



HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

hartlepoolpartnership

Hartlepool's Ambition

Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Adopted July 2008

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এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায়, বড় প্রিন্ট আকারে এবং অডিও টেপ আকারেও অনুরোধে পাওয়া যায়। (Bengali)

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。 (Cantonese)

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है (Hindi)

ئەم بەلگەيە ھەر ھەروەھا بە زمانەکانی کە، بە چاپی درشت و بە شریتی تەسجیل دەس دەکەویت (Kurdish)

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب. (Arabic)

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formie audio. (Polish)

درخواست پریدستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔ (Urdu)

Table of contents

- Foreword by Mayor Stuart Drummond 5
- Executive Summary 6
- Introduction 10
- Hartlepool Community Strategy – the first 5 years 13
- Spatial Planning 15
- Our Vision 17
- Our Principles 18
- The Renewal of Hartlepool’s Neighbourhoods 19
- Children and Young People 20
- Sustainable Development 21
- Our Eight Aims 23
 - Jobs and the Economy 24
 - Lifelong Learning and Skills 29
 - Health and Wellbeing 35
 - Community Safety 39
 - Environment 44
 - Housing 48
 - Culture and Leisure 51
 - Strengthening Communities 54

Implementing the Community Strategy 58

Implementing the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 60

Timetable for future reviews 64

Appendix 1 List of Abbreviations..... 65

Appendix 2 Glossary of Terms..... 66

Endnotes 69

Foreword

Mayor Stuart Drummond
Chair of the Hartlepool Partnership



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

Many of the Strategy's priority aims match my concerns – the quality of the local environment, community safety and providing activities for young people. Taking on the role of Chair of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership meant I could take a hands-on role in driving forward these improvements, working with partners and local people to ensure our everyday activity makes a full contribution to improving community safety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Stuart Drummond". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

July 2008

Executive Summary

The Hartlepool Partnership has brought together a wide range of partnerships delivering local services to prepare this Community Strategy. It has listened to the views and experiences of residents and service users. Building on the 2002 Community Strategy, this updated Strategy called ***Hartlepool's Ambition***, provides a policy framework for Hartlepool for the next 15 years. It contains:

- an updated vision, with stronger health and community safety dimensions;
- nine principles that set out the values and practices that will be followed by those delivering the Community Strategy that provide a clearer focus for activity;
- eight priority aims each with their own set of outcomes and objectives that provide further detail of the ambition behind the Community Strategy vision;
- a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy that outlines how we will make certain that inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities will be tackled;
- a set of outcomes that aim to improve the lives of our children and young people;
- a renewed commitment to sustainable development and tackling the effects of changes to our climate;
- a stronger link between the priorities established in the Community Strategy and new arrangements for spatial planning;
- details of how the Strategy will be delivered and arrangements for future reviews.

Hartlepool Community Strategy: the first five years

There have been significant changes in the way that residents and local businesses provide and receive services. For many these changes have brought increased opportunities and improved quality of life. Reductions in levels of unemployment, the opening of new business premises and exciting plans for the development of Hartlepool Quays have contributed to Hartlepool's strong economic performance. Hartlepool's young people continue to achieve great vocational and academic success. Employers are investing in workforce development and providing opportunities for highly skilled and educated people to remain in Hartlepool. The introduction of neighbourhood policing has responded to residents' concerns and placed officers at the heart of communities. There have been significant decreases in crime with both domestic burglary and vehicle crime reducing by over 60% since 2001.

Some of the biggest changes have taken place in our housing market. The quality of our social housing stock has markedly increased as a result of substantial investment. However, from a period of relative stability, house prices have increased and affordability has become an issue for many more residents. Changes in the global economy have sparked a national housing market downturn putting at risk Hartlepool's ambitious plans for market renewal.

There has been an increased momentum to safeguard our natural resources. Recycling rates have increased by 20% and new nature conservation areas have been designated. The Partnership has committed itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to be prepared for the climate change that cannot now be avoided.

The vision

The Community Strategy describes a long-term vision - Hartlepool's ambition and aspirations for the future:

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

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy vision has remained unchanged since 2002 and is to:

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

The Aims

1. Jobs and the Economy

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Attracting investment
- Being globally competitive

- Creating more employment opportunities for local people
- Achieving economic wellbeing for our children and young people

2. Lifelong Learning and Skills

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Enabling our children and young people to enjoy and achieve
- Increasing skills and academic achievement
- Providing excellent services and facilities
- Providing support and increased access

3. Health and Wellbeing

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Easier access to services and increased choice
- Improved health
- Improved mental wellbeing
- Ensuring our children and young people are healthy

4. Community Safety

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Reduced crime
- Reduced harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol
- Improved neighbourhood safety and increased confidence
- Reduced offending and re-offending
- Ensuring our children and young people stay safe

5. Environment

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment
- Delivering an effective and efficient transport system
- Creating sustainable communities

6. Housing

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Balancing housing supply and demand
- Improving the quality of existing houses
- Meeting the housing needs of vulnerable people

7. Culture and Leisure

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Enriching lives through enjoyment of leisure, culture and sport
- Ensuring services better meet the needs of the community

8. Strengthening Communities

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

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Empowering local people to have a greater influence
- Creating a thriving voluntary and community sector
- Increasing community cohesion
- Ensuring everyone, especially our children and young people, can make a positive contribution

The Renewal of Hartlepool's Neighbourhoods

In achieving the Community Strategy Vision it is essential that improvements are made across the Borough. Within Hartlepool there are a number of neighbourhoods which have been identified as disadvantaged. These neighbourhoods need additional support in order to improve the life chances of the residents who live and work there.

Our strategy for doing this involves:

- Improving how we involve residents and service providers in the preparation and delivery Neighbourhood Action Plans;
- A commitment to improving the evidence we use to shape Neighbourhood Renewal activity;
- A clearer focus on re-shaping mainstream services;
- Seeking additional resources for Neighbourhood Renewal.

Ensuring it happens

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

The Hartlepool Partnership is made up of a Board and a series of Theme Partnerships. The Hartlepool Partnership Board has a Chair and 42 members. The role of the Board is to provide strategic co-ordination and agree policy on major issues of strategic importance to Hartlepool.

The Community Strategy is underpinned by a series of Strategies that make up the Hartlepool Partnership's Policy Framework. These strategies will be adopted by the Hartlepool Partnership Board and by partner organisations, many of whom share statutory responsibilities for their production and delivery. Once the strategies are in place, Theme Partnerships oversee their implementation.

Hartlepool's Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will need to be reviewed over time. A Community Strategy review might take different forms:

- a staged review where individual elements or Themes are refreshed in turn;
- a discrete review where one element or Theme of the Strategy is refreshed.

In both these cases new chapters will be drawn up while the remainder of the Strategy stays in place. The full Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be reviewed again in five years.

You can find out more about the work of the Hartlepool Partnership and the progress we are making in delivering Hartlepool's Ambition by visiting our website www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk

Introduction

Hartlepool's Ambition

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

The Hartlepool Partnership

The Hartlepool Partnership has worked to prepare this new Community Strategy. The Partnership brings together all of the borough's partnerships delivering local services and is a network of partnerships. It provides opportunities for involvement for a wide range of organisations and individuals in the development and implementation of policy.

Community Strategy 2008 - 2020

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

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

The Vision is further articulated through a set of Aims, Outcomes and associated Objectives grouped into eight themes:

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

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

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

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

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

The Evidence Base

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

Consultation and Strategy Appraisal

The Community Strategy review was formally launched on the 5th May 2006. In advance of the publication of a first draft in Autumn, feedback was sought on the existing Strategy. This consultation ran for 3 months to the 31st July.

The first draft of the revised Community Strategy was published in September 2006 with a 9 week consultation period. There was broad support for the Strategy and agreement with the vision was high at over 90%.

Comments received during this first phase of consultation were incorporated into a second draft, published in March 2007. Four strategy appraisals then took place to highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and to remove or minimise any negative impacts. These were:

1. Sustainability Appraisal
2. Diversity Impact Assessment
3. Rural Proofing
4. Section 17 (Community Safety)

A report which summarises the outcomes of these appraisals can be found on the Hartlepool Partnership website at www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by following the Community Strategy link on the homepage.

The Strategy was revised taking into account these outcomes, and a third consultation draft was published in February 2008 with a 10 week consultation period. A report summarising consultation activity is available on the Partnership's website.

The final strategy was adopted by the Hartlepool Partnership and Hartlepool Council in July 2008.

The Strategy in Context

The preparation of the Community Strategy has been shaped by a number of Strategies that already exist at an international, national, regional and local level. These have provided an understanding of current trends and future plans, drawing on a broad evidence base. Many are rooted in economics and science; others analyse social research and statistics. A brief summary of these key documents is set out in Appendix A of the Community Strategy Sustainability Appraisal.

Hartlepool in Context

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

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

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

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

Plans for Hartlepool Quays, a regional priority for regeneration, establish a cutting edge 20 year vision with ambitious proposals to improve accessibility, and create confidence in the market. A new mixed-use community will be created setting new housing, community facilities, offices and retail in high quality public open space.

Routes to all surrounding areas will be improved through green infrastructure and a new pedestrian/cycleway bridge across the Harbour entrance to open up routes to the Headland. The scheme capitalises on the local coastline and creates a natural bond between the town centre, the Marina and the Headland ensuring Victoria Harbour acts not only as a centrepiece which local people can enjoy but also as an attractor for both visitors and inward investment.

Hartlepool's Community Strategy: The First Five Years

Hartlepool's first Community Strategy was published in April 2002. Major changes have taken place over the last five years in terms of improvements to the town and to how the Hartlepool Partnership and its partners are structured to deliver the Hartlepool Community Strategy.

Five Years on – what has been achieved?

Since the first Community Strategy was agreed in 2002 unemployment has fallen from 6.9% in 2002 to 4.5% in 2008. The number of young people and long-term unemployed has also reduced.

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

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

Pupils achieving a grade A* to C at GCSE in Hartlepool has gone up by 3% per year, over the last three years, to 62% in 2007. This is an all-time high for the local authority. For the first time ever, the percentage of pupils achieving five A* to G grades at GCSE reached the national average. Performance at Key Stage 3 (aged 14) in English, Maths and Science and at Key

Stage 2 (aged 11) has improved so much that Hartlepool has been identified as one of the most improved local authorities in the country. Performance at many levels in English and Maths is now above the national average.

There have been significant reductions in crime with both domestic burglary and vehicle crime reducing by over 60% since 2001. Residents also report feeling safer with 58% saying they feel safe out in their neighbourhood after dark in 2007 compared to 44% in 2001.

While there is still a long way to go to reduce the health inequalities that exist between life expectancy in Hartlepool and the rest of the country great progress has been made in reducing smoking. There have also been marked improvements in reducing teenage pregnancy.

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

An increasing number of people are satisfied with their area as a place to live – up to 83% in 2006 and more residents of Hartlepool now feel that there is a lot of community spirit in their area. Alongside these improvements steps have been taken to safeguard natural resources with recycling rates having increased by 20% in recent years.

Evolving Partnerships

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

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

Theme Partnerships including the Environment Partnership and the Culture & Leisure Partnership have become established, driving forward improvements. New partnerships focusing on emerging priorities of Skills and Financial Inclusion have been formed. The new Local Development Framework provides for closer alignment of planning policy with the Community Strategy.

All service providers in Hartlepool have responded to the challenge set out in *Every Child Matters*. The Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership was established in 2005 and formed the foundation for the development of the Children's Trust for Hartlepool which came into being on 1st April 2007. One of its primary functions is to co-ordinate the delivery of *The Big Plan* – our Children and Young People's Strategic Plan.

The Hartlepool New Deal for Communities (NDC) Partnership is half way through its ten-year programme and significant improvements are being delivered. 44% of local residents are now in paid work compared to 38% in 2000. There has been significant improvement in the educational achievement of young people in the area and over 370 over 16s have received bursaries to help them access training and education. The most marked improvements have occurred in Community Safety where the number of burglaries has decreased from 351 in 2001/02 to 128 in 2007/08.

In the north of the town £25m of renewal activity has been delivered to the Brus and St Hilda wards through the Single Regeneration Budget Programme.

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

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

Spatial Planning

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

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

A new planning system

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

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

- The **Core Strategy** which sets out the spatial vision and core strategic policies for Hartlepool, reflecting the priorities established in the Community Strategy;
- The **Statement of Community Involvement** which sets out how the community, including voluntary and community groups, local residents, businesses, landowners, statutory agencies and others with an interest in the new planning system will be consulted and engaged in developing and delivering local planning policy and with respect to planning applications;
- **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** including documents allocating land for future housing, making provision for affordable housing and addressing waste and minerals issues;
- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** which expand on or provide further detail to policies in the Core Strategy or DPDs including guidance on planning obligations from developers, requirements for transport assessments and travel plans and for design and sustainable construction. They could also include all or relevant parts of **Parish Plans** prepared by village communities to address their specific social, environmental and economic issues.

These various documents within the Local Development Framework are prepared and updated at different times through a continuous process. Further information on the timing of preparation and review of other elements of the Local Development Framework are set out in Hartlepool's Local Development Scheme.

This can be viewed online by visiting Hartlepool Borough Council's website www.hartlepool.gov.uk and clicking on the planning link.



Our Vision

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



Our Principles

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

Decision making and communication

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

Effective partnership working

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

Efficient partnership working

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

Integrity

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

Involvement and inclusion

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

Leadership and influence

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

Performance management

Actively managing the delivery of the Strategy by providing clear, robust and reliable information for monitoring purposes, establishing clear lines of accountability, managing risk, reporting by exception, and, when performance is not on track, taking action to address this.

Skills and knowledge

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

Sustainable development

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

The Renewal of Hartlepool's Neighbourhoods

In achieving the Community Strategy Vision it is essential that improvements are made across the Borough. Within Hartlepool there are a number of neighbourhoods which have been identified as disadvantaged. These neighbourhoods need additional support in order to improve the life chances of the residents who live and work there.

Neighbourhood Renewal aims to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to help tackle social and economic exclusion by lowering worklessness and crime and improving health, skills, housing and the physical environment.

The approach adopted within Hartlepool was set out previously in a separate Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) but has now been incorporated as an integrated, cross-cutting element of the Community Strategy. The aim and objectives of Neighbourhood Renewal in Hartlepool are set out below.

Our Aim

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

Our Objectives

1. To improve methods of consultation and working with communities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods through the development and implementation of Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs).
2. To work towards a better understanding of the key issues the Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) face and improve baseline information and the analysis of resources.
3. To better focus mainstream services on the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, reducing the gaps between the conditions in these areas and the borough-wide, regional and national averages.
4. To seek additional resources for neighbourhood renewal on the basis of need and opportunity in order to improve the life chances of residents within the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
5. To ensure that the Neighbourhood Renewal Area benefits from opportunities that exist outside the area and contributes towards the achievement of *Hartlepool's Ambition*.

Children and Young People

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

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

- Be Healthy (Health & Wellbeing)
- Stay Safe (Community Safety)
- Enjoy and Achieve (Lifelong Learning & Skills)
(Culture & Leisure)
- Make a Positive Contribution (Strengthening Communities)
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing (Jobs & the Economy)

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is important that **all** young children and young people benefit from the Plan. This includes those children and young people who use mainly universal services: these are services everyone uses such as maternity services at birth and schools when children get older. Some children and young people need extra support such as if a child has a disability or is fostered.

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

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

Sustainable Development

In working to deliver the Community Strategy Vision, it is important to be aware of the Strategy's broader impact on the local area. These wider aspects of a strategy's implementation can often be grouped into social, environmental and economic effects. This style of plan making, integrating social, environmental and economic issues, ensures sustainable development.

Sustainable Development is about delivering a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. A widely used international definition is that it is "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

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

Hartlepool's Community Strategy builds on the five principles of the UK sustainable development strategy:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, health and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance;
- Using sound science responsibly.

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

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

Source: Egan Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities

Sustainability Appraisal

A test of any strategy to ensure it contributes to achieving sustainable development is often referred to as a Sustainability Appraisal. The aim of a Sustainability Appraisal is to strengthen the contribution the Community Strategy makes to the sustainable development of Hartlepool. You can read more about the outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal in a separate report, available on the Hartlepool Partnership Website, by clicking on the Community Strategy link on the homepage.

A Low Footprint Future



As well as assessing the Community Strategy before it is adopted it is important to be able to measure the Strategy's progress to delivering Sustainable Development as it is being implemented. One way of doing this is by measuring the "footprint" the delivered Strategy creates.

Two footprint measures are often considered: the amount of land and sea we need to sustain our lifestyle – an *Ecological Footprint* and the amount of Carbon Dioxide that our lifestyle emits – a *Carbon Footprint*.

The Ecological Footprint calculates the impact of the energy, water and raw materials we use in our everyday lives. It also determines how much land is required to absorb our waste. Hartlepool currently has a relatively low Ecological Footprint compared to the rest of the UK, but this is still over twice the size of the world average. If *Hartlepool's Ambition* is delivered in a sustainable way we can stabilise our Ecological Footprint in the medium term and reduce it gradually over time.

Climate Change

Climate change is a serious problem that affects us all. There is strong evidence that human emissions of greenhouse gases are changing the world's climate. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO₂), produced when we burn fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas for energy.

Hartlepool's Climate Change Strategy (October 2007) sets out how the Partnership will prepare for the impacts of Climate Change and secure local action to reduce future emissions. The Strategy's aim is that:

Hartlepool will be prepared for the impacts of climate change and will be working in partnership to secure local and global action to tackle it.

Over 40 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions in Hartlepool come directly from what we do as individuals; heating and using electricity in our homes, buying goods and services and driving vehicles.

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

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

For each of the eight Community Strategy aims shown on the following pages, there is a section showing what a low footprint future could look like. You can read more about footprints and climate change on the Hartlepool Partnership Website by clicking on the Community Strategy link on the homepage.

Our Eight Aims

- 1. Jobs and the Economy**
Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.
- 2. Lifelong Learning and Skills**
All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.
- 3. Health and Wellbeing**
Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and wellbeing.
- 4. Community Safety**
Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.
- 5. Environment**
Secure and enhance an attractive and sustainable environment that is clean, green, safe and valued by the community.
- 6. Housing**
Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live.
- 7. Culture and Leisure**
Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.
- 8. Strengthening Communities**
Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

Jobs and the Economy

Introduction

The transformation of Hartlepool over the last 15 years has in many ways been remarkable with major changes to the built environment, significant reductions in unemployment and a diversification of the town's economic base. Hartlepool Quays, including Victoria Harbour continues to be promoted as a regionally important, regeneration priority.

The proportion of jobs in Hartlepool's manufacturing sector has fallen by a quarter in the last 10 years. The infrastructure of Hartlepool's economy is now strongly influenced by the public sector, which provides a third of all employment. The private sector is dominated by a few large employers and major individual investment decisions, including those relating to the future of Hartlepool's nuclear power station, will have an impact on the town's economic, social and environmental future.

The Tees Valley Vision, the Multi Area Agreement, the Tees Valley City Region Business Case and the Single Programme Delivery Plan include a range of schemes in Hartlepool that together significantly contribute to the regional economy. These include Hartlepool Quays, the Southern Business Zone and Seaton Carew.

Almost three quarters of the Borough's jobs are in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, though residents have to overcome many personal barriers to take up employment opportunities. More than 10% of the borough's working age population receive incapacity benefit, a legacy in part of the heavy industrial heritage of the town.

Business support services are effective and there is a strong drive to strengthen entrepreneurial activity. In 2006, Hartlepool had 170 new business registrations. Though the economy of the surrounding sub-region is not strong, it provides a significant pool of potential jobs. New ways of supporting the local economy, including financial assistance, will be implemented where appropriate. Skills development is a high priority. For employers, a highly skilled workforce is key to achieving higher productivity and greater competitiveness and profitability. For residents better skills can be a route to achieving better jobs, career progression and higher incomes.

Hartlepool's renaissance as a vibrant town with a strong leisure and tourism offer is well established with facilities and place destinations of sub-regional and regional significance.

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Attract Investment

1. To invest in infrastructure and environmental improvements in industrial and commercial areas that encourage additional private investment, productivity and employment.
2. To encourage the implementation of improvements and developments in the town centre and other key employment sites such as Victoria Harbour,

the Southern Business Zone (Longhill / Brenda Road / Queens Meadow) and Wynyard Business Park.

3. To encourage and support on-going investment by the indigenous business community and diversification of the urban and rural economy.
4. To promote Hartlepool as a destination of choice for inward investors.
5. To develop Hartlepool's leisure and tourism offer to further increase the town's importance as a visitor destination.
6. To ensure the availability of suitable, sustainable, development sites to support business development and start ups.

Be Globally Competitive

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

Create more employment opportunities for local people

11. To encourage and promote social and financial inclusion, ensuring that all local residents are provided with opportunities to achieve their personal, social and economic goals.
12. To improve skills for life and key skills and promote workforce development in industrial sectors with growth potential such as construction, leisure & culture and health & social care.
13. To promote good recruitment and employment practices amongst the local business community, encouraging diversity so that all residents, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion and belief have equal access to employment opportunities.
14. To encourage the development of links between education and business that create employment and training opportunities for young people.
15. To support the community and voluntary sector to continue its important role as a provider of employment and deliverer of services to the local community.
16. To target employment, training and enterprise provision such as New Deal, Work Based Learning and Pathways to Work at neighbourhoods with the worst labour market position and disadvantaged groups such as residents with disabilities, young people and carers in order to reduce worklessness, deprivation and poverty.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

To successfully deliver the Jobs and the Economy Theme of the Community Strategy in Hartlepool's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods there are a number of challenges. These include physical barriers of poor transport to employment opportunities and personal barriers for residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area to overcome to set up a business or enter employment. Evidence shows that residents from the area have relatively low skill levels, low aspirations and limited entrepreneurship.

Unemployment in Hartlepool has fallen in recent years and the gap between rates in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and the rest of Hartlepool has narrowed. But unemployment both in Hartlepool and in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area still remains higher than average.

Almost a third of children in Hartlepool live in families on out of work benefits. Child poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the wider community, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction.

A higher take up of skills for life courses will enable more residents to access employment. It is also important that training providers deliver vocational courses that meet local employers' needs. There is a need to develop the aspirations of residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area so that they not only move into employment but also consider self-employment and their future career progression.

Over the past few years there has been an increase in the average number of annual VAT registrations but there is still a long way to go to reach the average regional rate.

This highlights the need for simplified business support to enable residents to enter into self-employment, small businesses to grow and community and social enterprises to prosper.

The proportion of Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents of working age who are unable to work through incapacity is significantly above the Hartlepool rate and this is a particular concern for the Burbank and NDC neighbourhoods. There is a growing emphasis from Central Government on supporting this section of the community and changes to the benefit system should see an increase in the number of people returning to work.

The image of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area can discourage investment both from companies within and outside of Hartlepool. There are a number of undesirable business premises in close proximity to neighbourhoods. Recent improvements to business premises have increased the use of available units and been welcomed by residents, but there is still scope for further development to encourage future investment. Strong partnership working is underway to safeguard the vitality and viability of the town centre.

The importance of financial services in all of our lives has, in recent years, risen significantly. Exclusion from the financial system brings with it real and rising costs, often borne by those who can least afford them. Residents in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area can struggle to access appropriate financial services, enabling them to manage their money on a day to day basis, plan for the future and deal effectively with financial distress, should unexpected events lead to serious financial difficulty. Hartlepool's Financial Inclusion Partnership is working to improve access to free face-to-face money advice, banking and affordable credit.

Objectives:

- To investigate and remove the barriers that Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents face when moving into employment and training with particular focus on those related to benefits, aspirations, mobility, incapacity and discrimination.
- To further develop employability initiatives that provide support to residents of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area to enable them to access jobs and training with specific focus on the target groups of young people, lone parents and residents on Incapacity Benefit.
- To reduce child poverty by helping families to improve their earnings and ensuring they get extra assistance if their incomes fall short.
- To seek to develop Employment and Training Charters within major capital programmes to enable job creation to be targeted at economically inactive residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents, in order to better meet the needs of the labour market.
- To provide accessible and relevant advice and support to residents of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area to encourage self-employment and business creation.
- To support and encourage business investment and development in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area including the growth of community and social enterprises.

- To ensure Hartlepool's most vulnerable residents have access to free money advice, banking services and affordable credit.

Children and Young People's Plan**Achieve Economic Wellbeing**

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

Objectives:

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

A Low Footprint Future



An improved transport infrastructure links up business zones and promotes Hartlepool as a destination of choice for inward investors.

On-going investment by Hartlepool's business community supports the development of work-based travel plans and car pools. Businesses develop solutions that enable them to reduce their own impact on the environment as well as demonstrate ethical practices and social responsibility.

Partnerships with public transport operators provide special deals for employees of companies with active travel plans. Businesses work closely together and create alternative uses and new markets for waste. This contributes to the development of globally competitive enterprises.

The development of *live/work* schemes, the formation of *work hubs* and the promotion of flexible working contribute to the creation of more employment opportunities for local people.

Nationally, a drive for sustainable economic growth has seen the launch of funding to encourage the long term capital investment needed to make big CO₂ reductions.

Wider determinants

In delivering the Jobs and the Economy aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

- a more focused demand for skills and training with employers developing their workforce and influencing provision for future employees
- raised aspirations and a stronger entrepreneurial spirit leading to higher achievement
- residents enjoying better physical and mental wellbeing as a result of being in employment
- more targeted interventions to support those previously unable to work as a consequence of sickness or disability
- reduced vandalism and commercial crime as a result of investment in business premises and increased occupancy
- reductions in total crime as a consequence of increased earnings and higher levels of employment
- increased satisfaction with the local area following environmental improvements to commercial areas
- increased affordability in the housing market
- more private investment in home improvements, increasing energy efficiency and stock conditions
- strengthened demand for a range of housing type and tenure following inward investment
- a stronger cultural identity from a strengthened tourism offer and development of leisure and arts sectors
- increased financial inclusion giving more people access to affordable credit
- older people will be able to maximise their income by choosing to stay in work or drawing pensions and taking up available benefits and entitlements
- employers adopting good recruitment and employment practice strengthening the work/life balance

Lifelong Learning and Skills

Introduction

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

Significant progress has been made in schools' performance. Attainment gaps are narrowing and in many areas performance in Hartlepool is now at or above national levels. Most children and young people, including those who are vulnerable, make better progress than expected given their starting points. The development of an innovative 14-19 programme ensures that young people leave school with the skills to progress to further learning or work.

Hartlepool is embarking on a programme of rebuilding, remodelling, and refurbishing its secondary schools and the accompanying investment in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) over the coming years will support new ways of teaching and learning. The Primary Capital Programme will bring much needed investment and address the long-term needs of primary school buildings. Hartlepool's further and higher education facilities and courses are being enhanced by major new college and higher education investment.

A Play Strategy for Hartlepool has been developed with partners that sets out the importance of play for our children and young people. Play is crucial in ensuring healthy lifestyles and gives children and young people the opportunity to explore issues within an exciting environment.

Hartlepool has the highest percentage of adults with no qualifications within the Tees Valley. A concerted effort by Trades Unions, employers, community organisations and support services enables over a 1,000 adults each year gain new literacy and numeracy qualifications through the Skills for Life programme. Targeted training is providing more women, lone parents, older people and people with a disability with the skills to find and progress in work. However, the number of adults attaining basic and intermediate level qualifications is still below regional and national averages.

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Enjoy and Achieve

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

Increased skills and academic achievement

4. To create a culture of lifelong learning by raising expectation and promoting individual achievement, aspiration and self-esteem and encouraging entrepreneurship.
5. To improve skills for life achievement and promote employers' investment in workforce development as a route to increased competitiveness, higher productivity and profitability.
6. To increase the opportunities for highly skilled and educated people to remain in Hartlepool by encouraging an enterprise culture, helping create high value business start-ups and sustain business survival and growth.
7. To develop entrepreneurial skills in young people through enterprise education.

Service Providers and Facilities

8. To ensure the highest quality providers and provision, develop new delivery models, encourage innovation and extend the good practice.
9. To develop and support new and emerging approaches such as the adult apprenticeship pilot, the general diploma and specialised diplomas.
10. To improve the provision and dissemination of labour market information to enable service providers to respond effectively to employer and learner demands.

Support and Access

11. To improve the provision of effective information, advice, guidance and counselling to pupils, students, families, and the community as a whole, including voluntary groups.
12. To provide employers with advice and support on how their organisation's training and development needs can be best met.
13. To develop training provision which provides suitable progression routes to individuals to increase participation in learning, achievement and employment levels.
14. To improve personal, social and emotional development, confidence building, citizenship and health awareness and the opportunity to learn in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
15. To promote improved access to all types of education and training for all members of the community, promoting inclusion, breaking down barriers to learning including affordability, convenience, physical access and care, providing flexibility and new learning methods where practicable and widening participation for all.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Lifelong Learning & Skills is an important theme for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area as poor educational attainment and low skills levels impact on the ability of residents from this area to gain employment.

In Hartlepool the participation by 3 year olds in nursery education in all parts of the town is high, but there is a significant gap between the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and the Hartlepool rate for the percentage of children who have reached a good level of communication, social and emotional development by the end of the foundation stage. This is not just a concern for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area as there is also a long way to go before Hartlepool as a whole reaches the national target of 50%.

Although educational attainment in Hartlepool has improved significantly in recent years there are still pupils from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area who are not achieving national standards.

Attainment at Key Stage 1 in Hartlepool is not far from the national average however the Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhoods are the lowest performing neighbourhoods.

Key Stage 2 attainment is above the national average and although the gap between the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and the Hartlepool rates is closing, attainment in the neighbourhoods of Burbank, Owton, NDC and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange remains well below average.

Attainment for Maths at Key Stage 3 is above the national rate whereas attainment for English and Science is still below. Pupils from the Owton, North Hartlepool and NDC neighbourhoods perform well below the Hartlepool average.

Achievement of 5 A* to C GCSE grades at Key Stage 4 is below the national rate although performance has improved year on year. The gap between Hartlepool and the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has narrowed but the neighbourhoods of Burbank, NDC and North Hartlepool performed least well.

Poor performance at the key educational stages shows that pupils from the Burbank, Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, NDC, North Hartlepool and Owton neighbourhoods need additional support to achieve national standards.

Young people from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area form a significant part of the 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) group. This includes a number of young offenders. This group is in need of specific targeting from advice and support initiatives to assist them back into education, employment or training. Ongoing support will be needed to ensure that these young people complete their chosen courses or remain in employment.

The proportion of residents in Hartlepool with low basic skills remains high particularly in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. However, the number of Skills for Life qualifications has risen significantly with a greater proportion of those completed being from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

This demonstrates the success of targeted initiatives within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and highlights the need for this targeted approach to be continued.

Achievement of Level 1 qualifications by residents in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has reduced recently with achievement of Level 2 qualifications remaining steady. At the same time the number of residents from the area achieving Level 3 and Level 4 qualifications has increased. Whilst this increase is positive there remains a gap between the levels of skills attainment in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and that of the rest of Hartlepool. Further work needs to be done to improve access to both formal and informal learning opportunities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Local employers seeking to fill more of their vacancies with people who are furthest from the labour market indicate that applicants from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area do not always have the skills, behaviours and attitudes that employers need.

Opportunities for development include improved access to vocational training, increased familiarity with new technologies, employability training, tailored pre-employment training and work trials.

Objectives:

- To raise the achievement of all Neighbourhood Renewal Area pupils, students and learners to meet the relevant standards and targets.
- To improve the attainment of looked after children, children with special needs and disabilities, children in foster placements and those regarded as NEET by providing targeted support.
- Develop the skills, qualifications and adaptability of Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents, in order to better meet the needs of the labour market.
- To improve access to training including informal education and activities within neighbourhoods.
- To improve the skill levels of Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents of all ages, including literacy, numeracy and Information Communication Technology (ICT).

Children and Young People's Plan

Enjoy and Achieve

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children are given the best start in life through high quality early years provision and support for parents and carers. This will ensure that they are well prepared and ready for school, where they will enjoy their education and have opportunities to achieve their potential.

Objectives:

- Raise aspirations and help all children achieve their potential by:
 - Developing Children's Centres and Extended Schools as part of an integrated childcare strategy for under 5s;
 - Monitoring school performance and challenging and supporting schools to improve the quality of provision through an agreed School Improvement Strategy;
 - Support schools in developing robust self evaluation in order to ensure continuous improvement;
 - Paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and under-achieving groups.

A Low Footprint Future



Funding for redevelopment and refurbishment of Hartlepool's schools, colleges and university buildings has transformed teaching and learning for all Hartlepool's children and young people and increasingly supports family and lifelong learning opportunities. Sustainable construction and refurbishment provides value for money and encourages the design of flexible buildings that work as an integral teaching and learning resource.

Hartlepool's further and higher education establishments are at the forefront of generating and transferring knowledge – finding technical and social solutions to the challenges of sustainable development. They are sharing this information with business and engaging with communities.

Physical access to all types of education and training facilities is improved through enhanced public transport and higher usage. All schools and colleges have an active travel plan. Training and greater access to shared ICT facilities affords opportunities for all to innovate and widen their learning.

Sustainable development is a key part of the curriculum with students learning from an early age the skill and knowledge they need to play their part in delivering a low carbon future. Workforce development in the construction sector places a focus on sustainable construction skills ensuring that developers can draw talent locally to build houses to high code for sustainable homes standards.

Hartlepool's future leaders receive training to improve their negotiation skills and competencies in the financial aspects of sustainability. They are confident in leading their organisations in more environmentally and socially responsible ways.

Wider determinants

In delivering the Lifelong Learning and Skills aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

- employers keen to promote workforce development and engage with skills providers to shape future provision
- a capable and adaptable workforce able to support the competitive needs of employers
- a range of excellent schools and colleges, attractive to inward investors and future employees
- young people with higher levels of educational achievement that are less likely to have poor health as adults
- opportunities for offenders to engage in training or employment
- newly built and refurbished schools and colleges that design out crime, are adapted to changes in our climate and have low carbon and ecological footprints
- enhanced provision for older people to participate in lifelong learning, leisure and culture activities and sharing of skills
- more residents with improved skills for life with greater confidence and self esteem
- increased community capacity to participate in neighbourhood renewal activity

Health and Wellbeing

Introduction

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

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

Health services in Hartlepool are good; but they still need to be better. Plans are in place to provide a new system that will mean that more health care will be available in or near homes and that residents will only need to go to a new hospital for things which can't be provided locally.

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Improved Health

- To support the people of Hartlepool in choosing a healthy lifestyle.
- To reduce early death and ill health caused by heart disease, strokes and cancers.
- To reduce drug, alcohol abuse and smoking and to enable people with related problems to overcome them.
- To strengthen and support communities with specific needs to improve their health, well-being and social inclusion.

Easier access to services

- To work together to provide high quality, convenient, accessible and co-ordinated services when people need them.

Exercise of choice and control and retention of personal dignity

- To ensure people are in control of decisions relating to their own health and wellbeing and can get the support and care they require when they need it.
- To provide real choice for people, so that they can make decisions about their own care and support.
- To value the work that carers do, promote carer awareness and social inclusion and improve the identification, range of support and training for carers.

Improved mental wellbeing

- To promote mental wellbeing, reduce suicide rates and support people with mental health problems.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Although health in Hartlepool is generally improving, residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area are still more likely to die younger than residents in other parts of the Borough.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Area suffers from a higher death rate from cancer than the rest of Hartlepool and deaths from heart disease, stroke and respiratory disease are also much higher. In part this is due to the high levels of smoking within the area with over 50% of the population in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange and Owton smoking. This is significantly higher than the national average.

Poor diet and lack of exercise are contributing factors to poor health. Participation in physical activity and sport is lowest in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area despite the variety of recreational facilities available within the neighbourhoods. With obesity emerging as a national concern, local monitoring has recently begun with school age children and it is recognised that obesity is a developing issue for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Within the Tees Valley Hartlepool has the highest number of residents accessing drug treatment services and the majority of drug related litter collected in Hartlepool comes from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The availability of drug treatment services and support for addicts and their families is identified as a continuing need in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Teenage pregnancy remains a concern within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and although much progress has been made in recent years the rate of conceptions in those under 18 years of age is still above the Hartlepool, regional and national averages. The diagnosis of sexual transmitted infections has also increased greatly in recent years. The provision of accessible sexual health services within neighbourhoods has been welcomed by young people.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Area has a significantly higher rate of people incapable of work than the rest of Hartlepool and other Boroughs within the Tees Valley. The proportion of residents with a limiting long-term illness is highest in the Burbank and Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhoods where there are large elderly populations. In addition, the proportion of people in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area experiencing mental health problems is also above the Hartlepool rate.

The percentage of people in need of personal care is slightly higher in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area when compared to the rest of Hartlepool. The percentage in the Burbank neighbourhood is almost double the Hartlepool rate as the neighbourhood is home to a large elderly population.

Objectives:

- To protect and improve health and increase life expectancy by reducing health inequalities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To target neighbourhoods with screening and support services for heart disease, strokes and cancers.
- To encourage residents to adopt active and healthy lifestyles by promoting the benefits of regular exercise and working in partnership to provide additional support in local communities to increase participation in sport and physical activity.
- To improve the health, emotional development and wellbeing of all children, young people, and their families within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To reduce smoking, alcohol, drugs and solvent abuse in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area especially amongst young people.
- To focus resources on neighbourhoods to reduce the rate of teenage conceptions and improve sexual health.
- To improve mental wellbeing, raise awareness, reduce isolation, challenge discrimination and promote opportunities for people with mental health problems in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

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

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

Objectives:

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

A Low Footprint Future



New health care systems have brought services as near to homes as possible reducing the need to travel. As Hartlepool's population continues to live longer, when people do have to travel to clinics or the hospital, properly designed public transport make this much easier.

The newly built hospital with its innovative energy reduction design is highly energy and water efficient and has an ultra low carbon footprint. It uses natural resources to maintain air flow through the building and provides rooms for patients that create a healing environment.

Coordinated health and social care schemes are a feature of a strong and robust social enterprise sector working with the public sector to deliver health improvements.

New extra care developments provide real choice for people so that they can make decisions about their own care. Developments are notable for their extensive communal facilities and self-contained energy efficient accommodation.

Further investment in healthy eating projects, food cooperatives and lifestyle nurses, improve cooking skills and diets and support the people of Hartlepool in choosing healthy lifestyles.

Wider determinants

In delivering the Health and Wellbeing aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

- an excellent health care system that is attractive to inward investors and future employees
- residents able to move from incapacity benefit into employment
- a healthier, older workforce able to support employers meet their workforce needs
- residents with more active lifestyle spending time outdoors, making use of green space, more inclined to walk and cycle and take part in sport and leisure opportunities
- a reduced need for adaptations to housing due to better management of long term conditions
- residents with greater independence able to participate in community activities and shape service provision
- higher rates of volunteering and engagement in local democratic processes

Community Safety

Introduction

Community Safety is one of the highest community priorities. Whilst there have been recent improvements in reducing crimes such as domestic burglary and vehicle crime, reducing fear of crime and the need for public reassurance remains a clear priority. A strong partnership approach has underpinned improvements with key partners working hard to ensure their service delivery does everything it can to contribute to improved Community Safety.

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

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

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Reduced Crime

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

Reduced harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol

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

Improved neighbourhood safety and increased public confidence leading to reduced fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

8. To reduce anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and deliberate fire setting across the town, with particular focus on 'hot spot' areas.
9. To involve local communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.
10. To introduce measures to promote reassurance and improve public confidence in all sections of the community.

Reduced offending and re-offending

11. To prevent and reduce offending and re-offending.
12. To work with young people and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

In recent years crime in Hartlepool has reduced significantly, but the overall crime rate is still above the national level. Targeted work has been carried out to tackle community safety issues in Hartlepool. Awareness campaigns, target hardening of vulnerable properties and the development of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme through the Ringmaster system have all contributed to the dramatic fall in the number of domestic burglaries. However, despite the progress being made the proportion of those burglaries taking place within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has remained fairly static.

The proportion of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour reported to the Police has remained around 70% with many incidents being alcohol related including under-age drinking. Within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area there are increasing numbers of properties which are privately rented. The behaviour of some tenants within those properties is causing increasing concern and compulsory Landlord Licensing is to be introduced in those areas where the problem is most acute.

Drug dealing has been identified as a serious problem by residents throughout the Neighbourhood Renewal Area but has been particularly highlighted in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, NDC and Owton neighbourhoods. The majority of drug related litter collected comes from the area with the Stranton and Owton wards being responsible for the highest pick-ups.

Incidents of local violence (common assault and wounding) in Hartlepool have risen with the proportion of those in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area also rising. This includes town centre incidents of alcohol related violence and domestic violence.

Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property has been identified as a serious problem in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, NDC and Owton neighbourhoods. Since 2004 criminal damage in Hartlepool has increased.

With the community safety issues outlined above it is understandable that the proportion of people who feel safe walking alone at night in their local area is lower for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area than the Hartlepool average. Residents in Dyke House/Stranton/Grange, NDC and Owton feel the most unsafe.

The number of deliberate fires within the Borough is high and the proportion of those occurring within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area has remained the same since 2004. There are also problems of fly tipping.

As the Neighbourhood Renewal Area encompasses the town centre there is also a significant problem with crime against businesses including shop theft. Funding has been available to improve the security of business premises but this remains an important area for future activity.

Objectives:

- To maintain and where practicable increase the visibility of uniform presence within neighbourhoods.
- To develop further target-hardening and victim support measures in neighbourhoods to increase the security of homes and businesses, with particular emphasis on repeat victims.
- To work with young people from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and their parents/guardians and families to prevent youth offending and in particular anti-social behaviour.
- To provide an increased range of accessible diversionary activities and facilities for young people within local neighbourhoods.
- To reduce anti-social behaviour in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, with particular emphasis on behaviour associated with alcohol consumption generally and more specifically underage drinking.
- To improve communications with residents in order to increase the level of intelligence received and to ensure feedback on actions undertaken.
- To tackle the problem of drug misuse, particularly in respect of the under 30-age group, by education, enforcement and a harm reduction programme.
- To target those who deal in and supply illegal drugs in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To tackle environmental issues such as vandalism, graffiti and fly-tipping to improve the general appearance of neighbourhoods

Children and Young People's Plan

Stay Safe

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

Objectives:

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

A Low Footprint Future



A reduction in fear of crime has made residents of all ages feel more confident when they are out and about; day or night.

An established network of safe cycle routes and secure bike parking facilities has encouraged children and young people to cycle to school and employees to consider bicycles as a real alternative for their daily commute.

On public transport, improved safety at railway stations and on busses has convinced many to reduce their reliance on the private car and given those without cars opportunities to travel around Hartlepool and further afield.

A reduction in anti-social behaviour coupled with targeted interventions by landlords ensures houses remain in good condition saving energy and reducing running costs.

Strong partnership working has put in place robust arrangements to deal with more frequent extreme weather events.

Communities and businesses are actively adapting to risk. A review of planning controls and new guidance on buildings, drainage and sewerage systems will ensure Hartlepool is well placed to cope with the additional impacts of climate change.

Wider determinants

In delivering the Community Safety aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

- strengthened inward investment from reductions in total crime
- more viable local businesses through reduction in commercial crime
- the development of safe communities where people want to live and relocate to
- increased demand for training and employment opportunities together with specialist alcohol and drug treatment services as re-offending rates decline
- improved levels of mental health as anxiety and worry about fear of crime diminish
- greater take up of public transport, walking and cycling as communities become safer
- cleaner, safer and green public spaces as enforcement tackles fly tipping and deliberate fires
- stronger communities as neighbourhood justice and tenant management develop
- the development of a vibrant, diverse night time economy as antisocial behaviour and alcohol related violence is reduced
- increased physical activity for children and young people and improved satisfaction with safer play areas

Environment

Introduction

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

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

Hartlepool has a well developed green infrastructure and a rich environmental heritage that gives rise to diverse landscapes, a wide range of buildings, along with important wildlife habitats and species. It has an attractive coastline and a number sites with international, national and local nature conservation designations.

Hartlepool's transport system is pivotal to the town's economic success and the quality of life of its residents. Delivering an effective and efficient transport system makes social, economic and environmental sense allowing employees to travel and business to flourish whilst reducing the harmful effects of transport on the natural environment. Plans to improve public transport links and initiatives to reduce travel by car and encourage other forms of transport are in place. Poor transport provision can act as a barrier to the take up of employment, training and education opportunities, the ability of younger people and older people to access services and the provision of accessible health care facilities.

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Natural Environment

1. To protect and enhance the natural environment and its biodiversity, including sensitive and appropriate development of urban and brown field sites.
2. To protect and enhance the quality of watercourses, open water and coastal waters and their margins and minimise the risk of flooding to people, property and buildings from the sea, rivers and sewers.
3. To increase awareness and understanding of the natural environment.
4. To allow opportunities for the natural environment to adapt to the consequences of climate change.
5. To improve equality of access to high quality local environments where public and community open spaces are clean, green and safe.
6. To minimise all forms of pollution, make better use of natural resources, reduce the generation of waste, and maximise recycling.

Built Environment

7. To enhance the built environment & transport corridors and promote good urban design, and sustainable construction, while conserving areas of townscape, coast and assets with archaeological, architectural or historic significance.
8. To ensure that the built environment is responsive to long-term climate change impacts through the effective design, location and adaptation of buildings.
9. To record, enhance and raise awareness of the towns' heritage and ensure it is safeguarded for future generations.

Provide a sustainable, safe, efficient, effective and accessible transport system

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

Global Environment

14. To prepare for the impacts of and secure local and global action to tackle Climate Change.
15. To reduce and adapt to the effects of climate change by minimising energy use and by increasing the use of alternative and renewable energy sources.
16. To promote community involvement in positive action to reduce world poverty through fair-trade, promoting peace and security.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

In general residents within Hartlepool are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. However, satisfaction is slightly lower in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area with the lowest levels being in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange and NDC neighbourhoods. The proportion of residents that see litter and rubbish as a problem in their area is also significantly higher in the Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhood.

Positive end uses for vacant buildings and land are encouraged through proactive planning and regeneration schemes. The issue varies between neighbourhoods but vacant buildings are a particular problem in the Headland area of the North Hartlepool neighbourhood.

Poor transport provision is a barrier to financial and social inclusion and the relatively high cost of fares can act as a further barrier to its use. Those who do not have access to a car often rely on lifts or taxis. Satisfaction with public transport is lower in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area than in the rest of Hartlepool. Poor public transport has been identified as a serious problem in the Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhood.

Accidents at junctions and on roads in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area need to be reduced. The speed and volume of road traffic is classified as a more serious problem in the NDC, Owton and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhoods. A number of traffic management schemes have been developed through Neighbourhood Action Plan forums to ease these problems and make neighbourhoods safer.

Objectives:

- To increase satisfaction in local neighbourhoods by improving the management of litter, rubbish and vacant land and buildings and increasing the environmental quality of all public open spaces.
- To work with local voluntary and community groups to develop local initiatives which will identify ways of improving the quality of the local environment and access to public open spaces.
- To find new uses for redundant buildings in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area through the use of grant aid from regeneration schemes and the use of positive planning.
- To reduce the amount of derelict land within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area by using it for appropriate development or quality amenity areas.
- To ensure that neighbourhoods have access to a safe and effective transport system with public transport services provided throughout the week.
- To provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists in neighbourhoods with particular focus on improving access to employment sites and community facilities.
- To reduce accidents at the most dangerous junctions and roads in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and improve road safety awareness.

A Low Footprint Future



Widespread public take up of community re-use schemes is reducing the generation of waste. Improvements in energy efficiency is reducing overall demand.

Many residents are opting to grow their own food in gardens and on allotments. Composting and grey water systems are common place. One of our neighbourhoods is piloting personalised carbon credits for residents.

National plans for a secure, diverse, low carbon electricity supply are reflected in local planning policy with all major new developments required to reduce their expected carbon emissions and consider using on-site renewables. New housing developments are well planned improving access to a high quality local environment and community open spaces.

The continued development of an easy-access, safe and convenient bus service promotes social inclusion. Bikes are freely available across Hartlepool for short rides; extendable for a small hire fee. As a result both walking and cycling are on the increase.

The Hartlepool Partnership promotes carbon management programmes aimed at helping organisations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under their direct control.

Wider determinants

In delivering the Environment aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

- strengthened inward investment as a result of an improved transport infrastructure and an enhanced local environment
- healthier lifestyles from a transport infrastructure that provides safe walking routes and encourages cycling
- increased opportunity for older people to go where they want to safely, conveniently and affordably
- increased tourism and leisure opportunities through protection and enhancement of Hartlepool's natural and cultural heritage
- development of sustainable communities through provision of accessible open space

Housing

Introduction

The housing market in Hartlepool has changed dramatically in recent years. Market demand now exceeds supply in most areas and there has been a significant increase in house prices across the borough. The strong demand for private rented accommodation is affecting affordability as rents rise above housing benefit levels.

Significant levels of new build have diversified the housing stock and new housing completions remain high. Housing costs remain lower than average for the region, particularly for terraced dwellings. Balancing the supply and demand of housing to meet the needs and aspirations of the population is essential and opportunities to undertake market renewal using compulsory purchase order powers where necessary and to encourage new housing development and growth are being pursued.

With changing housing markets there is increased demand for social housing. The condition of the social housing stock has increased markedly resulting in low vacancy rates and long waiting lists. Housing options services and letting policy are being modernised and new methods of management in the private sector are being developed.

There is increasing need for support and appropriate housing for vulnerable people especially with an increasingly elderly population. New ways of supporting residents in housing need and the provision of affordable housing will be implemented, including financial support where appropriate. There is increased need for a range of accommodation including extra care.

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Balancing Housing Supply and Demand

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

Improving the quality of existing housing

4. To encourage improvements to homes to meet and exceed 'decent homes standards'.
5. To enhance the standard of management of social and private rented housing.

Meeting the Housing Needs of Vulnerable People

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

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Hartlepool has been affected by low and changing demand in the Housing Market. There are problems with vacant dwellings in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The majority of vacant dwellings are within the private rented sector with the vacancy rate being well above that expected within a healthy private sector housing market. The void rate in the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) sector is minimal, reflecting the high demand for social rented properties in the Borough.

Across Hartlepool, there is an over supply of smaller, older, terraced properties and this is reflected in concentrations of vacant and abandoned properties. There is a need to balance communities by encouraging a greater mix of housing types.

Much of this low demand housing is concentrated in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and many neighbourhoods are the focus of housing market renewal activity. Large scale regeneration has seen areas of housing demolished and replaced with new homes and community facilities including green spaces.

In recent years there has been a rapid growth in the private rented sector within Hartlepool and there are concerns that poor management has led to increased incidents of anti-social behaviour. A voluntary licensing scheme for landlords has had limited success with a number of landlords choosing not to participate. In order to tackle those neighbourhoods where poor management is a particular concern compulsory Landlord Licensing is to be introduced.

Satisfaction with accommodation is high in Hartlepool although it is slightly lower in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The Burbank neighbourhood has the lowest satisfaction level. Significant investment is being used to refurbish social housing across Hartlepool.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Area is home to a high number of vulnerable households. It is important that their needs continue to be met by assisting them to live safely in their own homes, offering a choice of suitable accommodation, reducing fuel poverty and preventing homelessness.

Objectives:

- To seek to balance supply and demand for housing in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area by reducing the number of vacant dwellings, ensuring housing is of the right size and tenure and is built within sustainable locations.
- To ensure housing regeneration activity in neighbourhoods is successful and secures follow on investment.
- To implement selective licensing in areas with low demand or anti-social behaviour.
- To achieve the Government's Decent Homes targets for social housing and private housing occupied by vulnerable groups.
- To provide support to vulnerable households to enable them to continue living independently and ensure the availability of suitable accommodation.
- To address the issues of fuel poverty in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

A Low Footprint Future



Developers implement and use the Code for Sustainable Homes to market good quality housing where people want to live. Many new homes now come with office work space with communication links, secure cycle storage and greater security features.

Homes are more energy and water efficient, produce fewer carbon emissions and are better for the environment. They create less waste, have lower running costs and encourage their owners to live more sustainable lifestyles.

An increasing number of homes for life lead fewer families' homes to require expensive adaptations and means residents are able to remain independent at home for longer.

To eliminate fuel poverty and support the needs of vulnerable people, specific measures are taken to tackle the energy performance of larger, older and hard to treat houses. Social housing exceeds the government's minimum standards, and although there is still a waiting list, residents are more able to readily secure houses that meet their needs. Work in partnership with landlords is providing a higher standard of private rental accommodation.

Wider Determinants

In delivering the Housing aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

- Strengthened inward investment from a housing market that is affordable for key workers and provides a choice of tenure, size and location
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased energy efficiency from improvements in housing stock
- Improved health from well maintained houses and an associated reduction in respiratory disease; mental illness, the spread of infectious disease and a reduced risk of accidents
- Increased opportunity through planning to fund new community sports and recreation facilities
- Development of sustainable mixed communities that bring people of all ages and backgrounds together
- More independent residents, able to live at home for longer

Culture and Leisure

Introduction

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

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

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

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

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Enrich individual lives, strengthen communities and improve places where people live through enjoyment of leisure, culture and sport

1. To create a strong cultural identity for Hartlepool within the region.
2. To celebrate Hartlepool and express that local identity.
3. To develop a sustainable cultural economy and build on existing tourism attractions.
4. Advocate the value of culture in meeting the expressed needs and aspirations of the community.

Cultural and Leisure services better meet the needs of the community, especially those from disadvantaged areas.

5. Increase participation, opportunity for access and diversity.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

Barriers to participation in culture and leisure opportunities are strongly linked to poverty and disadvantage. Residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area are less likely to visit museums and participate in arts and cultural events. There has been a recent increase in the number of residents from the Neighbourhood Renewal Area attending leisure centres, though some existing facilities do not have a universal appeal. Visits by some disadvantaged groups including those out of work or with disabilities are significantly lower. Satisfaction with sport clubs/facilities is lowest in the Burbank neighbourhood.

Within Hartlepool library visitor numbers have fallen in recent years. This mirrors the national trend which is linked to changing culture and lifestyles. Although satisfaction with library services is generally high in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area it is significantly lower in the North Hartlepool neighbourhood.

Nationally, affordability and accessibility have been shown to be barriers to young people visiting youth and community centres. However, consultation with young people in Hartlepool highlights that the lack of informal meeting places, organised activities and the poor state of existing facilities are the main reasons why usage is low. Satisfaction with youth and community centres is low in the Burbank and Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhoods.

Satisfaction with public parks and open spaces is lower in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area than across Hartlepool with the lowest levels of satisfaction in Burbank and Dyke House/Stranton Grange neighbourhoods. Satisfaction with play areas is also lowest in the Burbank neighbourhood. The reasons for these low satisfaction levels include concerns relating to lighting, security and the range of facilities. Further information is set out by residents in their Neighbourhood Action Plans.

Objectives:

- To target pro-active arts and sport development within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area in conjunction with concessionary schemes to facilitate access.
- To encourage partnership working with local schools and adult education, libraries, community sports facilities and arts development to increase use of community facilities in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To develop youth provision, meeting places and outreach work in neighbourhoods.
- To protect and enhance children's play facilities, open space and parks in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To build on good practice by engaging the community in cultural and leisure projects that encourage lifelong learning, creative activity, positive cultural identity and support a sense of ownership in neighbourhoods.

Children and Young People's Plan

Enjoy and Achieve

Our vision for this outcome in Hartlepool is that children and young people, especially those who are vulnerable, develop personally and socially, and that they safely enjoy recreation and leisure time away from school.

Objectives:

- Ensure all children and young people can access a range of recreational activities including play and voluntary learning.
- Work with the voluntary sector and other agencies to improve the range and quality of recreational learning opportunities for children and young people.

A Low Footprint Future



New sports facilities and attractions make the most of sustainable construction with environmental and ecological innovation.

Centres are supported by a transport infrastructure which increases participation and access to culture and leisure services.

Hartlepool's restaurants boast menus that combine seasonal, locally sourced ingredients with strong ties to fairly traded goods from developing countries.

Tourism is flourishing and visitors to the town are encouraged to "tread lightly" by choosing public transport to move around and using energy and water efficiently.

Wider determinants

In delivering the Culture and Leisure aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

- Strengthened inward investment from a strong cultural offer that attracts employees and their families to live in Hartlepool
- Increased economic investment and job creation through development of tourism and creative arts
- Increased health, wellbeing, physical confidence, coordination and skills from an uptake in active lifestyles associated with arts, sport and other culture and leisure activity
- Increased informal learning opportunities for residents of all ages
- Reduced antisocial behaviour and greater citizenship skills through participation in diversionary activities

Strengthening Communities

Introduction

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

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

Aim

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

Outcomes and Objectives

Empowered local people with greater influence

1. To enhance the democratic process by using existing structures more effectively and increase understanding and involvement in the democratic process.
2. To empower local people to take a greater role in the planning and delivery of services and strategies that affect their individual lives, their local neighbourhood and the wider community.
3. To increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially “hard to reach” groups and those communities affected.
4. To ensure that appropriate feedback is given to individuals and communities when they have been involved in consultation or decision making processes.
5. To improve the accessibility of services and information ensuring that providers address the varied needs and requirements of the whole community.

A thriving voluntary and community sector

6. To fully value the voluntary and community sector and to support them to secure their long-term future through contracted service delivery, promoting volunteering and the agreement of longer term funding settlements.

Increased Community Cohesion

7. To ensure Hartlepool is a cohesive community where there is a sense of belonging for all and where people of different backgrounds, circumstances and generations are able to get along free from discrimination and harassment.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Key Issues:

The empowerment of residents and the development of sustainable and cohesive communities are key elements of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Within Hartlepool the Community Network supports residents to have an active role in their local community and in the decision making process through local Residents Associations, Neighbourhood Action Plan forums, Neighbourhood Consultative Forums and the Hartlepool Partnership. However, whilst significant steps have been taken to involve local people in decision making, fewer residents within the North Hartlepool neighbourhood believe they can influence the decisions that affect their area than in the rest of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and the Borough.

Neighbourhood Renewal Area residents have relatively low feelings of involvement in the local community. This is demonstrated by low turnout rates at general and local elections and low levels of formal volunteering. Also, residents in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area are less likely to feel part of their community than those in the rest of the town. People living in the Rift House/Burn Valley, Rossmere and Burbank neighbourhoods are least likely to feel part of the community.

A significant number of people feel that there is little community spirit in their neighbourhood, especially in areas which have a largely transient population. The Burbank neighbourhood has the lowest number of people who believe that there is a lot of community spirit in their area.

Despite a well-developed voluntary and community sector in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area, some groups face ongoing difficulties in maintaining their services to the community. The introduction of Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) has increased resident involvement but there is still progress to be made in developing further active resident associations.

More needs to be done to improve the communication between residents and service providers with a particular focus on special needs groups, people on low incomes and those groups regarded as hard to reach. Access to information on the services that are available in neighbourhoods needs to be improved and NAP forums have a role to play in this.

Objectives:

- To identify barriers to engagement within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area including those related to income deprivation, special needs and hard to reach groups.
- To develop and support residents associations across the neighbourhoods to enable local people to make their views and aspirations known.
- To develop networks and structures from the neighbourhood level to feed into strategic partnerships/policy makers to give a voice to specific communities of interest.

- To provide community development and capacity building support in key areas of need including targeted support for hard to reach and special needs groups.
- To support community and voluntary sector groups who provide vital support within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
- To ensure effective communications and access to information through networks and structures both to and from residents.

Children and Young People's Plan

Make a Positive Contribution

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

Objectives:

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

A Low Footprint Future



Residents are challenging businesses and public service providers to improve their services whilst reducing their footprints.

More businesses are responding to public pressure to publish reports allowing comparison with other organisations and demonstrating to stakeholders that they are making progress.

In one of Hartlepool's neighbourhoods a fledgling Carbon Rationing Action Group is building on the success of a neighbourhood climate change partnership.

Residents are engaging with the idea of low carbon living on a personal and collective basis; taking part in the democratic process, making a positive contribution to decisions on local services and reinforcing a sense of community.

Some residents are challenging banks to provide ethical finance for loans and mortgages; others are investing in local credit unions promoting financial inclusion. More generally, whether it is bags for life, or sustainable sourced local fish, residents are considering how they spend their money - looking for a high social and low environmental impact

Wider Determinants

In delivering the Strengthening Communities aim, there will be a broader impact on other Community Strategy aims. These include:

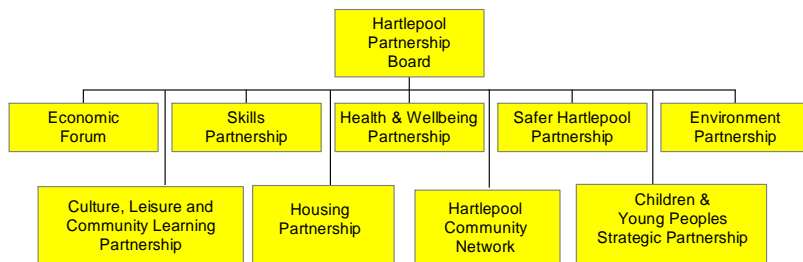
- more progression from volunteering into employment
- increased take up of formal training opportunities, and higher achievement as confidence is built through participation in informal training opportunities in communities
- improved mental wellbeing and reduced crime from living and working in sustainable, cohesive communities
- stronger resilient families who share respect and engage with support networks when they need it.

Implementing the Community Strategy

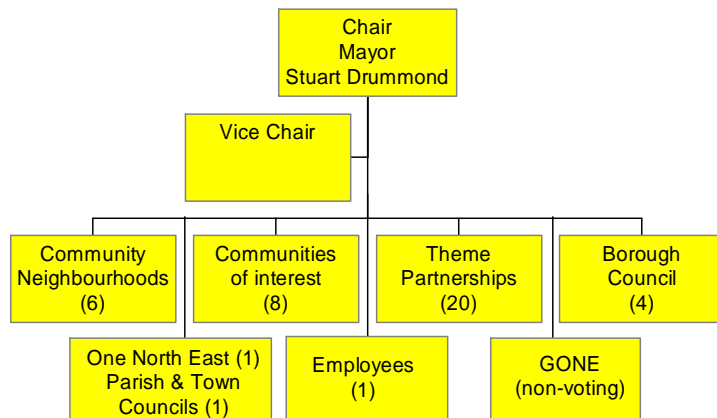
The implementation of the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be overseen by the Hartlepool Partnership and will be dependent on the concerted actions of a range of agencies, organisations and individuals across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

The Hartlepool Partnership

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



The Hartlepool Partnership Board has a Chair and 42 members.



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

The Policy Framework

The Community Strategy is underpinned by a series of Strategies that together make up the Partnership's Policy Framework:

- Local Area Agreement (2008-2011)
- The Local Development Framework Core Strategy (in early preparation)
- Economic Forum Protocol (2005)
- Children & Young People's Plan (2006-2009)
- Vision for Care (2003)
- Public Health Strategy (2006-2010)
- Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Strategy (2008-2011)
- Housing Strategy (2006-2011)
- Supporting People Five Year Strategy (2006-2011)
- Local Transport Plan (2006-2011)
- Culture Strategy (2003-2008)
- Older People's Strategy (2004)
- Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012)
- COMPACT (in early preparation)
- Hartlepool Partnership and Hartlepool Community Network Protocol (October 2005)
- Voluntary Sector Strategy (in early preparation)

These strategies will be adopted by the Hartlepool Partnership Board and by partner organisations, many of whom share statutory responsibilities for their production and delivery. Once the strategies are in place, Theme Partnerships oversee their implementation.

Theme Partnerships

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

Through an agreed performance management framework, the Local Area Agreement, the Board holds Theme Partnerships accountable for delivery.

Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement

Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement was signed in June 2008 and includes 32 outcomes structured around the Community Strategy Themes. Local Area Agreements translate the long term vision of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy into a three year delivery plan; agreeing Improvement Targets and Local Priority Targets to monitor progress. The Agreement is signed by the Hartlepool Partnership, Hartlepool Borough Council and Central Government.

The Hartlepool Partnership Board agrees annual Delivery and Improvement Plans prepared by Theme Partnerships. Performance against this Plan is reviewed quarterly. Hartlepool Borough Council will set out its delivery arrangements in the Corporate Plan.

The Local Area Agreement provides a robust performance management framework to deliver Hartlepool's Ambition and improve quality of life across Hartlepool and within its most disadvantaged communities.

Holding each other to account

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

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

Giving an account

Theme Partnerships will prepare quarterly performance reports that paint a clear picture of performance trends. These will be published on the Partnership's Website.

Being held to account

In addition to its own accountability arrangements, the Partnership's performance is reviewed by the Audit Commission, the Government Office for the North East, and Hartlepool Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny committees.

Taking account

The Partnership will ensure a strong evidence base drives the implementation of the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. Neighbourhood Action Plan delivery will expressly seek the views of local people and organisations.

Redress

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

Implementing the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Introduction

In 2001 central government published 'A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal – National Strategy Action Plan'. This established a vision that 'within 10-20 years no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live'. The Plan set out a requirement for areas, like Hartlepool, who had neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally to develop a Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which identified their priority neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies were to provide a broad policy framework for improving deprived neighbourhoods over a 10-year period, narrowing the gap between those areas and the rest of the country. The aim of Neighbourhood Renewal is to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to help tackle social and economic exclusion by lowering worklessness and crime and improving health, skills, housing and the physical environment.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) was introduced to help implement Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies but in order to achieve long-term change, focus was placed on improved coordination of services within neighbourhoods, better use of existing mainstream resources and community empowerment.

In 2007, Hartlepool was ranked as the 23rd most disadvantaged area in the country.

Hartlepool's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods: the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy area

Hartlepool's 2002 Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy used the government's Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 to establish seven priority neighbourhoods:

- Burbank
- Dyke House/Stranton/Grange
- Hartlepool NDC
- North Hartlepool (Central Estate, Headland & West View/King Oswy)
- Owton
- Rift House/Burn Valley
- Rossmere

Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs), setting out key local priorities, have been prepared for these neighbourhoods. Together the NAPs form the geographical element of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and are used to inform and improve local service delivery.

The 2007 Index of Deprivation shows that some areas within the priority neighbourhoods identified in 2002 are no longer in the 10% most disadvantaged. However, because the way in which the Government calculates the index has changed significantly since 2000 and the long term vision of Hartlepool's 2002 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, those areas previously identified as a priority will remain so in this 2008 Strategy.

One significant addition to the 2008 list of priority neighbourhoods is the inclusion of Throston Grange, bringing the total number of priority neighbourhoods to eight. Although the 2007 Index of Deprivation does not place Throston in the bottom 10% overall, in the key areas of Employment and Health, Deprivation & Disability it is within the bottom 10% nationally. These areas are key priorities for the Hartlepool Partnership and as a result, it is considered appropriate to include Throston Grange in the list of priority neighbourhoods. This addition will result in 55% of the Hartlepool's population living in priority neighbourhoods – a slight increase from 54% in the previous Strategy.

Detailed analysis of the 2007 Index of Deprivation together with feedback from the first five years of Neighbourhood Action Planning, has resulted in the inclusion of a small number of streets to existing priority neighbourhoods to reflect more natural communities.

Details of these revisions can be found in a separate report, *The Renewal of Hartlepool's Neighbourhoods*, on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Neighbourhood Renewal logo on the homepage.

Mainstreaming

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

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

Details of this review can be found in a separate report on the Partnership's website by clicking on the Neighbourhood Renewal logo on the homepage.

Neighbourhood Profiles:

Burbank

The Burbank neighbourhood is situated to the southeast of Hartlepool Town Centre, in the Stranton Ward. At the core of the neighbourhood is a small community which is bordered by Burbank Street to the south, Hucklehoven Way to the north, Mainsforth Terrace to the east and Clark Street to the west. This core is surrounded by industrial and commercial areas which make the neighbourhood fairly isolated. The neighbourhood also encompasses some residential properties in Church Street and the Marina.

Dyke House/Stranton/Grange

The Dyke House/Stranton/Grange neighbourhood is situated to the north of the Town Centre, and covers the Dyke House ward, a small part of the Stranton ward and the northwestern corner of the Grange ward. The neighbourhood is bordered by the NDC neighbourhood at its southern edge and by the Grayfields Recreational Ground at its western edge. This neighbourhood has been identified within the Housing Market Renewal programme and as such a number of terraced properties will be demolished and replaced with new homes.

Hartlepool NDC

The New Deal for Communities (NDC) neighbourhood covers Hartlepool town centre from Belle Vue in the South to Hart Lane in the North. The neighbourhood is part of the Government's NDC programme, which enables the area to access £54m extra of Government funding over a 10-year period. The boundary was drawn to meet the Government's criteria of NDC areas being no greater than 4,000 households and 10,000 residents. The neighbourhood includes key recreational facilities such as the Burn Valley Gardens, Mill House Sports Centre, Hartlepool United Football Club and the North Cemetery. The neighbourhood is also home to the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Longhill and Sandgate industrial estates. Parts of the NDC neighbourhood have been identified within the Housing Market Renewal programme and as such a number of properties will be demolished and replaced with new homes.

North Hartlepool

The North Hartlepool neighbourhood is situated to the far northeast of the town and covers the Brus and St Hilda wards. The neighbourhood is split into three areas, which are well known to the community and service providers who work in the NAP area. These areas are the Headland, Central Estate and West View/King Oswy. A recently completed Single Regeneration Budget programme has seen significant investment in parts of this neighbourhood over the last few years.

Owton

The Owton neighbourhood lies to the southwest of the Borough and is bounded to the north by Brierton Lane, to the West by the Owton ward boundary and to the east by Catcote Road. The southern boundary takes in both the 'I' and 'M' blocks and Manor College of Technology. At the heart of the neighbourhood is a green corridor of open space.

Rift House/Burn Valley

The Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhood is situated to the southwest of the Town Centre and covers the majority of the Rift House ward (excluding Swalebrooke, Tynebrooke, Teesbrooke and Southbrooke Avenues) and a small part of the Burn Valley ward covering streets between Stockton Road and Shakespeare Avenue, and Oxford Road to Elwick Road. The neighbourhood is adjacent to the Burn Valley Gardens, Waverley Terrace Allotments and the Rift House Recreational Ground.

Rossmere

The Rossmere neighbourhood is located to the south of the Borough and covers the Rossmere ward and a small part of the Fens ward. The neighbourhood is bounded by Catcote Road to the West, Brierton Lane and Belle Vue Way to the North, Brenda Road to the East and Torquay Avenue to the South. The neighbourhood includes Rossmere Park and the Queens Meadow business park.

Throston Grange

The Throston Grange neighbourhood is located in the north of the town. The neighbourhood is encircled by Throston Grange Lane and Wiltshire Way and extends to the west to include St. Davids Walk and Caernarvon Grove. The neighbourhood is adjacent to the Grayfields Recreational Ground.

A snapshot of neighbourhood statistics has been produced separately and is available from www.hartlepoolpartnership.co.uk by clicking on the Neighbourhood Renewal link on the homepage.

Timetable for future reviews

Hartlepool's Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will need to be reviewed over time. This is important to ensure that:

- there is continued support for the Vision, Aims and Objectives;
- the Strategy remains relevant and accurate;
- the Strategy is responsive to risks and opportunities;
- local communities are able to express their needs;
- the policy making process is open and accountable.

A Community Strategy review might take different forms:

- a staged review where individual elements or Themes are refreshed in turn;
- a discrete review where one element or Theme of the Strategy is refreshed.

In both these cases new chapters will be drawn up while the remainder of the Strategy stays in place.

The full Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will be reviewed again in five years.

List of Abbreviations

CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
DPDs	Development Plan Documents
GCSE	General Certificate in Secondary Education
ICT	Information Communications Technology
NAPs	Neighbourhood Action Plans
NDC	New Deal for Communities
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NRF	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
NRS	Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SPDs	Supplementary Planning Documents
VAT	Value Added Tax

Glossary of Terms

Aim: the Community Strategy has eight aims that together set out what needs to be achieved to deliver the Community Strategy Vision. These can be found on page 23.

Children's Centres: service hubs where children under five years old and their families can receive seamless integrated services and information. Services available might include early education and childcare, support for parents, child and family health services and activities to help parents into work.

Carbon Rationing Action Group: a network of local groups dedicated to reducing their personal carbon footprints and those of their communities. Groups set themselves annual carbon allowances and share experiences on low carbon living.

Community Strategy: a strategy that sets out the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area. Hartlepool's Community Strategy is called Hartlepool's Ambition. This is the document you are reading now.

Community Cohesion: a cohesive community is one where there is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities, the diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued, those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities and where strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds and circumstances in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods.

Compact: a Compact is an agreement that recognises shared values, principles and commitments and sets out guidelines for how both parties should work together. In the context of the Community Strategy, the Compact is between members of the Hartlepool Partnership and the voluntary and community sector.

Core Strategy: part of the Local Development Framework that sets out an overall vision of how Hartlepool and the places within it should develop.

Credit Union: non-profit making financial cooperatives offering a savings and loan service that exist solely to benefit its members. Anyone who lives or works in Hartlepool is eligible for Membership to Hartlepool Credit Union Limited.

Cultural Identity: using Arts and culture to enable communities to express themselves, and to communicate that identity more widely.

Ethical Finance: financial products including investments and loans that don't use customer's money to fund certain activities or behaviours that are believed to be harmful to the environment, to people or to animals and wildlife. This may mean, for example, that a fund management company will not purchase shares in arms companies or firms that develop harmful pesticides, or that a bank will not lend money to facilitate business for such companies.

Extended Schools: schools that offer access to a range of services for children, young people, their families and communities often beyond the school day. Examples of extended services include childcare provided on the school site, activities such as homework clubs and study support, sport, music tuition, special interest clubs and volunteering, parenting and family support and providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including adult learning.

Extra Care Housing: schemes that provide supportive, stimulating environments in which older people may live wholly independently, and also receive care and support if required, to a level that might previously have only been available in a residential or nursing home. This might include receiving care or support in the comfort and privacy of your own home, housing design features that are suitable for changing needs and the availability of communal facilities such as restaurants, lounges, health suites, activity rooms and a library.

Food Cooperative: a group of consumers, who want to obtain good quality, healthy food at the best price, and get together to take advantage of combining their buying power to buy in bulk. Food Cooperatives are particularly important in neighbourhoods where access to affordable fresh fruit and vegetables is limited.

Hartlepool Partnership: the Local Strategic Partnership for Hartlepool, the partnership responsible for implementing this Community Strategy.

Hartlepool Quays: a spatial zone that includes Victoria Harbour, Marina/ Town Centre, Hartlepool Education and Skills Quarter and the Headland.

Housing Market Renewal: a programme to rebuild housing markets and communities where demand for housing is relatively weak and where there has been a significant decline in population, dereliction, poor services and poor social conditions as a result.

Lifestyle Nurse: someone who provides advice and guidance on healthy lifestyles including food and nutrition, weight management, giving up smoking, testing blood pressure and cancer awareness and early detection.

Live / Work Schemes: housing developments that offer a flexible approach to work and home accommodation. This could include apartments above office space or shared office space within communities.

Local Area Agreement: a three year plan that sets out in detail how the Community Strategy (this document) will be delivered.

Local Development Framework: the collection of local development documents produced by Hartlepool Borough Council which collectively delivers the spatial planning strategy for its area. The Core Strategy is the key plan within the Local Development Framework.

Local Strategic Partnership: a collection of organisations and representatives coming together voluntarily to work in partnership.

Low Carbon Living: choosing a lifestyle that has low levels of carbon emissions. Practically, this will mean considering carbon emissions when you make choices about your house, transport, holidays, food and the goods and services you buy.

Multi Area Agreement: a five year plan that sets out in detail how the place-making (for example housing, transport and employment) elements of the Tees Valley City Region Business Case are implemented.

Neighbourhood Action Plan: a plan for a small area that sets out the community's needs and aspirations alongside agreed actions for improvement.

Neighbourhood Policing: teams that work with local people and partners to deliver solutions to issues which people say make them feel unsafe in their neighbourhood. These can include crime, anti-social behaviour, disorder, speeding and environmental issues such as street lighting.

Neighbourhood Renewal: activity to reduce inequalities in the most disadvantaged communities and to help tackle social and economic exclusion by lowering worklessness and crime and improving health, skills, housing and the physical environment.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy: the part of the Community Strategy (this document) that sets out how Neighbourhood Renewal will be delivered in Hartlepool.

Objective: something that needs to be achieved in order to realise a Community Strategy Outcome. All of the objectives in this Community Strategy start with the phrase “to” for example the first health and wellbeing objective is “to support the people of Hartlepool in choosing a healthy lifestyle”.

Outcome: describes what is needed to bring about the Community Strategy Aim. For example, the first health and wellbeing outcome is “Improved health”. Outcomes in the Community Strategy are broken down into objectives.

Skills for Life: reading, writing and numeracy skills. Increasing the number of people with Skills for Life in Hartlepool is important because people with poor literacy, numeracy and language skills tend to be on lower incomes or unemployed, and they are more prone to ill health and social exclusion.

Spatial Planning: shaping the places where people live and work and the borough we live in. The Local Development Framework delivers the spatial planning strategy for Hartlepool. You can read more about spatial planning on page 15.

Sustainable Development: the goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations. You can read more about sustainable development on page 21.

Sustainable Economic Growth: refers to economic growth that can be sustained and is within environmental limits, but also enhances the environment and social welfare, and avoids greater extremes in future economic cycles

Tees Valley City Region Business Case: provides an economic analysis of the City Region (i.e. Tees Valley) and sets out how it will improve its economic performance.

Tees Valley Unlimited: a public, private and voluntary sector partnership charged with preparing and coordinating plans to improve the economic performance of the Tees Valley.

Tees Valley Vision: sets out a long term strategic vision for the Tees Valley and provides the policy context in which Tees Valley Unlimited, the sub-regional partnership, operates

Vision: a statement of aspirations describing a desired future. The Vision of this Community Strategy is that “Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential”.

Voluntary and Community Sector: includes voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals.

Work Hubs: a shared-facility that offers support and interaction between home-based businesses enabling people to make vital connections, establish routes to market and access business advice and support.

Endnotes

This Strategy was compiled by Joanne Smithson (Team Leader), Catherine Frank, John Potts, Dawn Clennett and Richard Starrs with contributions from colleagues across the Hartlepool Partnership, and over 1550 submissions received during the public consultations that ran from May 2006 to April 2008.

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