429 523774

Children's Centres & Extended Schools 2006 – 2010

Draft Strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council has developed a new draft strategy for the development of Children's Centres and Extended Schools. The strategy contains proposals for changes in the way we have previously developed Sure Start local programmes, Children's Centres and Extended Schools.

The Council wants to consult widely on these proposals. The purpose of this booklet is to explain the options which Hartlepool Borough Council is considering in the development of Children's Centres and Extended Schools.

Sure Start local programmes provide services for 0-4 year olds and their families in specific areas of the town.

Children's Centres serve children aged under five and their families. Children's Centres in areas of greatest need must provide:

- childcare with nursery education included
- a full time early years teacher
- health services
- family support
- a base for childminders
- access to Job Centre Plus.

In other areas Children's Centres will provide some of these services, depending on what is needed locally.

Extended Schools

By 2010 all schools will have to become Extended Schools. This means that all schools will need to provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community.

The Council's preferred option is to develop Children's Centres and Extended Schools services based on seven clusters. The clusters are based on groupings of wards and are explained in detail in this document. For rural areas, services will be provided on an outreach basis or using mobile units.

This booklet explains the proposal and tells you how you can let the Council know your views. The deadline for comments is 16th December 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

Schools have been delivering out of school hours learning and a range of other activities for many years and are now beginning to deliver quality childcare. Sure Start local programmes have been established over the last six years and are specialists in multi agency working.

In September 2003 Hartlepool Borough Council Cabinet approved a Children's Centres Plan. The report included the results of a public consultation on the development of Children's Centres. The majority of responses to the consultation supported the proposal for the location of first five Children's Centres as detailed below. The development of the centres was based on old ward boundaries in line with Sure Start guidance at that time.

A Children's Centre is being developed in each area linking the sites below:

Brus Ward	St John Vianney Early Years Centre, Sure Start North, Rainbow Day Nursery
Dyke House Ward	Chatham Road Sure Start, Dyke House School and Brougham Primary School
Jackson Ward	Lynnfield Primary School, Playmates Neighbourhood Nursery and Sure Start Central Lowthian Road Centre
Rossmere Ward	Rossmere Way Sure Start Centre, Rossmere and St Teresa's Primary Schools
St Hilda Ward	Kiddikins Neighbourhood Nursery, St Bega's and St Helen's Primary Schools and Sure Start North

Progress to date on the development of Children's Centres includes the completion of all capital building work and the setting up of working groups made up of local organisations which are helping to develop services.

3. PROPOSED STRATEGY

Potential options

A small steering group with representatives from the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust and Children's Services Department has looked at a number of options before deciding what to recommend as the preferred model of delivery. The options are set out below with the advantages and disadvantages of each explained.

Option 1

Children's Centres and Extended Schools services delivered in seven clusters within the three Neighbourhood Management areas (North, Central, South). Services within each cluster would be supported by a co-ordinator. Services would be delivered at a local level.

Advantages

- All children, young people and families will have access to services
- Covers all age ranges;
- More effective use of existing resources - resources will be shared across the town;
- Ensures that the core offer can be delivered without duplication of services;
- Schools will be involved in the cluster partnerships and help to shape services in their local community;
- Services that are needed by the local community will be developed;
- Reaches all areas of need.

Disadvantages

- Sure Start local programmes will need to be restructured and this may mean changes for staff in Sure Start local programmes;
- Existing Sure Start local programme users may feel they are losing some services as services will need to be reviewed.

Option 2

Sure Start Local Programmes would continue to deliver Children's Centre Services and Extended Schools would operate independently. Services would be managed through individual schools and by organisations.

Advantages

- Good practice developed through Sure Start local programmes would continue;
- Staffing in Sure Start local programmes would remain the same;
- Children and families in existing Sure Start Local Programme areas would see no difference in the services they can access.

Disadvantages

- Services only delivered in Sure Start areas which means some families cannot access services;
- Will not be able to develop Children's Centres across the town;
- Sure Start local programmes only cover 0 - 4 year olds not 0 - 5 year olds;
- Funding for Sure Start local programmes is only committed by the government until 2007 therefore there is not enough funding to continue Sure Start local programmes in the long term;
- Schools, community groups and the private sector may feel that they are not included as Sure Start local programmes will continue to run separately to other services being developed in local communities.

Option 3

Children's Centres and Extended Schools services would be delivered in areas North, Central and South. Services within each area would be supported by a manager. One manager would be responsible for working with all organisations across each area.

Advantages

- Extends Sure Start model across a wider area;
- Involves Extended Schools;
- The Sure Start local programmes model would stay the same therefore staff in the local programmes would remain the same.

Disadvantages

- Difficult for one person to manage because of the number of organisations in one area;
- Difficult to manage the involvement of the local community across a large area;
- Manager would need to liaise with Headteachers and governing bodies regularly - this would be difficult because of the large number of schools in the areas;
- Manager would need to liaise with voluntary, community and private sectors - this would be difficult because of the large number of organisations delivering services in the areas.

4. PREFERRED OPTION

Having considered all of the issues, the Steering Group decided that it wished to consult on all options identified, but that its clear preference was for Option 1.

The preferred option proposes that there will be seven Children's Centre and Extended School clusters based across the three areas, with services delivered direct to local communities. In addition there will also be mobile services for rural areas.

The cluster areas would be as follows:

North 1	St Hilda, Brus, Hart
North 2	Throston, Dyke House
Central 1	Park, Grange, Elwick
Central 2	Stranton, Burn Valley
Central 3	Foggy Furze, Rift House
South 1	Rossmere, Seaton
South 2	Owton, Fens, Greatham

The seven clusters have been decided using child population data as well as grouping of schools and organisations providing services to children and families.

For example, a group of schools in the North Hartlepool area have been working together for some months now, sharing grant funding and working together to deliver services and activities.

The area and cluster model would also support the delivery of a wider range of integrated services for the local community. This would enable a strong emphasis on prevention as services would be shaped and delivered locally.

Governance and Management

The Local Authority is accountable for the delivery of the core offer for Children's Centres and Extended Schools. The strategy will also be monitored through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Hartlepool Partnership. The Children's Services Department will be responsible for the management, monitoring and evaluation of this strategy.

Inevitably, this option if agreed would involve the dissolution of the Hartlepool Sure Start Partnership (formerly Hartlepool Early Years Development Childcare Partnership), the three Sure Start local programme boards and the constituted Children's Centre working groups.

The Children's Services Department will employ Co-ordinators to ensure effective service delivery across each cluster. Co-ordinators will liaise with headteachers and managers in all sectors and provide a reporting mechanism into existing management structures including governing bodies.

Timeline

It is envisaged that this process will take place over two phases.

Phase 1: April 2006 – March 2008

- Sure Start local programmes make the move to become Children's Centres;
- First and second round of the remodelling of Extended Schools;
- Development of second round of Children's Centres begins;
- Introduction of Co-ordinators for all Children's Centres and Extended Schools Clusters;
- Development of Business Plans to ensure cluster activities and services are sustainable and mainstreamed where appropriate.

Phase 2: April 2008 – March 2010

- Development of the final phase of Children's Centres and Extended Schools in remaining areas;
- Remaining schools delivering the full Extended Schools offer;
- All government targets met.

Managing change

Clearly this proposal to develop services in seven clusters will have great impact on some organisations, in particular Sure Start local programmes. Children's Centres and Extended Schools services need to be delivered across the borough whereas Sure Start local programmes focus on particular areas of the town. This change will mean that Sure Start local programmes will need to be restructured to ensure services can be delivered across the town.

A change management programme will be set up by senior managers within Children's Services to support staff from Sure Start local programmes through the change to Children's Centres. Clear communication is key to the success of this strategy as well as sensitivity to the impact of change upon individuals and their teams.

Participation

The views of the local community particularly children and young people are essential to the success of locally based services. Cluster Co-ordinators will be set up groups of children and young people, parents and the wider community. These groups will help to decide which services are developed in their area. The groups will meet on a regular basis to ensure the services based at a local level are providing the services needed by the community.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council wants to hear your views on the proposals to develop Children's Centres and Extended Schools services.

You can write to Danielle Swainston (for the attention of Sylvia Frain) Children's Services, Hartlepool Borough Council, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY or use the comment form at the end of the document. If you wish to email your comments please email: cypp@hartlepool.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing your views. **Please send responses by 16th December 2005.**

If you would like a copy of the report presented to the Portfolio Holder on 31st October 2005 please contact Danielle Swainston on 01429 523671.

Information gathered from all consultation events will be used to develop a final draft strategy which will need to be approved by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Hartlepool Borough Council Cabinet. It will also be submitted for information to the PCT Executive and the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust Board.

Some questions and answers in relation to the Council's preferred option

1. Why merge Children's Centres and Extended Schools?

Children's Centres and Extended Schools guidance states

" The Government wants to see strong links between Extended Schools and Children's Centres."

The Children's Centre model in Hartlepool includes schools as one of the many partners. Schools who are Children's Centres are therefore naturally Extended Schools.

2. Can we keep the current Sure Start Local Programmes?

The current Sure Start local programmes only cover 0 - 4 year olds whereas Children's Centres services must be delivered to 0 - 5 year olds. The local programmes also only cover a proportion of the town and the Government's Ten Year Childcare Strategy states that we must develop Children's Centre services across the whole town by 2010. Funding previously available for Sure Start local programmes will be reduced significantly as resources need to be distributed equally across the town.

3. What are the Sure Start principles?

- Working with parents and children;
- Services for everyone;
- Flexible at the point of delivery;
- Starting very early;
- Respectful and transparent;
- Community driven and professionally co-ordinated;
- Outcome driven.

4. Can we extend the Sure Start Local Programme model across the town?

The Sure Start principles underpin the draft Children's Centres and Extended Schools strategy. Services will be locally delivered and shaped by the community. The Sure Start local programmes cannot be extended across the town because the funding will not be available at the same rate as current Sure Start local programmes.

5. What impact will the proposed changes have on me as a parent living in a Sure Start area?

Services for children and families will continue to be delivered and developed. Some of these services will be delivered by community and voluntary groups therefore parents will be supported by a wider range of people. All parents across

the town will have an opportunity to have a voice in the shaping of services through a forum in their local community.

6. What will happen to existing Sure Start Local Programme staff?

The Sure Start local programmes will need to be restructured beginning in April 2006. For staff employed by Hartlepool Borough Council a restructure process agreed by trade unions will be implemented. Staff will be involved in this process and have the opportunity to take part in consultation. A similar process is in place in the Primary Care Trust and senior managers in Children's Services will work closely with the Primary Care Trust to ensure the process takes place in conjunction with the Hartlepool Borough Council staff restructure.

7. What will happen to previous Sure Start local programme plans and the previous Children's Centre Plan?

If this strategy is approved it will replace the previous Children's Centre and Sure Start local programme plans.

8. How can I get involved in the development of my local Children's Centre and Extended School?

A co-ordinator will be appointed for each cluster area. The co-ordinator will set up groups for the community to attend. These groups will meet regularly. If you would like to get involved before the co-ordinator is appointed please get in touch with your local school or Penny Thompson, Children's Centre Co-ordinator 01429 284120.

9. What affect will this strategy have on the voluntary and community sector?

There is a strong voluntary and community sector operating in Hartlepool. It is important that Children's Centres and Extended Schools continue to work together in each of the cluster areas. The cluster co-ordinator will be responsible for working with the voluntary and community sector to ensure they are fully involved.

10. What affect will this strategy have on the private sector?

Services for children and families are already being delivered by the private sector. It is important that we work with these organisations to make sure they can contribute to Children's Centres and Extended Schools. The cluster co-ordinator will be responsible for ensuring that the private sector are fully involved.

11. I am a teacher in a school and concerned about possible extra workload. Will I have to work extra hours?

No. External organisations can deliver the services in partnership with the school therefore teachers will not need to work extra hours unless they choose to develop a service. Extended Schools will work within the framework of the National Workforce agreement.

12. Will this strategy affect the school or nursery that my child will go to?

No. This strategy will not affect nursery or school admissions.

13. My child goes to a school that is becoming a Children's Centre and Extended School. Will this affect the education my child will receive?

No. Children's Centres and Extended Schools are being developed to complement your child's education. Schools will offer extended services for families and the wider community not just children. Schools and the local community will have the opportunity to contribute to which services will be developed.

Services can be delivered by external organisations therefore teachers within the school will not need to deliver any of the services unless they wish to. This will ensure that teachers can concentrate on teaching and learning.

14. What is the Extended Schools core offer?

- A range of study support activities: sports, arts, music, homework clubs, etc;
- Parenting support opportunities, including family learning;
- Swift and easy referral to a range of specialised support services for pupils;
- Childcare available at least 8am-6pm, term time and school holidays;
- A "youth offer": a range of before and after school and holiday activities to engage young people;
- For secondary schools - Opening up ICT, sports and arts facilities for use by the wider community.

15. What are the benefits to our school, as opposed to the wider community, of offering extended services?

- Higher levels of pupils achievement ;
- Increased pupil motivation;
- Specialist support to meet pupils' wider needs;
- Additional facilities and equipment;
- Contributes to the delivery of the ECM outcomes;
- Enhances life chances for children.

16. What are the benefits of Extended Schools to pupils?

- Improvement in child behaviour and social skills;
- Greater parental involvement in children's learning;
- More opportunity for local adult education and family learning and parenting support;
- Greater availability of specialist support for families;
- Improved economic and general well being of families.

17. What are the benefits of Extended Schools to families?

- Better access to essential services;
- Improved local availability of sports, arts and other facilities;
- Local career development opportunities;
- Better supervision of children out of school hours;
- Closer relationships with schools.

18. What are the benefits of Extended Schools to communities?

- Better access to essential services;
- Improved local availability of sports, arts and other facilities;
- Local career development opportunities;
- Better supervision of children out of school hours;
- Closer relationships with schools.

19. Is there any research on Extended Schools?

There have been a number of studies on the impact of Extended Schools . Although it is impossible to summarise the findings of all the evaluation studies here, in general they have found that it is likely that Extended Schools generate benefits for children, young people and families in a number of ways, and that involvement in extended activities is compatible with maintaining high standards in raising pupil attainments.

20. Where can I get more information about Children's Centres and Extended Schools?

Further information about Children's Centres and Extended Schools can be found at:

www.surestart.gov.uk
www.dfes.gov.uk
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk
www.teachernet.gov.uk

or contact

Danielle Swainston, 01429 523671 danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk
Ian Merritt, 01429 523774 ian.merritt@hartlepool.gov.uk

**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT
DRAFT CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND EXTENDED SCHOOLS STRATEGY**

I wish to make the following comments on Hartlepool Borough Council's draft strategy for Children's Centres and Extended Schools.

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Signed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form by 16th December to: Hartlepool Borough Council
Children's Services Department
(For the attention of Sylvia Frain)
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool TS24 8AY

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: FIRST CONSULTATIVE DRAFT OF A CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the forum of progress towards a first Children and Young People's Plan for Hartlepool.

2. FIRST CONSULTATIVE DRAFT OF A CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has responsibility, under the Children Act 2004, to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan, in cooperation with individual key partners and partner organisations. The Children and Young People's Plan is to be the over-arching strategic plan that will cover all services available to the children and young people of Hartlepool. .

2.2 The main aim of the Children and Young People's Plan will be to ensure that all partners engaged in providing services for children and young people do so in a coordinated way. 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.

3. CONSULTATION PERIOD

3.1 A first consultative draft of the Children and Young People's Plan was published on 16th November 2005 and the consultation period on this first draft runs from 16th November **until Friday 16 December 2005**.

3.2 Approximately 400 copies of the First Consultative Draft and accompanying Consultation Response Form have been sent to partners, partner organisations, Elected Members, schools, colleges and representatives of young people and their families.

3.3 The documents can also be downloaded from the Council's website and can be found at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrensservices

4 ISSUES FOR CONSULTATION

4.1 Section 7 of the first consultative draft of the Children and Young People's Plan begins to identify some of the emerging issues for Hartlepool in respect

of the services for children and young people provided by the Borough Council and its partners. Views on the content of this section and additional issues to be included are particularly sought.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Consultative Forum is asked to note progress towards a first Children and Young People's Plan for Hartlepool.
- 5.2 Individual members of the Forum are invited to raise issues, express view or ask questions by completing the Consultation Response Form and submitting it as suggested in the documentation.

Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the forum of progress in the preparation of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and to seek comments on its content.

2. DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has prepared a Draft Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out the Council's policy for involving the community and key stakeholders both in the preparation and revision of Local Development Documents and with respect to planning applications.
- 2.2 The Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will form one of the first documents of the new Local Development Framework being introduced under the new planning system set out in the Planning & Compensation Act 2004.
- 2.3 Pages 12-15 of the Draft SCI explain how the Council will engage and inform the community during the preparation of Local development Documents. The Neighbourhood Forums are referred too on pages 13 & 14.

3 CONSULTATION PERIOD

- 3.1 The Draft SCI has been widely published. Copies of the draft SCI were made available for public inspection at public buildings across the Borough. The statutory consultation period ran from **Friday 29 July 2005 until Monday 31 October 2005**.
- 3.2 Presentations were given by planning officers to various community groups including the Hartlepool Access Group, Communities Working Together and The All Ability Forum to target hard to reach groups.
- 3.3 In all, 499 companies, groups, individuals and statutory organisations were contacted to inform them of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and subsequent consultation process, as were all members of the Council. While full draft documents were sent out to all Statutory Consultees,

documents were available free to all on request. The document was also put on the Council's website and was in a format that could be downloaded.

- 3.4 A four page summary document was produced and sent out to interested parties and was circulated at group meetings. Finally a standard form was devised to provide formal comments for the SCI. This was sent out with the letters and documents and also available on the website.

4 PUBLICITY

- 4.1 In addition to the direct contact highlighted above, a public notice publicising the SCI consultation process was put in the Hartlepool Mail on the 28th July 2005, 25th August 2005 and the 22nd September 2005. A public notice was also printed in the Northern Echo on the 28th July 2005. News items were placed on the Borough Councils website homepage on several occasions throughout the consultation period.

5 CONSULTATION RESULTS

- 5.1 In total there was 29 formal responses to the Draft SCI. 12 of these respondents were supporting the draft SCI and 11 were seeking to change part or parts of the draft SCI. Most of these suggested changes were minor in detail and will be easily incorporated. Changes sought by respondents included their organisation being listed as a consultee to detailed comments such as the use of technical language and the need for a more "town planning" focused title.

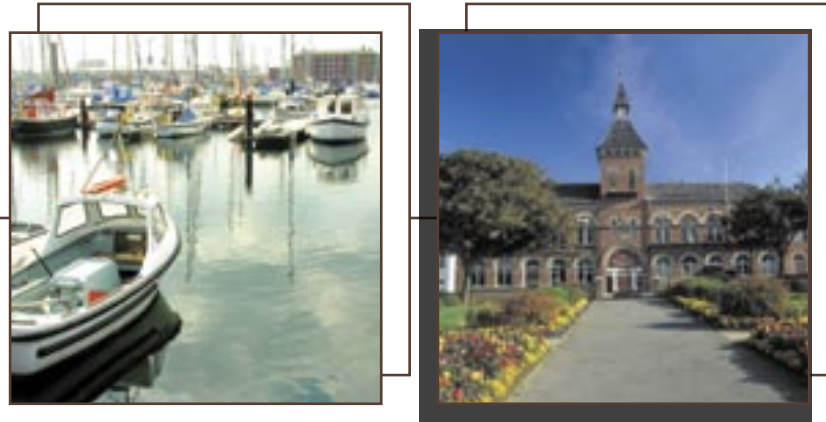
6 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The Council's Cabinet will consider the representations to the draft SCI in December and decide on any changes to be made. Once the Cabinet has agreed any changes an amended SCI will be then submitted to Council for approval and then to the Secretary of State. There will then be a further public consultation period lasting 6 weeks and, if required a local public inquiry to consider any significant outstanding objections.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Consultative Forum is asked to note the progress in producing a Statement of Community Involvement for the Borough and to make any comments on its content.

Summary of Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2005



Taking Part in Planning in Hartlepool

Summary of Draft Statement of Community Involvement



The Government has introduced changes to the way local plans are prepared, under the new Local Development Framework. One of the main aims of the changes is to encourage more meaningful community involvement.

As part of the new system, the Council has put together a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

This tells you:

- how you can access information,
- when you have the opportunity to contribute ideas
- when there are opportunities to take an active part in developing proposals and options,
- when you will be consulted and can make comments on planning applications and on options and proposals for future development,
- how you will get feedback and be informed about progress and outcomes.

Community Involvement in the Local Development Framework

The Council wants to involve you throughout the plan-making process, from the early stages, giving you a chance to influence plans when it is still possible to make changes. This is essential to achieve local ownership for the plans which will shape the future of the Borough.

The methods used to consult will be tailored to engage the appropriate parts of the community at all stages where involvement is relevant and of value. The Council want to make sure that all sections of the local community have the opportunity to have their say. Information will be made widely available via a variety of methods, including

- paper and electronic formats,
- at local authority offices, local libraries and on our web site,
- newsletters and the local press, and
- a variety of formats to cater for special needs.

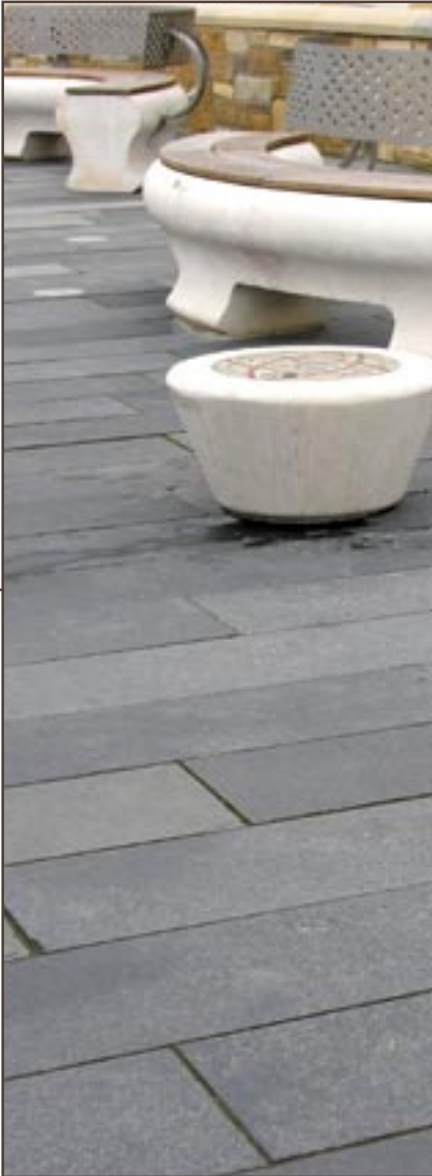
We are committed to provide feedback to those who participate in the consultation. In addition the Council will evaluate and learn from the consultation exercises, so that methods and arrangements can be changed and improved to meet your needs.

Community Involvement in Planning Applications

Under the new system, the Government is keen to see developers working with the community on development proposals before applying for planning permission. The Council is therefore encouraging developers to carry out pre-application consultation with the community on major applications which may have wide-ranging effects.

Once applications have been submitted, the Council will use a range of measures to publicise and consult on proposals and inform interested parties of the decisions reached. The measures used will be sensitive to the specific circumstances of proposals and designed to ensure that all interested parties can be informed and involved.





More Information

To view a full copy of the draft SCI, follow the website links at www.hartlepool.gov.uk where a copy is available to download. Alternatively, you can inspect copies at Bryan Hanson House, Civic Centre, the Central Library and Branch Libraries.

If you would like your own copy, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01429 523532.

If you wish to receive this draft in another format, e.g. large text, Braille, spoken tape or another language, please contact the Planning Policy Team by telephone on 01429 523532 or by email to planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk.

Making Comments

Comments on the draft SCI should be made on the form available for this purpose. The form can be found at the locations mentioned above, be downloaded from the Hartlepool website (www.hartlepool.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy) or can be sent electronically to you (contact planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk). Forms should be returned by post, fax or e-mail by 31st October 2005 to:

Planning Policy
Department of Regeneration and Planning
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Fax: 01429 523532

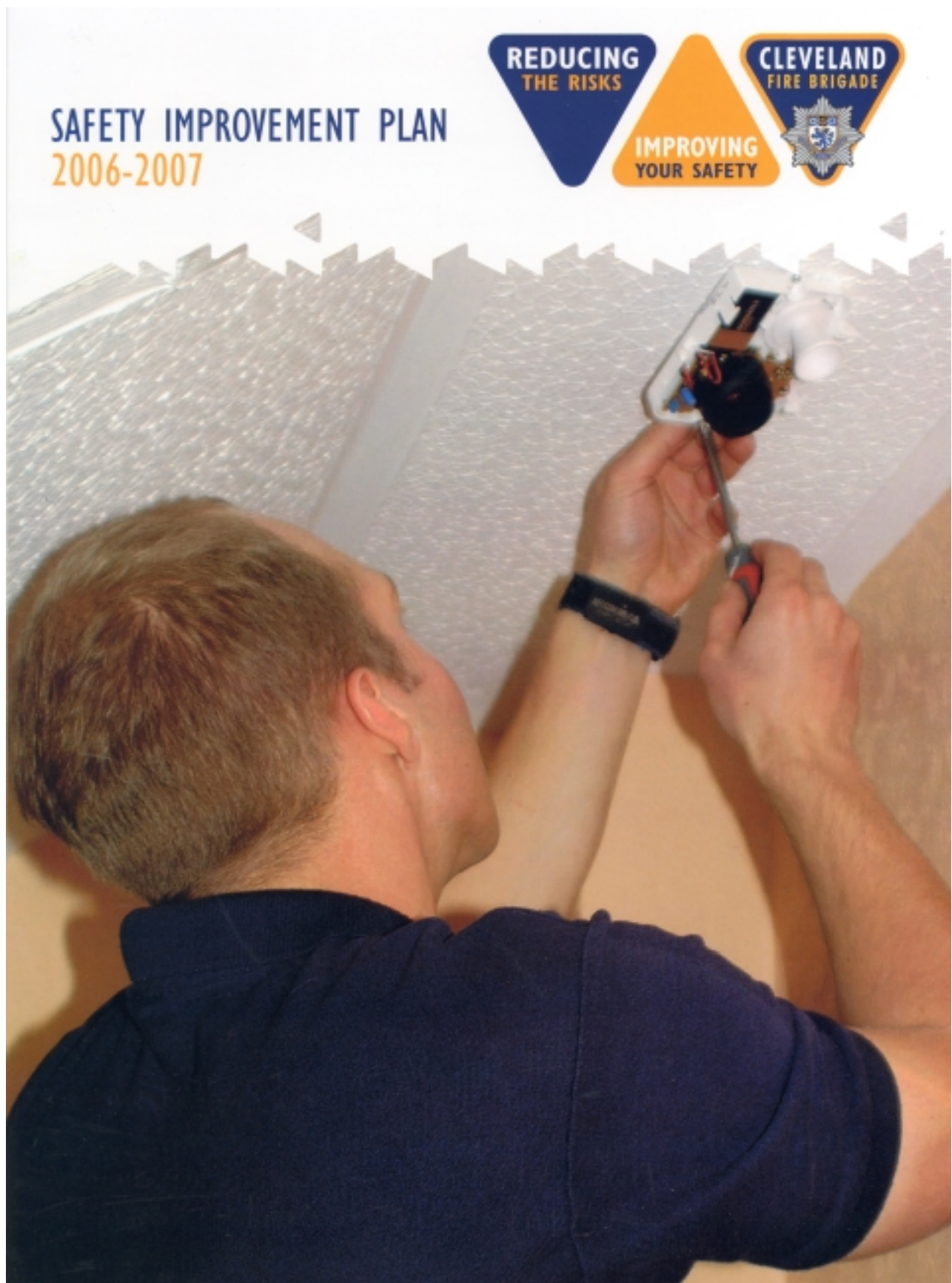
Email: planningpolicy@hartlepool.gov.uk



6.4

A short presentation will be made by a Cleveland Fire Brigade Officer.

Copy leaflet and questionnaire are attached. Colour booklets and further information will be available at the meeting.



The right people, in the right place at the right time

FIREFIGHTERS TAKE TO THE STREETS

At one time if you saw firefighters in your community you knew there was a problem. There was usually an incident - often life-threatening - and we were there to rescue people.

THAT IS BEGINNING TO CHANGE

Today you are more likely to see firefighters out and about in the community working with people to prevent incidents from happening in the first place. It is all part of our plans to be the best when it comes to protecting our local communities.

A whole range of community safety activity is carried out in the following areas:

- ▲ Community Fire Safety
- ▲ Arson Task Force
- ▲ Youth Development
- ▲ Road Safety

Individual programmes which have contributed to a reduction in total fires of 27% include:

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

These offer a free home check designed to identify hazards, provide free fire safety advice and assist in fire planning. Carried out by trained firefighters, they frequently include fitting free smoke alarms. Since the programme was launched in June 2003, nearly 40,000 checks have been carried out. The brigade plan to carry out a further 25,000 checks in 2006-2007 if the improvements proposed in the summary are implemented.

SCHOOLS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This targets local children from nursery through to secondary school to discuss the role of the brigade, causes of domestic fires and preventing hoax calls. In 2002-2003 over 200 schools received educational visits and a further 100 were present at workshops attended by Cleveland Fire Brigade.

FIRESETTING INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES

Firesetting Intervention Programmes are run by a professional team to educate children and young people from 3 to 18 on the dangers of playing with fire. To catch problems early, the team is invited into the home by parents who are worried that their children are playing with fire.

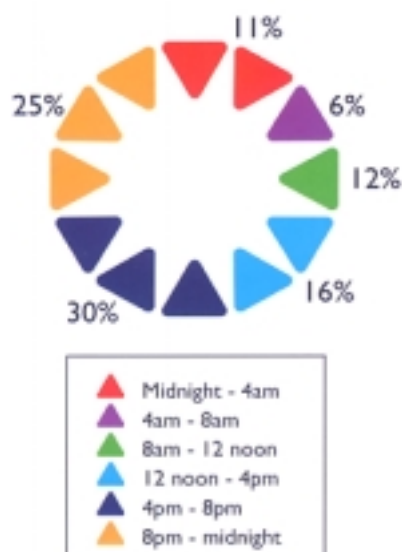
LOCAL INTERVENTION FIRE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Local Intervention Fire Education Programme is run in partnership with local youth development agencies. A one week intensive course, it is designed to develop the potential of young people.

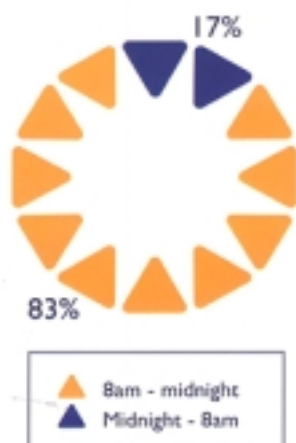
Programmes such as these - and many more - are delivering a safer community in our four local authority areas. If the Safety Improvement Plan is implemented the amount of time and resources dedicated to community work such as this will increase significantly while at the same time the Brigade will maintain its excellent response services.



SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS



Number of times Fire Engines are called on for emergency response by four hour time slices.



Utilization of Fire Engines by time period

Most incidents resulting in injuries and death occur in people's homes, yet our resources have traditionally been organised to respond to town centre and major industrial fires. The same number of firefighters are on duty around the clock, yet 83% of the occasions when our fire engines are called into action for emergencies are between 8am and midnight - the same time when we need to be out in the community educating people on how to keep themselves and others safe.

This is not the best use of our resources. We need to put the right people in the right place at the right time if we are to achieve our goal of making our communities safer. To make that a reality, we are recommending the following changes:

- ▲ Modify and improve standards of fire cover to provide benchmarks for emergency response which recognise the risk level in residential areas and provide adequate response to other areas
- ▲ By working with partner organisations and maintaining a strong presence in our local communities on fire prevention activities, we aim to reduce the level of fires which are started deliberately - currently, approximately 90% of all fires in the area are started deliberately
- ▲ In order to reduce the number of people who die or are injured from accidental fires, we are aiming to increase the number of Home Fire Safety checks to 25,000 per year. We will work with our partners in the community to provide safety services and will focus on those people and areas most in need

- ▲ Through our work with young people we aim to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in our towns and surrounding areas. Through projects such as the Young Firefighters and LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education) we will work within the community to develop young people's real potential
- ▲ We will prepare and provide resilience to our services and training for our staff to the highest standard so that they are prepared for emergencies at local, regional and national levels
- ▲ Specialist fire safety advice and enforcement resources provided to industry and commerce will be developed to ensure that sufficient levels of support are available when needed
- ▲ The health, safety and welfare of our staff is very important and we will continue to invest in further training to allow them to fulfil their role in providing safety in the community
- ▲ We will invest in support services to ensure that adequate facilities and infrastructure are provided to support community services and meet the local requirements of national projects
- ▲ In a bid to reduce the level of incidents involving road traffic collisions, we will work with our partners in the community to raise awareness of road and vehicle safety.



PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

PROPOSAL 1 - COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICES

INFORMATION - Cleveland Fire Authority has reduced the number of fires in the area however, there is still more work to be done. Further progress can be made by additional investment in prevention. Analysis of our current services has identified the capacity to reinvest resources of £1,912,745 to improve safety in our communities.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - Reinvest resources into the provision of improved protection and prevention services adequately supported by staff development, operational preparedness and sufficient infrastructure.

PROPOSAL 2 - BENCHMARKS FOR RESPONSE

INFORMATION - The old standards of fire cover did not adequately address the life risk in our communities and disproportionately placed resources.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - Apply revised risk categories based on local life risk identification and corresponding attendance benchmarks for life risk incidents.

PROPOSAL 3 - STRANTON STATION

INFORMATION - Combined utilisation of the 3 fire engines at Stranton Fire Station is less than that of the 2 fire engines based at Middlesbrough, Stockton or Grangetown stations. Cost per call is double that of Middlesbrough Station. Research suggests an optimum of 2 fire engines at Stranton Station. Response modelling shows a high cost benefit ratio for efficiency savings.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - De-staff 3rd fire engine from immediate operational availability but maintain the vehicle as a reserve. Re-deployment of resources equivalent to £693,308 or 24 posts (pending full costing).

PROPOSAL 4 - HEADLAND STATION

INFORMATION - Headland Fire Station was initially provided to comply with the old standards of fire cover due to the dockyard areas which have now largely been redeveloped. The fire engine at the Headland Station is currently staffed on a retained basis i.e. (by firefighters who respond when required from their home or work place). But it is in an area that can be provided for adequately by fire engines from Stranton Fire Station. Current provision only gives emergency response and does not meet all the needs for risk reduction in terms of prevention of incidents in the community. The area would be better served by a community safety provision.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - Change of emphasis from response only at the Station to focus on prevention activities that address the risk in the area. Maintain appliance as a reserve and amend contracts to reflect new duties for staff as necessary.

PROPOSAL 5 - CURRENT PROVISION AT THE MARINE STATION

INFORMATION - The Station area has a low frequency of life risk incidents and consequently lower likelihood of injury. Research indicates

this resource could be withdrawn without a significant change in life risk. Attendance times achieved in the Marine Station area indicate that fire engines from other fire stations can attend within the new proposed benchmarks for emergency response. It is recognised that the population of the station area is changing and the area is identified as suffering from higher levels of deprivation. The need for prevention work during afternoon and evening periods therefore remains relatively high.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - Change in the status of the fire engine to permanent staffing from 12.00hrs to 24.00hrs only. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £412,389 or 14 posts (pending full costing).

PROPOSAL 6 - CREW SIZES AT THORNABY STATION

INFORMATION - Incident performance information indicates that one fire engine is the optimum to meet attendance benchmarks for the Brigade; however Thornaby Station provides a reinforcing role for Coulby Newham and Yarm Station areas that currently have only one fire engine. The station also provides specialist emergency provision for water related incidents.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - We intend to adjust the crew size to a minimum attendance for 'life risk' incidents of 2 fire engines and 8 firefighters but emergency response times will remain unchanged. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £227,480 or 8 posts (pending full costing).

PROPOSAL 7 - CREW SIZES AT REDCAR STATION

INFORMATION - Lower utilisation of both fire engines for emergency response. The station provides a supporting role to 'low risk areas' and has industrial risks within the current station boundary. Support from neighbouring stations is influenced by its location.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - We intend to reduce the crew size to a minimum attendance for 'life risk' incidents of 2 fire engines and 8 fire fighters but emergency response times will remain unchanged. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £227,480 or 8 posts (pending full costing).

PROPOSAL 8 - PROVISION OF AERIAL APPLIANCES (HYDRAULIC PLATFORMS)

INFORMATION - The aerial appliances have not been used for rescues from fires in the last 3 years. They are occasionally used to provide fire fighting water, to rescue people trapped or injured at height and to provide safe systems of work for firefighters. The provision of these appliances needs to be balanced against the cost and maintenance demands. They are very expensive pieces of machinery which require special skills and training for staff. One of the 2 aerial appliances is approaching the end of its serviceable life and replacement by a similar appliance would cost approximately £750,000.

OPTION FOR CONSULTATION - De staff one hydraulic platform. Make arrangement with Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service for an aerial appliance to be available if required. Re-deployment of resources into Community Safety equivalent to £352,088 or 12 posts (pending full costing).



BRIGADE PLANS BUILD ON SUCCESS

At Cleveland Fire Brigade our aim is to make local communities safer and better places in which to live - and our record proves that we are living up to that promise.

In 2004-2005 the Brigade helped reduce the total number of fires by 27%. At the same time hoax calls were reduced by 28% and road traffic accidents by 3%.

These improvements were achieved at a time when no extra resources were put into response services. Instead, we have focused on working closely with partners and local communities to prevent incidents from happening in the first place.

We have also concentrated on matching our resources to areas of greatest need, namely in those areas where people live. In particular, we have been active in developing and supporting projects working to prevent incidents in our most disadvantaged areas.

This is an approach which is working - and one which we are giving a further boost through our new Safety Improvement Plan 2006/2007.

The plan is designed to improve our performance still further, by moving resources into areas where they are most needed - out in the community.

The improvements, which are summarised in this document, are based on extensive research and years of experience. They are designed to match resource to risk. For example, we know that the lowest demand for our services is during the night, yet our operational staffing remains the same throughout a 24 hour period. This is restricting the amount of work we can do in carrying out Home Fire Safety Checks, educating young people on the dangers of fire, helping prevent arson and hoax fire calls, and our work with partnerships with all members of the varied community in Cleveland.

The changes we are proposing will release a substantial resource to work in the community during the day, helping to prevent fires. At the same time, we have been able to manage our resources in a way which ensures that our ability to respond to 999 calls does not suffer.

This leaflet summarises the improvements we would like to make, but we want to hear your views.



Protecting local communities

*Working with others to
build a safer environment*

HAVE YOUR SAY

Our aim is simple - to be the best fire and rescue service at protecting local communities.

To help achieve that aim the Brigade publishes a Safety Improvement Plan every year which it puts out to public consultation. This leaflet summarises the plan for 2006-2007. It outlines proposed improvements and is designed to encourage you to provide your comments on those changes to the Brigade.

If you wish to comment on the content of this leaflet, would like a copy of the full consultation document or require documentation in an alternative format or language please:

- ▲ Visit Cleveland Fire Brigade's website on www.clevelandfire.gov.uk
- ▲ Email IRMP@clevelandfire.gov.uk
- ▲ Or contact Tracey Bell
Cleveland Fire Brigade
Headquarters, Endeavour
House, Stockton Road,
Hartlepool TS25 5TB
01429 872311 ext 4113

DURING 2004-2005 WE HAVE REDUCED...

Total Fires	down	27%
Road Traffic Accidents	down	3%
Hoax Calls	down	28%
Accidental Dwelling Fires	down	7%
Deliberate Small Fires	down	30%
Deliberate Dwelling Fires	down	20%
Automatic Fire Alarms	down	7%
Deliberate Vehicle Fires	down	28%



WE VALUE YOUR OPINION.

Please consider the following statements and express your view by marking one box against each question.

A copy of this questionnaire is available on our website @ www.clevelandfire.gov.uk for electronic submission.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. The programmes implemented over the last few years to prevent fire related incidents have resulted in the number of fire related incidents being reduced by 27%. We propose to build on this and increase activities for preventing fires and related incidents
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
2. Research shows that the majority of incidents occur between 8am and midnight, the same time when we need to be in the community educating people. Currently, emergency cover is the same at all times. We aim to realign our resources to enable us to carry out more prevention based activity.
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
3. Research has identified that the risk to life from fire is significantly lower in some areas than others. We will provide emergency response that matches this varying risk and increase resources for prevention activities.
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
4. We plan to increase the number of Home Fire Safety Checks to 25,000 per year.
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
5. We will increase the support offered to the most vulnerable members of our community through education and advice.
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
6. Stranton. At the moment there are 3 fire engines at Stranton Fire Station, which are currently under used for emergency response. This is not an efficient use of resources so we propose to destaff the 3rd fire engine from Stranton Fire Station and redeploy resources into our Community Safety Programme whilst maintaining the fire engine as a reserve vehicle.
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
7. Headland. The area covered by Headland Fire Station can be covered adequately by Stranton Fire Station within the benchmark response times proposed. We will maintain the resources at Headland Fire Station to focus on prevention based activities and maintain the fire engine as a reserve.
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
8. Marine Fire Station area has a low frequency of life risk incidents, with a lower likelihood of injury and can be covered by fire engines from other stations within the new proposed benchmarks for emergency response. We propose to change the staffing provision for this fire engine so that it is crewed between 12.00 to 24.00 hours.
Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐



Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum – 1st December 2005

- 9.** Thornaby & Redcar: We intend to adjust the crew size to maintain a minimum attendance for life risk incidents of 2 fire engines with 8 firefighters but emergency response will remain unchanged. We will redeploy released resources to our Community Safety Programme.

Strongly Agree ☐

Agree ☐

Disagree ☐

Strongly Disagree ☐

- 10.** Aerial Appliances. We currently have 2 aerial appliances (hydraulic platforms), both of which have been infrequently used in recent years. The cost of providing and maintaining these appliances needs to be balanced against the amount of times they are needed. We propose to: De-staff one appliance and maintain it as a reserve. Enter into a partnership with County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to supply a second aerial appliance, if necessary.

Strongly Agree ☐

Agree ☐

Disagree ☐

Strongly Disagree ☐

Additional Comments

Please return this in the envelope enclosed, or return to:

Cleveland Fire Brigade

Freepost

NEA 10842

HARTLEPOOL

TS25 5BR



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood Services

Subject: YORK ROAD HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum of the proposed highway improvements to the section of York Road between Park Road and Burn Valley Roundabout.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A scheme to improve the footways and carriageways on York Road between Victoria Road and Park Road was delivered in 2001 through the first Local Transport Plan. Hartlepool's provisional second Local Transport Plan includes the proposal to continue a phased programme of highway improvements on York Road from Park Road Burn Valley roundabout at the junction of Stockton Road.
- 2.2 The proposed improvements would be carried out in three phases:
- Phase 1 – Park Road to Lister Street (2006/07)
 - Phase 2 – Lister Street to Elwick Road (2007/08)
 - Phase 3 – Elwick Road to Burn Valley roundabout (2008/09)
- 2.3 The proposed measures include short stay car parking lay-bys, bus lay-bys, junction improvements, pedestrian crossing facilities, new street furniture, improvements to street lighting, renewal of the footways and resurfacing of the carriageway.
- 2.4 Following Portfolio Holder approval, Phase One of the scheme is proposed to commence in summer 2006.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

- 3.1 Consultation on Phase 1, 2 and 3 of the scheme is currently ongoing. This includes:
- posting of a letter explaining the proposals and inviting comments to those businesses and occupiers directly affected by the works on York Road, Park Road, Lister Street, Elwick Road, Houghton Street, Whitburn Street and Stockton Road. Letters have also been sent to ward councillors, Stagecoach Hartlepool and the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust;

- holding public consultation events at St Georges' Church Hall on Wednesday 16th November 2005 and Richard Court on Wednesday 23 November 2005;
- presentation of the proposed scheme design to the Council's Traffic Liaison Group;
- presentation of the proposed scheme to the Hartlepool Access and Audibility Group.

- 3.2 A plan showing the provisional scheme design will be made available at this Forum meeting. Members' comments on the provisional scheme design can be made verbally at this meeting, or in writing to the address below no later than Monday 19 December 2005.

Mr A Gough
LTP Co-ordinator
Hartlepool Borough Council
Bryan Hanson House
Hanson Square
Hartlepool
TS24 7BT

Or Email to: transport@hartlepool.gov.uk

- 3.3 All comments received during the consultation period will, where appropriate, be incorporated into a revised final draft scheme design. This revised scheme design would then be subject to a second round of consultation early 2006.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum be provided with a report on the consultation results and a plan of the draft final scheme design for comments.