

CABINET

Thursday,
14 October 2004
10.00 a.m.

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

AGENDA and REPORTS

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2004. (Pages 1 - 4)

KEY DECISIONS

REGENERATION PORTFOLIO

4. COMMITMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDS

Report of Head of Strategy And Regeneration. (Pages 5 - 28)

REGENERATION AND HOUSING PORTFOLIOS

5. HOUSING LAND CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY - NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL SCHEMES: APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration (Pages 29 - 34)

OTHER DECISIONS

ALL PORTFOLIOS

6. QUALITY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME

Report of Chief Executive Officer. (Pages 35 - 42)

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

7. USE OF CHILTON DEPOT BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE

Report of Street Scene Manger. (Pages 43 - 48)

REGENERATION PORTFOLIO

8. SPENNYMOOR TOWN CENTRE, SHOP IMPROVEMENTS GRANT SCHEME

Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration. (Pages 49 - 56)

MINUTES

9. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2004. (Pages 57 - 60)

10. AREA FORUMS

To consider the minutes of the following:

- (a) Area 3 Forum (Pages 61 - 66)
- (b) Area 4 Forum - 21st September 2004 (Pages 67 - 70)

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The following items are not for publication by virtue of Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. As such it is envisaged that an appropriate resolution will be passed at the meeting to exclude the press and public.

KEY DECISIONS

CULTURE AND RECREATION PORTFOLIO

11. FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT CONTRACT 2005 - 2009 SPENNYMOOR LEISURE CENTRE

Report of Head of Marketing. (Pages 71 - 74)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT - HOUSING LAND SALE - RESIDENTIAL HOUSING PLOTS, HIGHLAND GARDENS, SHILDON

Report of Director of Resources. (Pages 75 - 80)

13. HOUSING LAND SALE - FORMER NURSERY SITE, BURN LANE, NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Report of Director of Resources. (Pages 81 - 86)

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lead Members are requested to inform the Chief Executive Officer or the Head of Democratic Services of any items they might wish to raise under this heading by no later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting. This will enable the Officers in consultation with the Chairman to determine whether consideration of the matter by the Cabinet is appropriate.

N. Vaulks
Chief Executive Officer

Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
6th October 2004

Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, M. Iveson, D.A. Newell, K. Noble, J. Robinson J.P and W. Waters

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection in relation to this Agenda and associated papers should contact Gillian Garrigan, on Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240

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Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Thursday,
30 September 2004

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson,
M. Iveson, D.A. Newell, K. Noble, J. Robinson J.P and W. Waters

In

Attendance: Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. J. Croft, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray,
D.M. Hancock, J.E. Higgin, Mrs. L. Hovvels, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith,
Mrs. I. Jackson Smith and Mrs. C. Sproat

CAB.61/04 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

CAB.62/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Councillor R.S.Fleming would be declaring a prejudicial interest in Item 4 – Civic Twinning – Visit to Rheinhausen as he was named in the report.

CAB.63/04 CIVIC TWINNING - VISIT TO RHEINHAUSEN

NB: In accordance with Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Member's Code of Conduct, Councillor R.S. Fleming declared a prejudicial interest in the above item and left the meeting for the duration of discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor K. Noble in the Chair.

Consideration was given to a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was reported that Gunter Heiser, the Chairman of Rheinhausen Council, was retiring from political life and had invited the Leader, Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of Sedgefield Borough Council to celebrate his farewell on 31st October 2004 in Duisberg Town Hall.

Members noted that Herr Heiser had been very supportive of the twinning links that had developed between the people of Rheinhausen and Sedgefield.

RESOLVED : That the Council be represented on the above visit by Councillors R.S. Fleming, Ms. M. Predki and the Chief Executive Officer.

Councillor R.S. Fleming in the Chair.

CAB.64/04

PROMOTION OF THE REGENERATION OF THE BOROUGH - HOUSING LAND CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY (KEY DECISION)

Consideration was given to a report setting out a medium term strategy to govern the use of the Council's capital receipts from housing land disposals to support the sustainable promotion and well being of the Borough's communities, through an enhanced programme of capital investment, in line with the Council's key aims and outcomes. (For copy see file of Minutes)

The strategy indicated a number of key themes to be supported, which included:

- Support for Major Area Based/Neighbourhood Renewal Schemes that were being developed linked to the Borough's Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and other programmes, such as English Partnerships Durham Coalfields Housing Renewal Programme for Ferryhill and Chilton.
- Strategic Investments related to major programmes to assist in the delivery of community strategy outcomes and contribute to other national, regional and sub regional programmes.
- Enhancement of current capital programmes.
- Improvement of community assets to enhance the usability and access to buildings and land in local communities to support improved access to services and other activities, leading to an improvement in the quality of life for local communities.
- A Local Area Programme to be operated in consultation with the Area Forums.

The report outlined how the strategy would be implemented and the resource implications.

Members' attention was drawn to Appendix 2, which listed some indicative schemes that might be supported and Appendix 3, which gave an indicative expenditure profile.

RESOLVED : 1. That the Policy framework detailed in the report to govern the Council's use of available housing land capital receipts on expenditure that conforms with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's definition of eligible expenditure on affordable housing and regeneration activities, be approved.

2. *That the planned arrangements for the delivery of the Housing Land Capital Receipts Programme be agreed.*
3. *That reports regarding the proposed schemes be submitted to Cabinet for approval.*

CAB.65/04 FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2004 - 2005 (KEY DECISION)

Consideration was given to a report in respect of the above Plan. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Plan outlined the services provided by the Council's Food Safety Section, the means by which those services would be provided, the linkage with the Council's Best Value Performance Plan and the Section's Business Plan and how performance would be reviewed to address any variance in meeting the Plan's requirement. It was the third food service plan that had been compiled using the service planning guidance outlined in the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement.

RESOLVED : That the Plan be presented to Council for consideration.

CAB.66/04 AREA FORUMS

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following:

Area 1 Forum	...	6 th September 2004
Area 2 Forum	...	7 th September 2004

(For copies see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the reports be received.

CAB.67/04 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to the Minutes of Sedgefield Borough Local Strategic Partnership Board Meeting held on 21st July 2004. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the report be received.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED : That in accordance with Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CAB.68/04 ASSET MANAGEMENT - SALE OF PROPERTY - WILDLIFE GARDEN, THE PARK, BISHOP MIDDLEHAM

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for the Council to sell its freehold interest in the Wildlife Garden, The Park, Bishop Middleham to Bishop Middleham Parish Council. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the recommendation detailed in the report be adopted.

CAB.69/04 PROPOSED PURCHASE OF FORMER METHODIST CHAPEL, DEAN BANK, FERRYHILL

The Lead Member for Regeneration presented a report seeking approval for the Council to make an approach to acquire the above building to support the wider regeneration of the area. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the recommendation detailed in the report be adopted.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Gillian Garrigan, on Spennymoor 816166 Ext 4240

Published on 1st October 2004

The key decisions contained in these Minutes will be implemented on Monday 11th October 2004, five working days after the date of publication unless called in by five Members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call in procedure.

Item 4

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

14th October 2004

REPORT OF HEAD OF
STRATEGY AND
REGENERATION

Portfolio: Regeneration

COMMITMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report reviews the background and usage of NRF (NRF) monies from Government in the Borough during 2003/04 and identifies the future planned use of NRF until 2006.
- 1.2 It describes the Service Improvement Plans that have been prepared through the LSP to guide the use of NRF over the period to March 2006 and the expected leverage that the NRF expenditure will secure to assist in promoting the economic and social regeneration of the Borough's most disadvantaged communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- o That Cabinet:
 - As the Accountable Body for NRF expenditure accepts the LSP's commitment of Neighbourhood Renewal Funds during 2003/04 and the planned use over 2004 to 2006.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND

Background

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) is a resource provided under the Government's National Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy to 88 Local Authorities that have the most deprived wards in the country within their boundaries. The purpose of NRF assistance is to improve services in the most deprived areas, and so contribute to the achievement of Government targets to narrow the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country.
- 3.2 It is expected that each authority will prepare a Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in consultation with the areas Local Strategic Partnership to support the use of NRF. This was undertaken in September 2002. The level of NRF awarded to Sedgefield Borough in

the period 2002 to 2006, totals £4,840,973. For the years 2004/05 and the final year 2005/06 the level of NRF support is £1,230,113 and £1,138,926 respectively.

- 3.3 In determining the award of NRF funding over the period 2004 to 2006, the LSP's Board have agreed that a strategic approach should be taken to Service Improvement Plans (SIPs) linked to the National and Local Targets as detailed in the Borough Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (LNRS). This approach sought to move away from an annual appraisal process to a two year programme of activities with a financial weighting to those service areas furthest from target and a NRF intervention rate of no more than 40% so as to ensure the bending of mainstream funding and a sustainable future for the SIPs. The SIPs are focussed on a number of key themes linked to the Borough's LNRS, these are Increasing Employment, Increasing Educational Attainment at Key Stage 4, Renewal of Targeted Neighbourhoods and Community Reassurance, Transport and Accessibility, and Integration of Targeted Health Services.
- 3.4 In addition part of NRF resources has been top-sliced over the final two years to continue to resource the Neighbourhood Management Initiative in the western area of Newton Aycliffe and the operation of a Community Response Fund to provide resources to local community Partnerships in the targeted areas to determine their own service improvement priorities.
- 3.5 Sedgefield Borough acts as the Accountable Body for NRF managing and administering the resources from Government. There is a requirement to monitor progress and in delivery and expenditure and report to Government Office on a quarterly basis.

Use of NRF in 2003/04 - Achievements

- 3.6 The Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has three main themes of creating more Prosperous, Attractive and Healthy neighbourhoods, to ensure the economic social and environmental well being of the Borough's residents so that no one is disadvantaged by where they live. The first half of the programme used the three themes of Attractive, Prosperous and Healthy Neighbourhoods as the basis of the Policy Group service improvements.
- 3.7 NRF spend in 2002/03 of £850,000 levered in £2.1m in match funding with £1.25m NRF in 2003/04 levering in £1.84 into the Borough. This resource has been spent on improving the services in the targeted wards to improve residents quality of life and life chances. The first half of the programme has moved significantly more than half way to meeting the 2006 and 2008 targets in the LNRS, significantly reducing the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the more affluent. A summary of individual NRF supported schemes is attached at Appendix 1.

Planned use of NRF 2004 – 2006

- 3.8 The new SIPs were developed by the Policy Groups to achieve the targets set out in the LNRS and National Floor targets. Each of the themes is linked to a National Floor Target. Appendix 2 provides further detail on each SIP.
- 3.9 The “Increasing Employment” theme is directed at improving overall business start up rates to be nearer the national average, and includes promotion of community enterprises and self-employment. Linked to this the Jobsearch project will continue to reduce unemployment in the adult and young people populations in the targeted wards. It is expected that the 2006 targets will be met and exceeded.
- 3.10 The target of Increasing Educational Attainment at Key Stage 4 is planned to be met by using a number of interventions concentrating on full service schooling and removing the barriers, whether emotional or physical, that prevent children learning. The targets are on course to be met by 2006.
- 3.11 Renewal of Targeted Neighbourhood Areas and Community Reassurance have already made significant progress to achieving their 2006 LNRS and National Floor Targets. The SIP is wide ranging and aims to reduce the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and renew neighbourhoods prioritised in the LNRS through partnerships with the private sector as well as mainstreaming the Neighbourhood Wardens scheme.
- 3.12 Accessing services in Sedgefield is looking at the means of improving public transport across the borough as a means to access employment, education and health services. It will not however result in any projects to bring about service delivery changes until after a mapping exercise and further research work is completed.
- 3.13 Integration of Targeted Health Services has begun the mainstreaming process and is on course to meet its 2006 LNRS targets. However, this innovative programme of change working towards improved delivery of adult services on a community basis will form part of a longer term programme of health actions to address ill health and life expectancy levels currently being experienced in the Borough.
- 3.14 The overall forecast expenditure of the SIPs over the 2004 – 2006 is £11,380,808, of which NRF is £1,986,000 leveraging in £9,394,808 in other resources.

Monitoring and Review

- 3.15 Outputs, measurable progress, milestones and financial expenditure are required to be reported to Government Office on a quarterly basis. This is to ensure that the LSP is making, through its partners, measurable progress towards its own targets, and if any problems arise they are identified and managed appropriately.

- 3.16 The SIPs commenced in April 2004 are already demonstrating their progress toward target from the first quarter monitoring recently reported to Government Office. These reports are also provided to the LSP and Policy Groups for their information and comment.

NRF Post 2006

- 3.17 The recent Local Government Spending Review 2004 indicated that there would be further NRF after 2006, however, it is uncertain on what criteria this money will be distributed. It is likely that the decision will be based on the most deprived wards that remain furthest away from delivering actual targets and closing the gap of disadvantage. A further factor will probably be the performance of local authorities in committing expenditure and improving their most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 NRF funding of £2,347,800 has been identified for the remainder of the programme to support the themed SIPs until March 2006. This figure includes £126,320 equating to a 9% carry-over from 2003/04. The SIPs are overprogrammed by 10% to ensure full spend in 2004/5 and 2005/6 as there is very limited scope for carryover into 2005/06 and none at the end of the programme into 2005/06.
- 4.2 The financial implications to the Borough are those associated with monitoring and management of the programme. NRF resources are top-sliced to pay for the administration of the LSP and Management of the programme, making a total of £282,000 as income to the Borough over 2004 – 2006.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Community Empowerment Network has been fully consulted on the development of SIPs and support their implementation. The LSP's Policy Groups have community representation which ensures that from the start of the process of producing SIPs the community and LSP partners have been involved.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 A key element of the National and Local Targets is sustainability through the mainstreaming of the proposed Service Improvements. These Improvements contain targets relating to the reduction of crime and community reassurance, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

7. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The use of external funding to support the regeneration of the Borough including the use of NRF was considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 in March 2004.

8. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Schedule of Approves schemes 2003/04 – containing a description of activity expenditure, leverage, locations of delivery.

Appendix 2 SIPs 2004 –2006 Containing a description of activity, expenditure, leverage, location of delivery.

Contact Officer Richard Prisk
Telephone Number 01388 816166 Ext.
E-mail address rprisk@sedgefield.gov.uk

Wards: Cornforth, West, Sunnydale, Thickley, Old Trimdon, New Trimdon and Trimdon Grange and Dean Bank.

Key Decision Validation: This is a key decision

Background Papers:

Monitoring Report to Government Office for the North East January to March 2004
Sedgefield Borough Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
Sedgefield Local Strategic Partnership Board Report 28th April 2004 Agenda number 3.3.2 Sedgefield Borough Council Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy – Use Of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Resources.

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

APPENDIX 1

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding 2003/04

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Economy		
Jobsearch	Successfully assisted 171 residents into work with a further 40 into training. This improvement has operated exceptionally well overachieving so as to have hit the hit the 2008 target.	£62,213
Fostering Entrepreneurship in Target Communities	Assisting residents to set up their own businesses. 15 have been set up during the year. On course to meet its target of setting up 24 new businesses.	£7,000
Enterprising Communities	Aims to set up community enterprises in the target communities. 9 community groups have been supported to assist in their development towards becoming community enterprises.	£15,000
Sedgefield Training Retail Initiative	Set up to help recruitment for Tesco's from the residents of target communities. 43 residents have obtained jobs with Tesco's through this initiative.	£7,931
Lifelong Learning		
Community Counselling	The counselling service has been used by a local primary school and proved to be very successful as student performance in exams, attendance, and social exclusion has achieved it's 2004 target.	£15,000
Full Service Schooling – Greenfield	Provided faster intervention work to break down the barriers to learning. Full Service Schooling allowed pupils to focus on learning, and staff to focus on teaching and raising attainment that resulted in record GCSE achievements making Greenfield the top performing school in the County.	£35,000
Full Service Schooling – Shildon	NRF was used to develop a range of activities linked to pupil attainment and reported good progress but actual result not available until 2 nd quarter of 2004/5.	£45,000
Out of Hours Learning Support – Coalfield Communities	Trimdon set up a "Freezone" engaging pupils out of school hours. The 30 pupils benefited from learning how to use e-learning as a revision tool and by being	£15,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
	encouraged to access teaching staff on an informal footing. Proving very successful and will be extended in 2004/05 and mainstreamed at the end of 2006.	
ICT Bridge Teacher	The NRF supported ICT link teacher has continued to work with all Key Stage 2 pupils in the five-partner primary schools developing ICT, literacy and numeracy skills as well as business and enterprise skills with Year 6 pupils. The impact will be seen through exam results in August 2004.	£15,000
Access to Impact Programme	NRF secured extra places on the Impact programme that enabled alternative provision to be made for Key Stage 4 pupils who attended school less than 50% of the time or were excluded. 240 young people have benefited. The programme has been successfully mainstreamed.	£40,000
Sedgefield Learning Borough	A large number of new learners were engaged in the service, 542. This service has increased the number of residents with NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. 23 local residents were directly supported into employment this year. Proved very successful.	£35,000
Community and Education Worker – Cornforth	Individuals (at Key Stage 4) have been targeted for support and individual programmes developed to re-integrate pupils into school. Will continue to receive NRF support because of it's success.	£12,000
Enterprising Youth Venture Fund Support	Teachers at Ferryhill and Sunnydale School have been teaching the course to students in Key Stage 4 with the result that result students are more aware of enterprise skills and pupils leaving education had developed a more informed view of how to use their enterprise skills.	£11,000
Health		
Integration of Services for Older People and People with a Physical Disability and Integrated Community Services	Preparatory work has taken place to establish 5 integrated Health and Social Care teams with a full implementation plan for 2004-. The first team (Pathway team) should be established July 2004 and negotiations for a pooled budget have been successful. The following 2 years of NRF support will allow for mainstreaming of this improved service.	£15,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Extension of Passport to Health Activities	Healthy Lifestyle courses have been successfully delivered covering a range of topics from healthy cooking to first aid. Targets for the number of people reporting increased knowledge and skills, physical and mental health, and social interaction and self-esteem have been exceeded. Smoking cessation classes were popular and since the courses were delivered in April, 36% of clients have not smoked for 52 weeks and an additional 72% of people had quit smoking at a 4 week check point.	£30,000
Improving Community Equipment Services	A Service Manager and Occupational Therapist ensured that clients who accessed the service obtained assessment and specialist advice. The Home Independence Service was one of only six in the country short listed for an ICES (Integrating Community Equipment Services) award during March 2004 for the most innovative service development.	£18,000
Community Mental Health Worker	The Expert Patient Programme, provided opportunities to people who live with long-term chronic conditions to develop new skills to manage their condition more effectively on a day-to-day basis. Sedgefield is still leading the region on the pilot with 79 people having completed courses in 2003/4. 98% of attendees felt the course provided them with the skills to manage their condition more effectively, 100% reported increased levels of social interaction and 89% felt more confident and more able to cope. NRF support ended in March 2004, and the post was successfully mainstreamed.	£30,000
Tackling Teenage Pregnancy	A Young People's Steering Group made up from 6 residents (aged 12-17) and a Partnership of professionals (Health, Connexions, Education in the Community and Voluntary sector organisations) worked towards establishing a Young Peoples Drop In service to tackle teenage pregnancy rates within West Ward. NRF support ended in March 2004 with the drop-in centre mainstreamed and officially opened in May 04.	£20,000
Sure Start	The delivery of core community nursing	£30,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Enhanced Health Worker Provision	services have been successfully re-shaped with increased resources allocated to Trimdon and West Cornforth allowing Community Parenting Programmes to be developed by the Worker. The majority of activities have been mainstreamed	
Community Safety		
Domestic Violence Intervention	Those people who accessed the Outreach facility have received regular counselling in order to obtain help with domestic violence. The success of the programme is highlighted by the significant reduction in repeat victims and reported incidences. NRF will continue for the remainder of the programme.	£10,587
High Street Project	The project provided an intense outreach service to people in the local community in a practical and supportive way. NRF enabled waiting times for treatment to be reduced resulting in a 37% increase in referrals enabling the service to have a real impact within the community. The project made good progress towards meeting local and national targets.	£41,200
Removal of Abandoned Vehicles	The project successfully resulted in more than 351 vehicles being removed, an increase of 251 on the previous year, reducing the risk of those vehicles being used in an anti social manner or being involved in further criminal activities.	£25,163
Homesafe	This service continued to provide home security to the vulnerable residents in Sedgefield Borough to reduce crime and the fear of crime. NRF allowed a total of 267 homes to be secured with either lighting or security. 100% of clients reporting that the security has made them feel safer, 94% stating that their quality of life has improved as a result of the security and 99% of clients feeling able to stay in their home.	£29,626
Neighbourhood Wardens	Neighbourhood Wardens worked successfully with the Targeted "Hot Spot" areas and worked alongside the police to deliver local initiatives and provide a more strategic response to community needs. Anti-social behaviour has remained a high	£40,050

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
	priority for the Wardens who have provided diversionary schemes for young people.	
SMART Bus	The SMART bus was converted as a facility for youth and community engagement used by a number of agencies to assist in the delivery of services in hard to reach areas. The bus is fully equipped with laptop computers, internet access, a wide range of play and sporting equipment. NRF support has ended however the service is planned to be mainstreamed.	£31,500
AIRTIME Mobile Skatepark	The Airtime Mobile Skate Park is the first of its kind in the UK and provides low-cost access to state-of-the-art skateboarding facilities such as jumps, ramps, rails and half-pipes within the Borough. NRF funding was won in 2002/03 of £21,200, with the intention of monitoring into this year. It has attracted 600 members, of which 60-70% are from the targeted neighbourhoods And contributed to reducing levels of anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	£0
Environment		
Under 18s Swimming Sessions	636 young people aged 8 months to 17 years were registered on the scheme, which increased junior swims over 2002 – 2004. Feedback from the young people and their parents showed the scheme had a positive impact on their health and well-being, although it is difficult to measure the extent of this impact, but no reduction in anti-social behaviour.	£10,000
Dean Bank Environmental Improvements Programme	Physical improvement works started in January 2003 and the impact within Dean Bank is already evident.	£65,000
Securing Affordable Warmth	This service has reduced the number of households in fuel poverty. 1,212 assessments have been carried out over the year, of which 283 households or 22% were found to be suffering from fuel poverty, spending over 10% of their income on fuel. 32 households have been removed from fuel poverty to date and it is	£105,777

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
	hoped that 80% will be removed from fuel poverty in the near future. Over the past year the average level of fuel poverty has dropped from and estimated 23% (9,201 homes) to 22% (8801) homes in the Borough. It is still planned to eradicate fuel poverty in the Borough by 2016 in line with Government targets, and therefore this service will continue to receive NRF support.	
Young People and Physical Activity	The Physical Activity Co-ordinator has introduced the activity sessions at Elmfield and Fishburn schools; 'at risk' children (children with behavioural problems) were targeted and engaged in the activities. Five local residents from each community have gained sporting qualifications to ensure the service will continue to be delivered.	£33,000
Civic Pride	A supervisor and 5 Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) employees were recruited. The 5 ILM employees had previously been long term unemployed residents of the target communities. Work was undertaken in West Ward.	£26,000
Housing		
Private Sector Renewal	A group repair scheme in Shildon has been completed at Redworth Road, contributing towards reducing the number of unfit properties within the Borough. This service received £80,000 in 2002/03 and was monitored into 2003/04. It has been highlighted as a priority and will receive NRF support into the final two years of the programme.	£0
Decent Homes	1,254 homes were improved over the year to meet the Governments decency standards, reflected in the reduction of the proportion of Council housing which did not meet the decency standards between 2002/2003, (39%) and 2003/2004 (35%). NRF support of £85,000 ended in March 2003. The service was successfully mainstreamed and will meet its long-term target.	£0
Improving Service Delivery,	The Shildon Housing and Resource Centre is well established. Financial	£35,000

Policy Group	Description	NRF Allocation
Access and Engagement	support ended in 2002/03. The Shildon Gateway project has been mainstreamed.	

APPENDIX 2

Lifelong Learning

Title: Increasing Educational Attainment at KS4

Lead Organisation: Various

Description of Service: The development of the principles of Full Service Schooling in all the Borough's secondary schools, using existing projects to extend current practice.

Every school is currently working with other agencies in order to support young people and their families. Practices differ from school to school and areas of good practice exist although no single organisation would claim that the service is perfect from the client's point of view. The aim of this service improvement will be to use NRF funds to extend good practice: enabling an audit of current practice/s, identification and communication of the best practice, dialogue with agencies which serve all of the schools in order to develop a consistent range of services. All schools and agencies will ultimately need to change their working practices and use of funding in order to provide coherent and comprehensive support.

- **Out of Hours Learning Support:** ICT facilities are used to support out of hours learning through a homework club 'Freezone' at Trimdon Grange Community Centre which aims to improve school attainment at 16. The Joint Trimdons Partnership is also supporting this activity through their NRF Community Response fund. Continued NRF and CRF support will enable further Freezone's to be established at Trimdon Colliery and Trimdon Village Library.
- **Raising Attainment Through ICT:** NRF will be used to employ an additional primary-trained teacher to work across 5 partner primary schools and their secondary school and will provide resources to support learning. The aim of the service is to provide better continuity between KS2 and KS3 and to support the ICT curriculum in KS3.
- **Full Service Schooling in Newton Aycliffe:** Maintenance of existing project 'REACH' which provides multi-agency support to young people and their families and aims to combine the Health & Education agendas. It also provides consistency and continuity of support between agencies with the aim of promoting full integration from the client's perspective.
- **Community Counselling:** Extend service available to young people and their families with one further year's funding. This will enable

more hours of support to be purchased and will work towards raising educational attainment levels at 16.

- **Full Service Schooling in Shildon:** Provides multi-agency support to young people and their families and consistency and continuity of support between agencies. The service builds the foundations for engagement in learning at an early age, therefore enabling good practice to continue throughout school life.
- **Community Education and Liaison:** Provides support to improve attendance and therefore attainment at age 16 via the appointment of an additional member of staff to work with ten students from West Cornforth. The service provides consistency and continuity of support between agencies and aims to ensure that young people involved achieve their qualification aims at 16.
- **Sedgefield Learning Borough:** NRF is used for the appointment of key personnel to ensure that all learning provision is co-ordinated. The service provides consistency and continuity of support between providers of supported learning and also supports the aim to develop a learning culture amongst all families. This will in turn support young people in their attainment of qualifications at KS4.
- **Full Service Schooling: extending the practice**
Working towards a fully integrated service for all young people attending secondary schooling in the Borough. Close collaboration to develop between all agencies supporting young people and their families to pilot new ways of working with the aim of sustained practice beyond the end of funding. The service will also pilot ways of working with the Primary Care Trust in order to improve general health and well-being of the school-age population and therefore their capacity to learn. Resources have been given to each senior school in the Borough to investigate the most appropriate way of rolling out the Full Service Schooling principles.

Targets:

- Improved KS3 and KS4 results, with no school achieving less than 38% as an average of GCSE results by 2008.
- Reduced number of exclusions.
- Development of co-ordinated learning provision in the District with increased participation by adults.
- Improved co-ordination of services available to young people.
- Increase in attendance rates at Secondary schools for KS3 and KS4.

Resources

	2004/2005	2005/2006
NRF Allocation	£180,000	£199,000
Match Funding Identified	£513,300	£573,300
NRF Intervention Rate	31%	29%

Housing and Community Safety Service Improvements Plan

Title: Private Sector Housing Renewal

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: To facilitate the delivery of a 10-year scheme of intervention to replace obsolete housing in the targeted neighbourhoods. Both Ferryhill Station and Dean Bank have been the subject of detailed option appraisals. Whilst several rows of housing in Ferryhill Station have already been demolished the remaining homes are subject to market collapse and it is considered that further demolition will be required. The preferred option for Dean Bank will include selective demolition, the building of replacement housing and the modernisation of some homes. An appraisal and delivery plan will be prepared for Chilton.

Title: Abandoned and Untaxed Vehicle Scheme

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: Abandoned and untaxed vehicles are not only a constant source of complaints from Borough residents but also present a safety and fire risk. The prompt removal of these vehicles and other large and un-slightly abandoned articles assists in improving the image of targeted neighbourhoods. Appropriate enforcement action and a programme of education also assists in deterring further offences. The initial scheme sponsored by NRF has proven to be extremely popular with residents. Over 100 vehicles have been removed from the street. Further funding is required to continue with the scheme and to allow for this operation to be mainstreamed through the emerging Neighbourhood Warden Service.

Title: Community Reassurance

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: Fear of Crime is perception based. Perceptions are influenced by profile and consistent supportive communications and actions. This scheme will use NRF to purchase a mobile CCTV unit that will:

- Increase public confidence.
- Reduce fear of crime.
- Provide mobile CCTV facilities in areas where CCTV is not available.
- Support school curriculum (PSHCE) in raising awareness of anti-social behaviour and measures to tackle it.
- Support Police led activities.
- Provide evidence base for action.

This service is to be launched in the second quarter of 2004 and the evidence base for action will be described at that time from surveys carried out in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Title: Domestic Violence

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: Sedgefield Borough has the highest reported levels of Domestic Violence in the County. 1 in 6 men, and 1 in 4 women are victims of domestic violence. A number of interventions are in place via statutory and voluntary bodies. This proposal will look to bring together discrete activity areas within an agreed strategy for the Borough. NRF funding will support the development of the Strategy, which will enable the service to work smarter by focusing on partnership-based approaches to tackle domestic violence.

Title: Sedgefield Energy Securing Affordable Warmth Phase Two

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: 9,000 households (20%) are experiencing fuel poverty within Sedgefield Borough. On average fuel poverty rates are 5% higher in the targeted wards than in the rest of the Borough. This means residents are spending a high proportion of income on fuel and are suffering from cold, damp and poorly insulated or badly heated homes. The Neighbourhood Renewal Funding contribution during phase 2 will be used specifically to continue to reduce fuel poverty in 30% or more of the 2,800 homes suffering from fuel poverty in the targeted wards.

Title: Neighbourhoods Wardens Scheme

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Council

Description of Service: The Borough Council was one of the first in the Country to introduce a Community Force as part of its Community Safety Function. In recent years, with assistance from NRF this role has been supported by the introduction of Neighbourhood Wardens operating exclusively in some of the most deprived wards in the Borough. Building upon the success of the Neighbourhood Warden pilots the Council intends to re-brand the entire service to that of Neighbourhood Wardens focusing on engagement with communities whilst being able to support enforcement activities within other parts of the organisation.

NRF will provide funding to support transition to a mainstream funded Neighbourhood Warden role with appropriately skilled and trained staff.

Title: Dean Bank Environmental Improvements

Lead Organisation: Groundwork East Durham

Description of Services: To provide strategic landscape infrastructure upgrading to the Dean Bank road corridor to improve its image and appearance and the living conditions of people in Dean Bank. The activity will also support the local communities involvement in environmental improvement projects.

Title: Handy van

Lead Organisation: Age Concern

Description of Services: Handyvan is an accident prevention/home safety and maintenance scheme designed to keep older people safe in their homes and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. It is a holistic service which in addition to a home small repair service treats an older person as an individual by ascertaining their needs and signposting them to other services which include Age Concern and Ageing Well.

Targets for the overall SIP:

- Reduce number of calls to police and Community Care Force Centre (Community Safety) by 10%
- Reduce the number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour across the Borough by 7% and in the targeted areas of Ferryhill Station, West ward and Dean Bank by 10%.
- Reduce recorded crime rates in the western area of Newton Aycliffe by 30% by 2005.
- Positively impact on the number of people who feel safe in their communities.
- Increase the number of residents who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- Ensure all social housing meets the set standards of decency by 2010.
- Achieve a reduction in the unfit housing stock in the target areas of Shildon, and Ferryhill by 2007.
- Attract new private sector housing into Shildon, Ferryhill and the western areas of Newton Aycliffe.
- Increase successful prosecutions of Domestic Violence by 3%
- Achieve a sustained reduction in repeated domestic violence victims by 2%
- To reduce by at least 10% the gap between those areas with the lowest life expectancy at birth and the population as a whole.

Resources

	2004/05	2005/06
NRF Allocation	£290,000	£304,000
Match Funding Identified	£2,063,880	£4,070,500
NRF Intervention Rate	12%	5%

Match funding is so high because Private Sector Renewal has identified £4,880,000 of the match funding. Therefore a resource table has been included below which does not include Private Sector Renewal.

	2004/05	2005/06
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NRF Allocation	£290,000	£304,000
Match Funding Identified	£713,880	£540,500
NRF Intervention Rate	25%	25%

Integration of Targeted Health Services

Title: Development of Integrated Services

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Partnership Board

Description of Services: The case for integrated working between the Borough Council, Social Services and the Primary Care Trust to deliver more effective joined up services in Sedgefield has been made by users and stakeholders many times. Each agency recognises that there is an interdependency of their roles if effective care and accommodation services are to be developed for users and carers in the locality. In order to focus the agencies on integrated working and the development of integrated services, a Partnership Structure and Board has been established. This voluntary agreement between agencies will use this structure to act as the integrated management group to develop and implement integrated working within the Locality

This joint management of the adult care service agenda in Sedgefield is a highly significant and important activity and represents a significant amount of resources.

The establishment of 5 geographically based integrated teams will provide and commission services for: -

All adults over the age of 18 who have needs associated with:

- Physical ill health including those with continuing ill health and those who require preventative services
- Physical frailty/difficulty, including sensory impairment
- Mental Health problems (older people)

Presently these services are provided by individual statutory agencies.

The scope of the initiative has been developed to be a way of implementing integrated working between Health, Social Services and the Borough Council for the

- prevention of illness
- provision of care
- promotion of health

to local people and the communities they live in.

This is a radical transformation. The Partnership is undertaking and achieving fundamental change in infrastructure (i.e. support systems), culture, service delivery and capability of services.

This radical transformation will provide a new 'future proof' structure and organisation capable of delivering the highest levels of performance and which is fit and flexible enough to be able to cope with any future demands.

Title: Tobacco Control and Inequalities in Health
Lead Organisation: PCT

Description of Service Improvement:

Aim: To develop Tobacco Control initiatives across the identified areas of Sedgefield Borough

To reduce by at least 60% the conception rate among under 18's in the worst 20% of wards.

Objectives:

- To develop project work with young people utilising an arts based approach
- To develop 1 project in each Sure Start area focussing on smoke free homes
- To increase smoke free public places through the development of guidelines and user involvement
- To Lobby local retailers and encourage an agreed approach for the reduction of tobacco sales to under age children
- To work alongside Trading Standards and Customs and Excise in order to reduce availability of tax free tobacco

Targets:

- To reduce by at least 10% the gap between those areas with the lowest life expectancy at birth and the population as a whole.
- Reduce levels of smoking across the targeted neighbourhoods.
- Work towards a reduction in deaths from heart disease in the Borough by 2010.

Resources

	2004/2005	2005/2006
NRF Allocation	£230,000	£199,000
Match Funding Identified	£612,600	£347,600
NRF Intervention Rate	37%	57%*

*overall rate is 44%

Environment

Title: Accessing Sedgefield Services

Lead Organisation: Groundwork East Durham

Description of Service Improvement: Access to services in the Borough is a truly cross-cutting issue with challenges being faced by all service providers and deprived communities in the Borough. The service improvement is needed to maximise the availability of services to the deprived communities that the LSP serve. If transport links can be improved then access to and thus the efficient delivery of all public services can be sustained.

This improvement will result in better co-ordinated service delivery across the LSP as users of the mainstream services have better access to employment, education and health services in particular leading potentially to better health and wealth in the most deprived communities.

The provision of NRF will seek to clearly identify and quantify existing transport service issues and barriers, recommend strategies for improvement, pilot a small number of direct interventions and seek to directly impact upon the development of the County Local Transport Plan in respect to actions to be delivered in the Borough. NRF funds will be entirely additional and without NRF this work would not go ahead.

Aim

To clearly identify the barriers to public services, employment and leisure opportunities that access precipitates; recommend strategies for minimising these barriers; and provide some 'pilot' initiatives in order to inform the potential for mainstreaming / commissioning joint transport actions and influence the outcome of the Local Transport Plan in the Borough.

1. Access Services Study (Year 1)

Groundwork East Durham will source officer time to collate information concerning the provision of existing public / community transport services. Transport service users, providers and public service providers will be consulted to ascertain gaps, problems and issues with the network of services as they exist at present.

2. Transport Action Plan (Year 1)

In partnership with transport providers, community network, service providers and other partners we will produce a 5 year 'Transport Action Plan' that will make recommendations to solve or make a significant change against the gaps, problems and issues identified in the 'Access Services Study'.

3. Pilot Transport Initiatives Programme (Year 2)

This phase of the service improvement will focus on the delivery of a small number of time limited pilot interventions that will seek to demonstrate the opportunity to 'join up' local transport problems for a wide range of service providers into commissioned solutions. The pilot programme will in addition seek to add significant value to the Durham County Local Transport

Plan 2, which is due to start impacting within the Borough in 2006-7. Initiative that will be progressed in this programme will be directly informed by the actions identified in 2. Transport Action Plan.

Targets:

- Employment – Improve the number of people accessing jobs.
- Health - Provide better access to Health Services.
- Education – Provide better access to educational services.

SMARTer targets will be produced when the consultancy work has identified actions.

Resources

	2004/2005	2005/2006
NRF Allocation	£60,000	£145,000
Match Funding Identified	£31,000	£80,000
NRF Intervention Rate	72%	64%

Economy Service Improvement Plan

Title: Fostering Entrepreneurship

Lead Organisation: Sedgefield Borough Business Service

Description of Service to be Improved: It is proposed to enhance the existing activity aimed at encouraging self-employment in the target wards. At present, a small financial incentive is used in order to encourage people from the target wards to enter in to self-employment. This has had a certain level of success but the persistent low levels of business start up across the Borough highlight the need to bolster activity.

In addition to the mainstream delivery of business support and mentoring offered to new start companies and individuals entering into self employment by the Small Firms Team at SBBS, additional NRF resource will allow a more comprehensive and proactive approach to promoting entrepreneurship and self employment to be delivered.

This will involve facilitating seminars and awareness raising exercises and events which will actively promote self-employment and business start up. This will then be accompanied by a comprehensive support programme, which will include training to support the development of the skills necessary to become a successful entrepreneur.

Targets: - Increase overall business start-up rates across the Borough bringing the rate closer to the national average.
- Increase self-employment rates in the target communities.

Title: Enterprising Communities

Lead Organisation: Business Link

Description of Service to be Improved: Work has begun building capacity in the target communities, and identifying potential Community Enterprises. Continuation of support would allow the Community Enterprise Coordinator (funded through NRF support) for Sedgefield Borough to enhance the relationship with Community Groups, and support the newly established Community Enterprises.

In addition, it has been proposed by the policy group that extra resource should be made available to 'kick-start' the establishment of a Community Enterprise where appropriate. These could potentially be linked with other Economic Regeneration projects such as the NRM Shildon, and Netpark.

Targets: - To contribute to increased business start up rates through helping 5 new Community Enterprises start up by March 06.
- To have contributed to increased self-employment rates in the target communities, through promoting a more entrepreneurial culture.

Title: Job Search

Lead Organisation: Jobcentre Plus

Description of Service: The project has achieved a great deal of success, resulting in a large number of unemployed residents of target communities gaining work. The service allows for an enhancement of mainstream services by offering additional support to job seekers in the target wards who face specific barriers to entering employment.

It is proposed that with continued NRF support, the service improvement could be rolled out to all the target wards in Sedgefield Borough.

Targets: - To assist 297 local people into jobs through specifically targeted employment advice, and support services. This will actively contribute to reducing unemployment in Sedgefield Borough.

- To continue to reduce youth unemployment, by assisting young people to enter employment.

Title: Civic Pride

Lead Organisation: Groundwork East Durham

Description of Service: To provide an additional level of service to the existing Sedgefield 'Prospect' ILM (Intermediate Labour Market) by establishing a bridge to employment for unemployed 'New Deal' eligible young people aged 18- 25 and 25 plus, who are resident within the targeted wards via counselling, training and useful, properly paid work as soon as they are 'job ready'. Civic Pride will also assist in the renewal of the NRF targeted wards, via the undertaking of Rapid Response / Environmental Improvement activities, including;

- Horticultural works to enhance deprived areas
- Collection of sharps (needles) and additional street cleaning
- Removal of graffiti
- Cleaning out communal areas (Flats) and council gardens
- Cutting down and thinning out shrubbery

Targets: - To assist local people into jobs through specifically targeted employment, advice and support services.

- Reduce youth unemployment in those targeted wards where the levels are currently above the County average.

Resources

	2004/05	2005/06
NRF Allocation	£180,000	£199,000
Match Funding Identified	£534,488	£548,140
NRF Intervention Rate	25%	26%

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Item 5

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET
14th October 2004

Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Portfolios: Regeneration and Housing

HOUSING LAND CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY - NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL SCHEMES: APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Cabinet at its meeting on 29th September agreed a Strategy to govern the commitment of capital receipts from housing land disposals to support the regeneration of the Borough. As part of this, provision was made to provide support to advance local neighbourhood renewal schemes in the Ferryhill Station, Dean Bank and west Chilton areas. An initial stage, in advancing this, is a need to prepare detailed local area Action Plans to provide a suitable development framework to guide investment decisions and actions on new housing investment, housing improvements and wider environmental improvements.
- 1.2 To deliver the required Action Plans it will be necessary to appoint external assistance. The purpose of this report is therefore to seek Cabinet approval for the appointment of consultants to undertake this task. In summary the outcomes of the study will be to provide an housing market assessment for the Ferryhill and Chilton areas, a physical development framework plan to guide the renewal of each of the three identified neighbourhoods and a development appraisal of the agreed renewal proposals to confirm economic viability and deliverability.
- 1.3 The Study Brief will require submissions to set out a clear methodology and approach to tackling the project and in particular, arrangements to secure a high level of local stakeholder and community engagement and consultation.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Cabinet are recommended to:
 1. Approve the commissioning of suitable experienced consultants to assist in preparing Neighbourhood Renewal Actions Plans for Ferryhill Station, Dean Bank, Ferryhill and the western area of Chilton.
 2. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council the approval of the Brief for the commission and the appointment of the preferred company on the recommendations of the Project's Steering Group.
 3. Appoint Councillors Noble and Waters to serve on the Project's Steering Group, supported by senior officers from the Chief Executives' Resources and Neighbourhood Services Departments.

3. **PROMOTION OF MAJOR AREA BASED NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL SCHEMES**

Background

- 3.1 The Cabinet at its meeting on 29th September agreed a Strategy to govern the commitment of capital receipts from housing land disposals to support the sustainable promotion of the well being of the Borough's communities through an enhanced programme of capital investment in line with agreed Council Key Aims and Outcomes. As part of this, specific provision was made to provide support to advance major area based local neighbourhood renewal schemes for the Ferryhill Station, Dean Bank areas of Ferryhill and the Western part of Chilton.
- 3.2 This approach reflects and seeks to build upon work undertaken in Ferryhill Station and Dean Bank to support neighbourhood renewal initiatives and recent appraisals work for the western area of Chilton. It also reflects the provisions of the Council's approved Housing Strategy and Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Promotion of Neighbourhood Renewal

- 3.3 To date there have been two principal constraints in promoting neighbourhood renewal on a comprehensive and co-ordinated basis and moving beyond the appraisal stages: the availability of the required financial resources and a lack of a detailed Action Plan.
- 3.4 It was noted in the report to Cabinet in September that whilst progress with area renewal schemes in the Ferryhill and Chilton could be enhanced through the Capital Receipts Strategy, because of the long term nature and scale of the investment required, intervention would be dependant on securing external public and private sector partner(s) funding support.
- 3.5 In terms of available financial resources, there is a commitment within the Sustainable Communities Plan for the North East, for English Partnerships to support housing renewal in the former Durham Coalfield areas. A partnership group to take this forward involving English Partnerships, District Councils, Durham County Council and one North East is meeting regularly to progress this matter with a view to agreeing an intervention strategy that presently affords some priority to the Borough's targeted communities. The Council has also received an allocation under the Region's Single Housing Investment Pot (SHIP) for 2004/05 and 2005/06 to commence actions linked to assisting in the delivery of the Regional Housing Strategy's objective of tackling low housing demand and market failure in older housing areas within coalfield communities.
- 3.6 It is also evident that there is a building policy commitment to tackle housing renewal and low demand issue in the Durham coalfield area. This issue is being given appropriate attention in the emerging draft Regional Spatial Strategy and the draft Regional Housing Strategy.

- 3.7 Whilst no firm resource allocations been made there is a need to now address the second constraint, the lack of detailed plans to shape and guide the actual delivery of the renewal process across each of the targeted areas. For each area there is a need for an Action Plan to be prepared so as to provide a Development Framework to guide investment decisions and actions on new housing investment, housing improvements, clearance of unfit and surplus to demand properties, environmental improvements and the provision or improvement of community facilities such as shops, schools, health facilities and community buildings. A similar approach was adopted successfully in bringing forward the renewal of the Bessemer Park area of Spennymoor.

External Support – Brief Specification

- 3.8 To provide the capacity and experienced to deliver the required Action Plans with Development Frameworks for the areas of Ferryhill Station, Dean Bank and Chilton West, it will be necessary to appoint external assistance. To facilitate this a Study Brief is being prepared to deliver the following Study outcomes:

- An overall Housing Market Assessment and Strategy to support the delivery of a more balanced housing market across the Ferryhill and Chilton areas, and to provide a policy context and justification for the interventions in each of the three local Neighbourhood Action Plans.
- A physical development framework plan to guide the renewal of each of the three identified neighbourhoods that considers the attraction of new housing investment, improvement of retained housing and the clearance of unfit and low demand properties with other environmental interventions to facilitate the sustainable regeneration of each community. Within this consideration should also be given to the need for other policy interventions to support the housing and community renewal process and to maintain local community confidence in the areas whilst they under go this planned process of change.
- A development appraisal of the agreed renewal proposals to confirm economic viability and deliverability, to indicate any requirement for public funding support to prove the economic case for developer led solutions and to identify other costs and sources of funding required to ensure public sector works (site preparation, etc.) to facilitate the development process are secured.
- In light of the conclusions of the development appraisals, provide a procurement strategy to guide a developer led implementation of the development proposals within the Council's current procurement practices and those associated with any indicative funding sources.

- 3.9 The Brief will require submissions to set out a clear methodology and approach to tackling this project and to demonstrate a clear understanding of the skills and approaches required for the various aspects. In particular, this will need to include a strong emphasis on stakeholder and local engagement and consultation. Submitted proposals will be expected to demonstrate a clear methodology for undertaking community consultations and the engagement of local community representatives and other stakeholders in the development and agreement of the final proposals for each of the areas. It also expected that the appointed company would therefore include as part of their team community engagement specialists.

Project Management Arrangements

- 3.10 In terms of the management of the project it is expected that this will be undertaken via a Steering Group comprising representatives of the local community along with other stakeholders including Ferryhill and Chilton Town Councils, Registered Social Landlord partners, and English Partnerships. There would also be an opportunity to involve the Sunderland Housing Group in light of the ongoing LSVT process. Borough Council representation would include the Cabinet Members for Housing and Regeneration along with officers from Strategy and Regeneration (Chief Executives Department), Resources and Neighbourhood Services Departments.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The initial budget for this scale of external support will be dependant on many factors, not least the quality of the proposed methodology advanced by those submitting proposals. It is clear however that this will be an intensive commission and is required to be conducted over as short a timescale as possible commensurate with the required quality outcomes sought. As such an initial budget provision had been made of £150,000. This can be met from within the Council's Budget Framework for 2004/05 as amended at the July 2004 Council Meeting.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 As indicated in Section 3 of the Report, a key component of this project will be local community and stakeholder involvement in the research and option development stages so as to ensure as wide as possible consensus on the way forward in promoting the physical renewal of the three identified neighbourhoods. This will be further supported by the involvement of local community representation within the Steering Group arrangements.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 In the preparation of the Area Action Plans and Development Framework plans full account will be taken of matters that will impact on the delivery of more sustainable neighbourhoods in parts of Ferryhill and Chilton. This process will assist to promote greater social inclusion and have positive impacts on environmental sustainability and community safety issues. The planned consultation arrangements will ensure there is due regard to issues of equality and equity in terms of involvement in the process and through this the diversity of interests by both place and groups will be addressed. The process will also be managed to minimise risks to the Council and the communities involved.
- 6.2 There are no other significant material considerations arising from the planned recommended actions

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 are currently commencing a review of the Council's approach to the renewal of older housing areas. The processes being followed and the outcome of the work for the targeted communities should be informative to this review process.

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Wards: Ferryhill and Chilton.

Key Decision Validation: Will involve expenditure of over £100,000 and will significantly impact on two wards in the Borough.

Background Papers: Budget Framework – Use of Capital Receipts, Report of Director of Resources to Council, 28th July 2004.

Promotion of the Regeneration of the Borough – Housing Land Capital Receipts Strategy, Report of Head of Strategy and Regeneration to Cabinet, 30th September 2004

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Council's Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Item 6

CABINET

14th OCTOBER 2004

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ALL PORTFOLIOS

QUALITY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL SCHEME

SUMMARY

This report gives an update on progress made on the Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme, proposes the adoption of a Charter developed by a Working Group set up for that purpose.

The report also identifies further work required to develop a number of protocols to ensure that the principles of the Quality Scheme and various aspirations contained in the Charter are achieved.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cabinet support the proposed Charter
2. That the proposed Charter be referred to Council for approval.
3. That the Charter Working Group develop protocols to ensure that the principles of the Quality Scheme and various aspirations contained in the Charter are achieved.

DETAIL

Background

1. The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme was launched on 18th March 2003. The Scheme fulfils a commitment made by the Government in the Rural White Paper '*Our Countryside: the Future. A Fair Deal For Rural England*', published in November 2000, to enable parish councils, where they wish, to work in partnership with principal councils to take a stronger role in their communities.
2. The Borough/Parish Relations Working Party has considered a number of reports setting out the background to the Scheme, the criteria for Parish and Town Councils to become 'Quality Councils' and the development of a Charter to support positive working relationships with all Parish and Town Councils and partnership arrangements with those local councils that achieve Quality Status.
3. A County Durham Accreditation Panel has been established for Parish Councils to apply for quality status. Where quality status is awarded, Parish and Town Councils can request to deliver services on behalf of the Borough Council. The over-riding principle when taking decisions on the delegation of services and functions is to provide best value, not only for the local communities served by the Town/Parish

Council(s) taking on the service, but also to residual communities served by the Borough Council.

4. Sedgefield Town Council is currently the only council in the Borough to have been awarded Quality Status. Other councils within the Borough are however pursuing Quality Status.

Development of a Charter

5. The Scheme aims to encourage principal councils to agree Charters with parish councils setting out how the principal Local Authority and Parish Councils will work in partnership. It will cover the relations between the principal Local Authority and the Parish Councils and will set out the additional benefits and responsibilities that Parish Councils can expect from achieving quality status. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has issued a model charter for councils to develop to reflect local circumstances.

6. A small working group was established to develop the model charter. The Charter Working Group is made up of the following officers:

Jamie Corrigan, Ferryhill Town Council
Mrs Lesley Swinbank, Sedgefield Town Council
Ken Pritchard, Bishop Middleham Parish Council
Mike Rice, Great Aycliffe Town Council
David Anderson, Sedgefield Borough Council.

7. The Working Group has given detailed consideration to the model charter and has proposed that the Charter attached at Appendix 1 be adopted.

Part 1 of the Charter covers the relationship between the Borough Council and all Parish and Town Councils within the Borough. It gives details of general working principles for achieving improved partnership working in the following areas:-

Sustainability
Community Strategies
Local Governance
Consultation
Land Use and Development Planning
Information and Complaints
Standards Committee
Delegating Responsibility for Service Provision
Financial Arrangements
Local Community Life
Practical Support

Part 2 of the Model Charter sets out the enhanced role Quality Parish Councils in the area can expect to play and covers the benefits of quality status. This Part of the Charter sets out how the Borough Council will work with Quality Parish Councils to develop Community Strategies, assist in the provision of information and access points and general principles involved in delegation of functions and service provision.

Next Steps

8. Sedgefield Borough and other local Councils will need to formally consider approval of the proposed Charter. Once adopted further work will be required to agree protocols to ensure that the various aspirations contained within the Charter are achieved.

Development of Protocols

10. In many ways the development of the Charter has been the easier aspect of the Quality Council Scheme to deal with, as the Working Group have used the Government's Model to follow the principles of the Quality Councils Scheme to develop the proposed Charter.
11. The implementation of the Charter will require Sedgefield Borough and the Town and Parish Councils to agree the necessary protocols for all areas covered by the Charter in order to achieve the objectives of the Quality Scheme. It is proposed that the Charter Working Group continue to meet to develop the necessary protocols. Officers of the Borough Council with responsibility for areas contained within the Charter will be invited to attend meetings as appropriate and assist in the process.

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Ward(s) Not Ward specific

Key Decision Validation N/A

Background Papers

'Quality Parish Council Scheme' – Report to the Borough Parish Relations Working Party, 9th April 2003.

'The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme – The Scheme Explained' - Office of the Deputy prime Minister

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CHARTER

Introduction

1. Sedgefield Borough Council,
Ferryhill Town Council
Great Aycliffe Town Council
Sedgefield Town Council
Shildon Town Council
Spennymoor Town Council
Bishop Middleham Parish Council
Chilton Parish Council
Cornforth Parish Council
Eldon Parish Council
Fishburn Parish Council
Middridge Parish Council
Trimdon Parish Council and
Windlestone Parish Council

have agreed to publish a Charter which sets out how they aim to work together for the benefit of local people. This Charter is the result of discussions locally to establish a new way of working and to confirm existing good practice.

2. Sedgefield Borough Council acknowledges that Parish and Town Councils are the grass-roots level of local government. By working with them and the Local Strategic Partnership, Sedgefield Borough Council aims to act in partnership with local communities, while balancing the needs of the wider community.
3. In their role as democratically accountable bodies, Parish and Town Councils offer a means of shaping the decisions that affect their communities. They offer a means of decentralising the provision of certain services and of revitalising local communities. In turn, the Parish or Town Councils recognise the strategic role of Sedgefield Borough Council and the equitable distribution of services which it has to achieve.
4. This Charter reflects the increasing importance attached by Central Government to partnership working and the development of Quality Status for Parish and Town Councils.

The first part of this Charter (Part 1) applies to all Parish and Town Councils in the Borough. The second part (Part 2) applies to Quality Parish and Town Councils only. It may be formally reviewed after four years in operation by Sedgefield Borough Council and the Parish Councils.

Part 1 - All Parish and Town Councils

SUSTAINABILITY

5. Sedgefield Borough Council will work in partnership with all Parish and Town Councils in its area to promote sustainable social, economic and environmental development for the benefit of local communities.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

6. Sedgefield Borough Council will involve Parish and Town Councils in the processes of preparing and implementing the community strategy to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area, and the role which Parish and Town Councils should take. Sedgefield Borough Council will consult and involve Parish and Town Councils accordingly about the content and direction of the community strategy as it affects the local communities they represent.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

7. A Borough/Parish Relations Working Party has been established in order to liaise with local councils in the Borough and consider items of mutual interest and concern. All Parish and Town Councils within the Borough will be invited to appoint representatives to the Working Party, which will meet on at least two occasions each year at a venue agreed by the participating councils. In addition regular meetings will take place with Parish Clerks and officers of the Borough Council in order to enhance the liaison between Councils.

Representatives from Parish and Town Councils will be invited to attend the appropriate Area Forum for their Council's area. Meetings will be held within the local area concerned and will consider matters that are of local interest and which affect that local area.

8. Sedgefield Borough Council will help administer the holding of Parish and Town Council elections. The respective authorities will work together to limit the costs of holding such elections.

CONSULTATION

9. Sedgefield Borough Council and Parish and Town Councils recognise the value of consultation and will consult with each other before making decisions which will:-
 - have an impact on the local environment,
 - result in changes to service delivery
 - and in connection with best value reviews
10. Sufficient information should be provided to enable an informed view to be reached on the matter. In addition adequate time should be given to respond in accordance with the statutory requirements where applicable.

11. The decision taken following consultation will be circulated to all consultees, giving reasons for that decision in accordance with agreed protocols.
12. Only in exceptional circumstances will appropriate consultation not take place, in which case a written explanation will be given.
13. Sedgefield Borough Council will aim to give Parish and Town Councils the opportunity to comment before making a decision which affects the local community. In furtherance of this, the Borough Council will circulate agendas containing public reports for meetings of Council, Cabinet and Committees to Parish Clerks at the same time as they are sent to Members of the Borough Council. Parish and Town Councils can request a copy of any public report and are encouraged to comment directly to Members of Sedgefield Borough Council.
14. To help achieve the objectives laid down in this Charter, liaison and consultation (both formal and informal) will be further developed at Parish and Town Council level through regular meetings between officers of the Borough Council and Parish and Town Clerks.
15. Sedgefield Borough Council will attend meetings with the Parish and Town Councils (or groups of such councils) at a mutually agreed time to discuss matters of common interest.
16. Parish and Town Councils will send copies of their agendas and papers to the Sedgefield Borough Council and to Councillors for their area upon request. Officers and Councillors of the Sedgefield Borough Council will be given an opportunity to speak at Parish and Town Council meetings on matters of mutual interest.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

17. Where a parish/town council, or group of parish/town councils, has prepared (in consultation with Sedgefield Borough Council) a Parish or Town Plan which includes proposals concerning land use and development planning issues (eg a village design statement) Sedgefield Borough Council may adopt this as Supplementary Planning Guidance (provided it meets the requirements set out in national planning guidance).
18. Where the Parish or Town plan proposals imply some changes to the current development plan or the future local development framework for their area, Sedgefield Borough Council will consider and discuss the proposals with the parish council (or councils) as part of its next review of that plan.

INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS

19. Sedgefield Borough Council will communicate with Parish and Town Councils and others in the community by publishing INFORM regularly and making it available to the local community. It will also keep Parish and Town Councils informed by sending them copies of other relevant newsletters/local promotional material.
20. Sedgefield Borough Council and Parish and Town Councils will acknowledge letters sent by the other party, and both will provide substantive answers to letters which need a reply in accordance with agreed timescales. A full substantive reply or an acknowledgement will be sent by the Borough Council or Parish and Town Councils

within 3 working days. If an acknowledgement is sent, the full substantive reply will be sent within a further 7 working days, or within a time frame agreed by both parties.

21. If a Parish or Town Council is dissatisfied with the Sedgefield Borough Council's actions, the response to a request for information, or a failure to consult, the Parish or Town Council may make a formal complaint to the Chief Executive Officer.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

22. Both Sedgefield Borough Council and the Parish and Town Councils have adopted codes of conduct, based on the national model code of conduct. The parish councils will work with the Borough Council's Standards Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. The Sedgefield District Local Councils Committee will appoint a parish representative to the Standards Committee each year. The Standards Committee will only deal with parish affairs when the parish representative is present.

DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SERVICE PROVISION

23. If a Parish or Town Council (or group of local councils) wishes to discharge functions on behalf of the Sedgefield Borough Council, the Borough Council will consider this where it provides best value (taking into consideration cost, quality, local preferences and practicability), and taking into account relevant Regulations including EC Procurement Directives.
24. Where it is not good value or practicable Sedgefield Borough Council will, in consultation with the parish or town councils, explore alternative solutions to encourage more local-level input into service delivery.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

25. Where a Parish or Town Council takes on the provision of certain services, the level of funding will be agreed by Sedgefield Borough Council and the Parish or Town Council concerned.
26. In addition financial arrangements will be agreed in accordance with the principles and good practice guide to avoid double taxation.

LOCAL COMMUNITY LIFE

27. Sedgefield Borough Council will endeavour to promote local community life in partnership with Town and Parish Councils

PRACTICAL SUPPORT

28. Sedgefield Borough Council will, where practical, offer Parish and Town Councils access to their own financial, technical and specialist support services, and enable them to take advantage of facilities such as printing and purchasing, at a mutually agreed price.

Part 2 - Quality Parish and Town Councils

29. In addition to the above, Sedgefield Borough Council has agreed to work in the following ways with those Parish and Town Councils which are recognised as having attained Quality status.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIES AND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

30. Where a Quality council, or group of Quality councils, has prepared a parish or town plan Sedgefield Borough Council will take account of its proposals and priorities in developing and implementing the community strategy as it affects the local areas concerned. Sedgefield Borough Council will strengthen links between Quality councils and the Local Strategic Partnership in order to improve delivery of local priorities.

INFORMATION AND ACCESS POINTS

31. If a Quality parish council, or group of Quality parish councils, wishes to become a local information and/or access point for Sedgefield Borough Council services Sedgefield Borough Council will help it to do so. In particular it will:
- issue to the parish council (and up-date as necessary) relevant written information on and application forms for its services
 - give electronic access to similar information and forms (where it provides these electronically) provided the parish council has appropriate technology
 - provide suitable briefing, training and support to staff of the parish or town council to enable them to provide this function.

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS AND SERVICE PROVISION:

32. Sedgefield Borough Council has agreed to consider requests from Quality Town and Parish Councils, (or groups of Parish and Town Councils) to carry out functions on its behalf. In considering specific requests the Borough Council is required to take into account all relevant factors and Regulations including E.C. Procurement Directives and whether the proposal would deliver Best Value, in terms of cost, quality, local preferences and practicability.
33. Where a proposal would not represent good value or would not be practicable Sedgefield Borough Council will, in consultation with the parish or town council, explore alternative solutions to encourage more local-level input into service delivery.
34. As part of its Best Value arrangements, Sedgefield Borough Council will give Quality Councils, or groups of Quality Councils, who wish to, the opportunity to put forward proposals to take on aspects of the delivery, management and monitoring of services provided by Sedgefield Borough Council.

Item 7

REPORT TO CABINET

Date 16th September 2004

REPORT OF STREET SCENE MANAGER

Environment Portfolio

USE OF CHILTON DEPOT BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE

1. SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to enter into partnership arrangements with Durham County Council on the use of the Borough's Chilton Depot as a base for their winter maintenance activities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet...

- 2.1 Authorises an agreement between the Borough and Durham CC for the use of Chilton Depot as a base of operations for winter maintenance and for storage of salt during the year.
- 2.2 Approves a negotiated annual charge of £4000 for the area occupied and a charge of £2500 for the cost of shared use of the loader on site.
- 2.3 Agree to adaptations to security and fencing to the value of approx. £3600 to be funded as a one-off cost by Durham CC.
- 2.4 Approve the partnership approach to develop interim protocols and quid pro quo arrangements to facilitate the overall agreement.

3. USE OF CHILTON DEPOT BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE

3.1 Background

The central depot at Chilton has been used as a base for winter maintenance for a number of years. The Borough Council used to undertake this work under an agency arrangement, but from this (financial) year the Durham CC has taken back full highway responsibility for the provision.

There is approximately 1500 tonne of salt stored at Chilton Depot owned by Durham

CC, which was delivered (as is customary) early in the financial year when purchase price is more favourable.

3.2 Evaluation

For operational necessity Durham CC still require a base in the Chilton area to operate the winter maintenance gritting routes. The area being utilized has always been devoted to the storage and transfer of salt and will not impact upon the normal operation of the Depot beyond revisions to maintain security.

4. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Discussions have taken place between Officers of the Borough and County Council to develop formal proposals for the occupancy and use of the Depot by Durham County Council.

- 4.1 There will need to be immediate adaptations to the existing security fence, with separate access gates being installed. The existing perimeter fence alarm will be retained and adapted to the new perimeter line at the end of the car park as required. Lockable internal gates will be provided to allow access to the vehicle wash and operation of Council vehicles when necessary. The one-off costs of this work, in the region of £3600, will be met by Durham CC. (see attached plan)
- 4.2 An assessment of the occupancy space has been made by the Borough's Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager who has determined that an annual rental of £4000 would be appropriate.
- 4.3 The Borough's Transport & Depot Manager has proposed a cost sharing arrangement on the Depot's telescopic loader which can be made available for use by Durham CC. At an agreed rate of £2500 p.a.
- 4.4 Any agreement will need to be formally constituted with provisions for annual review of charges. It is proposed that the agreement runs in line with the financial year and a single payment in March (for administrative economy) will be made on production of an invoice.
- 4.5 It should be noted that the income from this arrangement has not been budgeted for and constitutes a net financial benefit to the Depot's account of £6500 in the current financial year.

5. **CONSULTATIONS**

Not relevant, there being no material change in the manner and provision of the Council's service and its' operation from the Depot.

6. **OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 There will be a need to develop some interim working protocols as Durham CC wishes to operate from the depot with effect from 1st October 2004, which is the

traditional start of the winter season for this work. This does not present any problem short term, and temporary measures can be implemented at no cost to mitigate the additional security requirements that this could entail.

- 6.2 Other reciprocal agreements on a quid pro quo basis are proposed. For example, in exchange for works undertaken by Durham CC to the depot infrastructure in keeping drain and silt traps clear, the vehicle wash can be used for cleaning down their vehicles, and access by County staff to welfare and other facilities on site can be made.
- 6.3 Both formal and informal agreements will need to be appropriately documented.
- 6.4 There are some long-standing environmental concerns over the storage of the salt and leachate from the location. However this matter has been raised with Durham CC and there are investigations planned during the by-pass works which are adjacent to the location.

There are no adverse other material considerations beyond those stated.

7. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no effects on the provision of Council services as a result of this proposal.

Contact Officer Doug Smith, Street Scene Manager
Telephone Number 01388 816166 Ext. 8832
E-mail address dougsmith@[sedgefield.gov.uk](mailto:dougsmith@sedgefield.gov.uk)

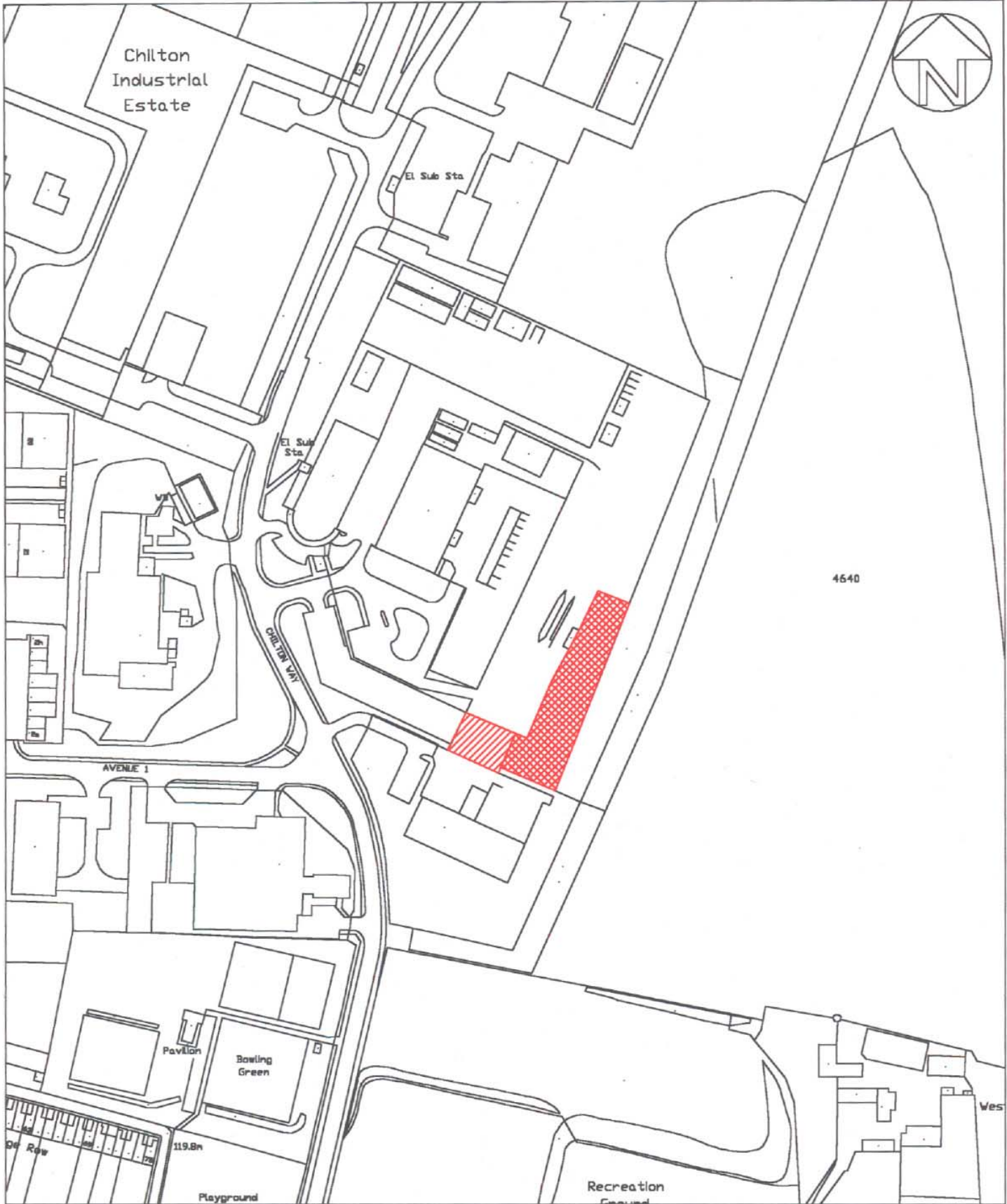
Wards: All Wards in the Borough

Key Decision Validation: None.

Background Papers: None.

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Licence No:-
LA079278

TITLE:
**Potential Letting
Part of
Chilton Depot**

REF
TV.4356/JW

SCALE
1:2500

DATE
06/10/04

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Item 8

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

4th October 2004

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGY AND REGENERATION

Portfolio: Regeneration

SPENNYMOOR TOWN CENTRE SHOP IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS SCHEME

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 On 27th September 2001 the Executive Committee agreed a proposal for a Shop Improvements Grant Scheme for Spennymoor Town Centre.
- 1.2 To date unfortunately the take up of grant assistance has been limited with only four businesses accessing the grant and a further four having developed schemes but not progressing them for various reasons. In the light of this a review of the scheme has been undertaken to coincide with the approval by One NorthEast of a major programme of works for the town centre.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to outline the reasons for the difficulties the scheme has experienced and to seek approval for a revised Shop Improvements Grant Scheme in Spennymoor Town Centre, which aims to address previous problems incurred.
- 1.4 The revised Shop Improvements Grant Scheme forms part of the wider Spennymoor Town Centre Renewal Programme and the Regeneration Services Capital Programme 2004/05 approved in July 2004.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet:
 1. Approves the revised Spennymoor Town Centre Shop front Improvements Grant Scheme as set out in the report.

A) EXISTING SHOP IMPROVEMENTS GRANT SCHEME

Background

- 3.1 A shop improvements grant scheme was originally introduced following the conclusions of the Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe Town Centre

Study produced by consultants EDAW in 2000. It identified the physical design appearance of many of the shop fronts and upper floors in Spennymoor as a major weakness of the centre, in that both contribute significantly to its fragmented and poor appearance.

- 3.2 The Shop Front Improvements Scheme is part of the wider regeneration of Spennymoor Town Centre that includes major improvements to the public realm resourced through County Durham Economic Partnership Single Programme as well as the Borough Council's Regeneration Services Capital Programme as agreed by Cabinet in July 2004. These works include improving the gateways and entrance points, upgrading the High Street, improving the pedestrian links to the town centre, improved security using additional CCTV coverage, and improving the public realm of Festival Walk Shopping area. The Shop Front Improvements Scheme is integral to the programme and will ensure a holistic approach to the townscape improvements within Spennymoor.
- 3.3 There have been four applicants since 2001 from Cheapside and High Street that have accessed a total of £26,973 in grant. An additional four enquiries were taken to advanced stages but were not executed because of lack of personal funds and an insufficient level of grant intervention. One owner did not access the scheme because it did not meet their corporate requirements and they had less of an incentive due to the property being rented. This illustrates a continued interest and need for the scheme, and provides reason for it to be revised.

Research

- 3.4 The Council's Town Centre Manager has undertaken consultations with local retailers in Spennymoor in an effort to identify reasons for the low take up of grant. These discussions highlight a continued demand for the scheme but identify several perceived barriers to making progress beyond initial enquiries. These include, limited choice of contractors, retailers' believe their proposals will not be supported as a high level of design criteria needs to be met, lack of support in the implementation of works, insufficient level of grant particularly for larger premises, no assistance for minor works, and being outside the priority area.
- 3.5 In an attempt to overcome these issues and learn from best practice outside the Borough, research has been undertaken into the operation of shop improvement grant schemes by other local authorities. It should be noted that Sedgefield Borough Council has previously delivered a successful shop improvements grant scheme in Shildon, which improved 30% of the business properties in the town centre over its 5 year lifetime.
- 3.6 The Shildon Shop Front Improvements scheme was successful as it was part of an overall programme of works for the town centre, and had a significant level of personal contact with the traders removing barriers to access the grant.

- 3.7 From the research into similar schemes and from experience in Shildon, key elements influencing the success of such schemes have been identified.
- a) The level of grant needs to be at an acceptable level as the most successful schemes have a 70% intervention rate.
 - b) An active marketing campaign with personal contact that incorporates direct marketing to potential applicants to address initial queries and barriers.
 - c) High quality upgrades to deteriorated shop fronts helps create a “snow-ball” effect encouraging other traders to access the grant.
 - d) Provision of a list of contractors/architects assists in overcoming the difficulties some traders have in obtaining quotes.
 - e) Allowing for professional fees to be eligible assists applicants reduce their overall costs.
 - f) Seeking feedback from traders to incorporate improvements into the scheme so as to encourage other traders to access and promote the scheme to other owners.

Revised Shop Improvements Grant Scheme

- 3.8 As a result of the research conducted it is proposed to revise the existing shop front improvements scheme to include the following elements as a means to increasing the grant take up rate and thereby enhancing the vitality of Spennymoor Town Centre. The revised scheme will form part of the Spennymoor Town Centre Renewal Programme, and it is hoped this will encourage applicants to come forward to improve their business.

Objectives

- 3.9 The objectives of the scheme will remain the same:
- a. to contribute towards the overall environmental quality of the town centre, by improving the design and appearance of commercial premises.
 - b. to improve the commercial vitality and viability of the town centre
 - c. to generate investment in the town centre, and
 - d. to create and sustain a sense of pride amongst the local population in their town centre.

Key elements

- 3.10 The proposal will be expanded to incorporate two separate but complementary schemes. The first scheme would be a grant for shop owners to access to carry out major comprehensive improvements to the whole of a shop façade (lower and upper floor). In line with best practice elsewhere and consultation with the retailers, a second grant would be available to support minor improvement works such as minor repairs, paintwork and minor security upgrades. This complementary second grant scheme should ensure that the town centre street scene, as a whole could be improved alongside those owners who are benefiting from the major comprehensive improvement scheme.

Major Scheme

- 3.11 The main elements of the schemes would change in order to tackle previous problems incurred:
- a. Area – The boundaries of the eligible area would remain the same for both schemes: the whole of High Street; Cheapside; Festival Walk; King Street and part of Oxford Road near its junction with High Street. In contrast to the previous scheme no specific areas within the boundaries would be prioritised, as any shop improvements within the area would serve to have a positive impact on the town centre.
 - b. Eligibility – Commercial properties in the above area. This would include the front façade (shop front and upper floor) as well as visible gable ends.
 - c. Eligible Items – The general façade as part of a comprehensive scheme to improve the building/frontage including, windows, doors, fascia/signs, rendering, brickwork, roof covering, replacement of solid roller shutters with shutters of an improved design, improvements to gable ends, and provision of disabled access/access improvements to retail areas. Professional fees up to 10% of the cost of the whole scheme.
 - d. The maximum level and percentage of grant awarded for any single premises would normally be 70% to a maximum of £20,000. However, this could be exceeded to allow for the inclusion of exceptional improvements. For example the removal of a flat roof to a dual pitch roof where a whole group of adjacent properties were improved together, or the renewal of a shop front for a large store equivalent in size to more than one average shop unit.
 - e. A claw-back provision would be built into the major grant scheme, should the property be altered or sold within three years of a grant award having been made. This would require the recipient of the grant to pay back 75% of the award in year one, 50% in year two and 25% in year three.

Minor Scheme

- 3.12 The main elements for the minor scheme would include a. and b. above, however, Eligible Items would include, minor repairs and redecoration works for improvements to windows, doors, fascia/signs and brickwork, including minor security upgrades. The maximum level and percentage of grant awarded for any single premises would normally be 50% to a maximum of £1,500. No more than 20% of the schemes budget would be made available for minor scheme proposals.
- 3.13 Grants would not be available for internal works for either scheme. These may be carried out at the same time but the costs would need to be kept separate from those of eligible works. All future maintenance work would be the responsibility of the shop owner.

Operation

- 3.14 Application forms would be available from the Town Centre Manager (Strategy and Regeneration Division) and would need to comply with planning and building control regulations. It would be the responsibility of the applicant to decide upon a contractor, but the Council would assist by directing shop owners to information on suitable contractors. Design guidelines would be provided by the Council to ensure shopfronts remain in keeping with the town centre. Grant applications would need to be accompanied by 2 independent quotations for the work, from companies that are able to demonstrate competence to undertake the work for which the grant has been sought. All proposed improvements would be subject to assessment and appraisal by Neighbourhood Services. The Council will continue to offer support to any schemes approved through the Town Centre Management Initiative.
- 3.15 Payment of grant award would be for defrayed cost, and based upon competitive estimates/invoices, and inspection of completed works. Feedback forms would be issued to monitor the scheme.
- 3.16 In accordance with the Spennymoor Town Centre Improvement Programme it is envisaged that 30 properties would be improved by 2008, through the Shop Front Improvements Grant Scheme. This would amount to over 20% of the commercial properties in the town centre.
- 3.17 The improvement of 30 properties would support the Council's commitment to providing an Attractive and Prosperous Borough as detailed in the Community Strategy. The Shop Front Improvements Grant Scheme would also support the Council's commitment to the Spennymoor Town Centre Improvement Programme and its commitment to promoting Spennymoor Town Centre.

4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Regeneration Services Capital Programme approved in July 2004 made provisions for funding the ShopFront Improvements Grant Scheme. This forms part of the Spennymoor Town Centre Programme as agreed with One NorthEast, and over the entire programme period up to March 2007 contributions from One NorthEast and the Borough Council will total £200,000.
- 4.3 A funding contract will be issued for all grants offered and will incorporate any conditions deemed to be appropriate by Officers in the Strategy and Regeneration Division or Neighbourhood Services Section.

5.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 During the review of the scheme consultation has been carried out with the Town Centre Manager, Shop owners, Neighbourhood Services, and Officers at other Local Authorities to identify best practice in the operation of a variety of shopfront improvement schemes.
- 5.2 Throughout the schemes implementation, consultation will be carried out with the Town Centre Forum, and Shop owners. A feedback form will also be used to monitor the scheme.

6.0 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Spennymoor Town Centre Shop Front Improvements Grant Scheme would support the Council's commitment to reducing crime and disorder by reducing the fear of crime and improving the security of shops.
- 6.2 As part of the Spennymoor Town Centre Renewal Programme, the Shop Front Improvements Grant Scheme would improve the sustainability of Spennymoor Town Centre, by improving the design and appearance of commercial premises. This would improve the vitality and viability of the town centre as a location of commercial activity and community life, and generate further investment. It would also create a sense of pride amongst local residents. This accords with the Council's strategy as set out in the Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor Town Centres Study Action Plan.

7.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Spennymoor Town Centre Shop Improvements Grant Scheme as part of the Regeneration Services Capital programme will be subject to the normal Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements.

Contact Officer **Richard Prisk**
Telephone 01388 816166 ext. 4360
email rprisk@sedgefield.gov.uk

Wards: Spennymoor

Key Decision Validation:

Background Papers

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Spennymoor Town Centre Shop Improvements Grant Scheme report to Cxecutive Committee | September 2001 |
| 2 | Spennymoor Town Centre Improvements SRB5 Project Appraisal Form | January 2002 |
| 3 | Spennymoor Town Centre Renewal Programme Single Programme Application | 16 th April 2004 |

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 | Regeneration Services Capital Programme 2004/05 Cabinet Report | 1 st July 2004 |
| 5 | Case Studies of Shop Improvement Grant Schemes and Comments on current scheme | |
| 6 | Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Study Final Report by EDAW | September 2000 |

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Item 9

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday, 31 August
2004

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor A. Gray (Chairman) and
Councillors D.M. Hancock, J.G. Huntington, J.M. Khan, G. Morgan and
Mrs. I. Jackson Smith

In Attendance: Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, G.C. Gray, J.E. Higgin,
J.P. Moran, A. Smith and T. Ward

Apologies: Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. K. Conroy, Mrs. A.M. Fleming,
B. Hall, K. Henderson, B. Meek, J.M. Smith and K. Thompson

Invited to Attend D. Newell

OSC(1).7/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June, 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OSC(1).8/04 FEEDBACK FROM CABINET

Member Training – Procurement

Members were reminded that at the meeting on 15th June, 2004 Members of the Committee had requested that Cabinet consider offering the same level of training on procurement to all Members. (Minute .No. OSC(1)4/04 refers).

This issue was considered at Cabinet at its meeting on 15th July, 2004 when Cabinet agreed that basic procurement training be offered to all Members. Additional training would also be offered to Cabinet Members to support their strategic roles and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees would also be invited to attend that training. (Minute. No. CAB.31/04 refers).

AGREED : That the information be noted.

OSC(1).9/04 CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

It was explained that a report had been presented to Cabinet on 23rd July regarding progressing the e-Government Agenda and strengthening customer care and corporate capacity. The Cabinet Member for Performance Management, Councillor D. Newell, was present at the meeting to give a presentation on progress in relation to

the Customer Service Centre.

Councillor Newell explained that an in-depth review of the Council's Customer Service Centre had been undertaken which identified issues and made recommendations as to how the critical element of the e-Government Agenda could be extended.

The review identified a requirement to relocate the Customer Services Centre from its current location to a more appropriate position. A full appraisal had been undertaken and Cabinet had approved floor plans for the repurposing of Green Lane's front reception area which would need to be extended into accommodation currently occupied by the Benefits Service. The location of the Customer Services Centre Manager was still to be agreed.

He also outlined the proposed new staffing structure within the Customer Services Centre including the appointment of two full time Team Leaders, supported by ten full and part time Customer Services Centre agents, the establishment of post of Customer Services Manager, the regrading of the Customer Services Centre Supervisor, the redesignation and regrading of the e-Government Co-ordinator to Corporate E-Government Manager and the regrading of the Corporate Procurement Manager. Job Descriptions had been drawn up. The two posts of Team Leader and the post of Customer Services Manager would be advertised during September.

In relation to Job Evaluation negotiations were ongoing with Trades Unions.

Discussion was also held regarding Customer Service Centre opening hours and Saturday morning working.

In relation to the operation of the Centre, the progress of the pilot services provided through the Customer Service Centre i.e. Housing Maintenance, Environmental Services and Gas Servicing had been reviewed and had identified that the potential and service offered through the Customer Service Centre needed to be developed in order to deliver the wider e-Government agenda.

A County-wide Customer Relationship Management System had been introduced which would bring the Council close to meeting its Customer Services objectives. A Modernisation Taskforce had also been established to define responsibility for delivering the Council's contribution to priority service outcomes and identifying potential inhibitors to the achievement. The establishment of the Taskforce would provide the vital support infrastructure needed for the future success of the Customer Services Centre.

AGREED : That the information be received.

OSC(1).10/04 PHILIPS IPS 2000 TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The Cabinet Member for Performance Management gave an update in relation to the progress on the above system.

It was explained that it had been decided to introduce the system on a phased basis. Four lines would be installed at Chilton Depot and ten at the Customer Services Centre. The system, when fully embedded, would be able to monitor peaks and troughs of the service to ensure a more efficient operation.

Some concerns had been expressed in relation to customers experiencing misdirected calls. It was explained that training would be undertaken to ensure that Customer Services staff were able to divert calls to the appropriate departments etc.

It was considered that progress had been made in this respect and that customers were receiving a more beneficial service.

AGREED : That the information be received.

OSC(1).11/04 SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUPS

The Recruitment and Retention Review Group which had been set up was still ongoing. Research was being carried out into different aspects of the issues. The next meeting of the Review Group was to be held on 19th October, 2004. Following the Review a report would be submitted to this Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 at its meeting on 15th June 2004 had agreed to set up an Area Forums Review Group. The first meeting of that Group would be held on 1st October and would discuss scope and remit of the Group etc. Information would be circulated to Members of that Group prior to the meeting.

AGREED : That the information be received

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 10a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 3 FORUM

Trimdon Village Hall

Wednesday,
15 September 2004

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. L. Hovvels (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor D.R. Brown	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J. Burton	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor T. Ward	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Sergeant B. O'Connor	–	Durham Constabulary
D. Halladay	–	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
P. Irving	–	Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
Councillor Mrs. L. Burton	–	Trimdon Parish Council
Mrs. J. Bowles	–	Local Resident
D. Smith	–	Local Resident

In

Attendance: Miss S. Billingham and D. Scarr

Apologies: Councillor K. Noble, J. Robinson, J.P., and J. Wayman – Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. S. Nicholson – Fishburn Parish Council
Councillor R. Passfield – Trimdon Parish Council
Inspector A. Neill – Durham Constabulary
T. Speary – Sedgefield Borough Council Neighbourhood Wardens

AF(3)8/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July, 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(3)9/04 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Brian O'Connor was present at the meeting to give details of crime statistics for the area. Members noted that the statistics were as follows :-

<u>Type of Crime :</u>	<u>Sedgefield</u>	<u>Fishburn/ Trimdon Village</u>	<u>TrimdonGrange/ Trimdon Colliery</u>
Theft	20	13	6
Criminal Damage	16	17	3
Dwellinghouse Burglary	2	0	0
Burglary Other	7	4	2
Assault	10	3	7
Total Crime :	55	37	16

Members noted that a number of issues relating to anti-social behaviour, the mis-use of motorcycles and sale of alcohol to minors were being monitored by the local Beat Officers. The Beat Officers had also been working with Officers from Sedgefield Borough Council in respect of the deployment of the mobile CCTV unit.

It was noted that since the previous meeting plastic cups had been introduced at the public houses within Sedgefield.

AF(3)10/04

SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

P. Irving was present at the meeting to update the Forum on local health matters. A copy of the Annual Report 2003/2004 and "Your Health Matters" were distributed to Members of the Forum.

P. Irving reported that Gloria Wills had been appointed as Chairman of Sedgefield Primary Care Trust and David Halladay and Mrs. Agnes Armstrong as non-Executive Directors to the Board. There was one vacancy left to fill which would be advertised later in the year.

Members were informed that five salaried GPs had been appointed who would commence work prior to the opening of the out-of-hours service in December. It was explained that as the opening was drawing closer, a Communications plan was being developed to ensure that everyone understood how the service would operate. A letter would also be distributed to every household detailing when the service would open.

Specific reference was made to the appointment of a 'Mystery Shopper' who had been sent to various local surgeries the week commencing 27th July, 2004. The exercise was to record the performance in relation to access to GPs. It was noted that all surgeries had been able to offer an appointment with a GP within 24 hours.

With regard to the Tees Valley Health Review, it was explained that over the past few months an external panel had been appointed to review the service. The panel had proposed a number of changes, which had resulted in to the public consultation period being postponed.

Members were also informed that the next 'Listening Event' would take place on Monday 18th October 2004 at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. and lunch would be provided. The event would give people an opportunity to have their say about NHS services, including primary care and help plan NHS services for the future.

AF(3)11/04

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SERVICE

D. Scarr, Head of Neighbourhood Services attended the meeting to give a presentation regarding the above.

It was explained that Sedgefield Borough Council had invested significantly in the Community Safety Service over the past decade.

The Service's achievements included the development of the Community Force, the establishment of Sedgefield Borough Community Safety Partnership and the creation of the Community Care Force Centre, which included a combined CCTV and Community Alarm function.

It was reported that in early 2003, Holden McAllister Partnership had been commissioned by the Borough Council to undertake an independent review of the Council's Community Safety Service. The report confirmed that Community Safety continued to be seen as a priority for residents of the Borough and concluded that whilst the development of the Sedgefield Borough Crime and Disorder Partnership had provided a framework for strategic intervention by partner organisations, the development of a Community Safety Strategy specifically for the Borough Council was a logical next step.

With regard to the operational elements of the service, the report acknowledged that the development of the Community Force during the 1990s had been a bold and innovative step. The Community Force had been one of the first schemes used to inform the national development of Neighbourhood and Street Warden initiatives and latterly, the Police Community Support Officers initiative. The report concluded, however, that although the Community Force as a concept was pioneering, it now needed to refocus and together with the CCTV function, be set within the Corporate Strategy.

It was explained that the service re-engineering would begin with Community Force Officers being re-designated Neighbourhood Wardens, with an increased emphasis on community engagement/public re-assurance, creating stronger links with Neighbourhood Management by targeting areas of greatest need, having powers to issue fixed penalty notices and operating flexible working patterns in response to need.

It was pointed out that the transition was supported by the recent Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Neighbourhood Renewal Unit national evaluation of the Neighbourhood Wardens Programme the evaluation recognised the unique role Neighbourhood Wardens played in neighbourhood renewal and recorded the overriding message from the evaluation that in successful schemes Neighbourhood Wardens can and were having an impact in areas of increased resident satisfaction, reduced fear of crime particularly for older people, decline in overall rates of crime, perceived improvements in environmental problems and contributing to tackling anti-social behaviour. In fact, the ODPM evaluation did commend Sedgefield Borough Council's existing Neighbourhood Warden Scheme that operated at Dean Bank, Ferryhill and West Ward, Newton Aycliffe in their efforts to reduce youth disorder and anti-social behaviour by engaging young people in a number of innovative initiatives.

The re-engineered Sedgefield Borough Council Neighbourhood Warden Service included features identified by the ODPM evaluation

as common in schemes that were working well such as having a tailored and flexible approach, involving a wide variety of stakeholders including resident participation, active and represented steering groups, good management, partnership based, highly visible, targeted deployment based on need and having good quality and well trained staff. Neighbourhood Wardens would be community based although provision would be made for a central mobile response, including the out-of-hours service up to 10 p.m. and targeted joint working between the Wardens as a team and with others such as Police, Environmental Protection Officers, Neighbourhood Management, Housing Management and Tenancy Enforcement. The Wardens would work with Resident groups and Schools and provide re-assurance to vulnerable groups.

Deployment of the thirteen Neighbourhood Wardens within the local communities had been determined by development of a matrix of needs taking account of population, levels of deprivation, recorded crime and anti-social behaviour, Council housing stock numbers, priority areas amongst older private sector housing, NRF and other partnership funding and other services operating within the area. Based upon the above assessment Neighbourhood Wardens would be deployed within the five management areas across the Borough targeting communities of greatest need. Deployment according to the needs based assessment matrix would be kept under regular view and any adjustments would be made accordingly.

It was noted that the Council would have access to the Airwaves digital radio communications system used by Durham Constabulary to promote joint working and information flow between Police Headquarters/Officers and the CCTV Control Rooms and Neighbourhood Wardens.

The Forum was also informed that a Council's CCTV service was programmed to be reviewed in the final quarter of 2004, and a Community Safety Strategy for Sedgefield Borough was being developed, which would take account of the changing external environment and link Council services to the strategic directions set by Government Office Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership.

Specific reference was made to the establishment of the Neighbourhood Warden Steering Group. The Group would include representatives from the five Area Forums. It would meet on a quarterly basis, monitor and review performance and be involved in service planning. The Forum agreed that consideration would be given to the nomination of a representative from Area 3 Forum at the next meeting of the Forum.

AF(3)12/04

NAMING OF DEVELOPMENT

Erection of 10 dwellings on land east of Alnwick Avenue, Trimdon Grange.

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood

Services regarding a request received from Alexander Developments (North East) to name the above development. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members of the Forum suggested William Way, William Walk and Amble Park as names for the new development.

**AF(3)13/04 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP :
APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE**

Consideration was given to a letter regarding the appointment of an Alternate for Area 3 Forum to the Local Strategic Partnership Board for the Borough. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was agreed that Councillor T. Ward be appointed as the Alternate to represent Area 3 Forum at the Local Strategic Partnership Board.

AF(3)14/04 VANDALISM TO GAS BOXES

It was noted that since concerns were raised at the previous meeting regarding vandalism to gas boxes contact had been made with Transco and the relevant departments at Sedgefield Borough Council. The issue was being reviewed.

AF(3)15/04 QUESTIONS

Proposed Windfarm Site

David Smith, a representative of Trimdon Area Group Against the Windfarm, raised concerns regarding the proposed site. It was agreed that concerns would be forwarded to the relevant department.

AF(3)16/04 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Scheduled to be held on 10th November, 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 10b

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 4 FORUM

Hackworth Suite,
Shildon Sunnydale
Leisure Centre,
Middridge Lane, Shildon

Tuesday,
21 September 2004

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor D.M. Hancock (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

PC A. Lawton	– Durham Constabulary
Mrs. C. Thompson	– New Shildon Residents Association
Mrs. A. Armstrong	– Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
Mrs. K. Vasey	– Sedgefield Primary Care Trust
S. Thompson	– Shildon Community Safety
Councillor L. Goldie	– Shildon Town Council
Councillor M. Stott	– Shildon Town Council
Mrs. M. Quigley	– S.P.I.C.E.
D. Beddingfield	– Local Resident
C. Hind	– Local Resident
J. Smith	– Local Resident

In

Attendance: Miss S. Billingham and D. Scarr

Apologies: Councillor G.M.R. Howe - Sedgefield Borough Council

Councillor J.G. Huntington	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.M. Smith	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. I. Jackson Smith	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. L. Smith	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor H. Robinson	– Eldon Parish Council
B. Carr	– Jubilee Fields Community Association

AF(4)9/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July, 2004 were confirmed as a correct and signed by the Chairman. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AF(4)10/04 POLICE REPORT

PC A. Lawton was present at the meeting to give details of crime statistics for the month of August, 2004.

Type of Crime :	August, 2004
Dwellinghouse Burglaries	3
Other Burglaries	9
Theft from Motor Vehicles	4
Theft of Motor Vehicle	2
Domestic Violence	17
ASB	49
Assaults	7
Criminal Damage	22
Total Reported Incidents :	431

The Forum was given details of a joint Police/SBC operation in Shildon to target problem tenants, littering and dog fouling.

It was explained that the CCTV camera was up and running in the vicinity of the skate park. Its deployment had been a great success and discussions would be held with representatives of Sedgefield Borough Council and Shildon Town Council regarding the possibility of providing funding for extra masts. The mobile CCTV unit had also been deployed in the area, and a number of officers had been trained to use it.

Members were reminded that tamper-proof tax disc holders were available from the Community Safety Group, based at Shildon Police Station.

AF(4)11/04 SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Mrs. K. Vasey was present at the meeting to give a presentation in respect of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2003/2004 - 'Health and Wellbeing of People in Sedgefield Borough.' A copy of the summary leaflet and 'Your Health Matters' had been distributed to all members of the Forum. (For copies see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the purpose of the report was to provide an overall picture of health for the population, give a snapshot of health related issues in the five localities and act as 'a stimulus for local action.

It was questioned whether the information contained in the report could be broken down to be more specific for the Shildon area. It was agreed that this information would be provided for a future meeting.

AF(4)12/04 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SERVICE

D. Scarr, Head of Neighbourhood Services attended the meeting to give a presentation regarding the above.

It was explained that Sedgefield Borough Council had invested significantly in the Community Safety Service over the past decade. The Service's achievements included the development of the Community Force, the establishment of Sedgefield Borough Community Safety Partnership and the creation of the Community Care Force Centre, which included a combined CCTV and Community Alarm function.

It was reported that in early 2003, Holden McAllister Partnership had been commissioned by the Borough Council to undertake an independent review of the Council's Community Safety Service. The report confirmed that Community Safety continued to be seen as a priority for residents of the Borough and concluded that whilst the development of the Sedgefield Borough Crime and Disorder Partnership had provided a framework for strategic intervention by partner organisations, the development of a Community Safety Strategy specifically for the Borough Council was a logical next step.

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It was explained that the service re-engineering would begin with Community Force Officers being re-designated Neighbourhood Wardens, with an increased emphasis on community engagement/public re-assurance, creating stronger links with Neighbourhood Management by targeting areas of greatest need, having powers to issue fixed penalty notices and operating flexible working patterns in response to need.

It was pointed out that the transition was supported by the recent Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Neighbourhood Renewal Unit national evaluation of the Neighbourhood Wardens Programme the evaluation recognised the unique role Neighbourhood Wardens played in neighbourhood renewal and recorded the overriding message from the evaluation that in successful schemes Neighbourhood Wardens can and were having an impact in areas of increased resident satisfaction, reduced fear of crime particularly for older people, decline in overall rates of crime, perceived improvements in environmental problems and contributing to tackling anti-social behaviour. In fact, the ODPM evaluation did commend Sedgefield Borough Council's existing Neighbourhood Warden Scheme that operated at Dean Bank, Ferryhill and West Ward, Newton Aycliffe in their efforts to reduce youth disorder and anti-social behaviour by engaging young people in a number of innovative initiatives.

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The Forum was also informed that a Councils CCTV service was programmed to be reviewed in the final quarter of 2004, and a Community Safety Strategy for Sedgefield Borough was being developed, which would take account of the changing external environment and link Council services to the strategic directions set by Government Office Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership.

Specific reference was made to the establishment of the Neighbourhood Warden Steering Group. The Group would include representatives from the five Area Forums. It would meet on a quarterly basis, monitor and review performance and be involved in service planning.

The Forum agreed that John Smith be appointed as the representative for the Area 4 Forum at the Steering Group.

AF(4)13/04 LSP BOARD MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July, 2004 were noted.

**AF(4)14/04 QUESTIONS
Speed Humps**

Objections were raised regarding the number of speed humps around Jubilee Estate. It was pointed out that the issue had been raised directly with Durham County Council Highways Department and a letter would be sent from Shildon Town Council explaining concerns.

AF(4)15/04 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Scheduled to be held on 16th November, 2004 at 6.30 p.m. in Hackworth Suite Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Middridge Lane, Shildon.

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