

CABINET

Thursday, 13 September 2007

10.00 a.m.

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices, Spennymoor

AGENDA and REPORTS



01388 816166



This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format upon request

العربية (Arabic)

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

বাংলা (Bengali)

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

(中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese)

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

हिन्दी (Hindi)

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

polski (Polish)

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

Español (Spanish)

Póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea recibir información en otro idioma o formato.

اردو (Urdu)

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھیے۔

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 August 2007. (Pages 1 - 4)

KEY DECISION

LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT PORTFOLIO

4. UTILISING LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS GROWTH INITIATIVE FUNDS

Joint report of Chief Executive and Director of Resources. (Pages 5 - 12)

OTHER DECISIONS

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

5. THE REPECT STANDARD FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Report of Director of Housing. (Pages 13 - 24)

SOCIAL REGENERATION AND PARTNERSHIP AND HOUSING PORTFOLIOS

6. REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE ROWS, FERRYHILL STATION

Joint report of Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Resources. (Pages 25 - 32)

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECYCLING SERVICES REVIEW GROUP - REVIEW OF FUTURE RECYCLING SERVICE OPTIONS

Cabinet response and action plan. (Pages 33 - 36)

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - REDUCING ECONOMIC INACTIVITY (INCREASING EMPLOYABILITY) REVIEW

Cabinet response and action plan. (Pages 37 - 40)

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The following item is not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972.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.

SOCIAL REGENERATION AND PARTNERSHIP AND HOUSING PORTFOLIOS

9. DISPOSAL OF PHASES 1, 2 AND 3 'THE ROWS' FERRYHILL STATION - HOUSING LAND CAPITAL RECEIPT

Joint report of Director of Neighbourhood Services and Director of Resources. (Pages 41 - 44)

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lead Members are requested to inform the Chief Executive 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.

B. Allen
Chief Executive

Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
5th September 2007

Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, Mrs. L. Hovvels, J.M. Khan, D.A. Newell 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 ggarrigan@sedgefield.gov.uk

Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Thursday,
30 August 2007

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong (Chairman) and
Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, V. Crosby, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson,
Mrs. L. Hovvels, J.M. Khan, D.A. Newell and W. Waters

In Attendance: Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T. Brimm, V. Chapman, A. Gray,
G.C. Gray, B. Haigh, T. Hogan, Mrs. S. J. Iveson, Ms. I. Jackson,
B. Lamb, Mrs. E. Maddison, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith and T. Ward

CAB.48/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

CAB.49/07 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAB.50/07 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
The Lead Member for Environment presented a report seeking approval to adopt the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which was appended to the report. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Climate Change Strategy aimed to provide the Council with the framework to respond to the immediate threat of climate change within a timescale of 5 years from 2007 to 2012. The Strategy reflected the Council's desire to make climate change a central theme in all future policies, strategies and activities. The implementation of the Action Plan would help the Council to ensure that buildings and infrastructure were sustainable in a changing climate and that services could continue to be provided at reasonable costs and were able to adapt to change.

RESOLVED : That the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan be adopted.

CAB.51/07 NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY - THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT REVISION SUBMITTED BY THE NORTH EAST ASSEMBLY
The Lead Member for Planning and Development presented a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy had been prepared by the Government Office for the North East following the publication of the Panel Report of the Examination in Public, which took place in March and April 2006. The document, which set out a long term strategy for spatial development in the North East to 2021, would when approved form part of the statutory development plan for the Borough.

The report detailed the Council's response to the proposed changes in relation to the Tees Valley City Region, housing provision and employment issues.

It was pointed out that, as the period of consultation had ended on 6th August 2007, the Council's response had been agreed with the Leader and the Lead Member for Planning and Development and had been submitted on 31st July 2007.

RESOLVED : That the recommendations regarding proposed changes PC 48 D, PC 93 D/E, PC 96 E, PC115 E and PC 135 C be endorsed.

CAB.52/07 PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: WHITE PAPER

The Lead Member for Planning and Development presented a report setting out the Council's response to the Planning White Paper which had been published in May 2007. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the White Paper attempted to build upon the existing reforms that had been introduced by the Government since 1997 and looked at addressing the long term challenges posed by climate change, global economic development, infrastructure requirements, affordable and decent homes.

The package of reforms proposed in the White Paper included the streamlining of the planning system enabling local authorities to shape their local communities and ensuring that economic development helped to tackle climate change.

Members noted that the Council's response which related to infrastructure projects, place shaping, improving performance, making the planning system more effective and efficient, permitted development rights, appeals and planning fees, had been forwarded to the Government during the summer recess.

RESOLVED : That the response to the Planning White Paper be endorsed.

CAB.53/07 CORPORATE DATA QUALITY POLICIES

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

The report set out arrangements which the Council had put in place to ensure that the data it generated and used was of a Fit for Purpose quality and sought the approval of a suite of data quality policies.

RESOLVED : *That the following policies be approved :-*

- *Corporate Data Quality Policy*
- *Financial Data Quality Policy*
- *Human Resources Data Quality Policy*
- *Performance Indicator Data Quality Policy*
- *Spatial Data Quality Policy*

CAB.54/07 AREA FORUMS

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following meetings:

- Area 3 Forum - 4th July 2007
- Area 4 Forum - 10th July 2007
- Area 5 Forum - 17th July 2007

(For copies see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED : *That the reports be received.*

CAB.55/07 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW - INSTITUTION OF PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION TAKEN DURING RECESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CE61, PART 3 - RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS - C - OFFICER DELEGATIONS CHIEF EXECUTIVE DELEGATION

Members were requested to note the decision taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Solicitor to the Council on 6th August 2007 and arising from the deliberations of the Durham Districts Forum, for the Council to be party to proceedings with Durham City Council against the Secretary of State for a Judicial Review of decisions taken regarding the re-organisation of local government in County Durham (the announcement made by the DCLG on 25TH July 2007 refers).

The basis of the decision took into account legal advice from local government Counsel received by Durham City Council, which set out in detail, the grounds for legal challenge of the series of decisions taken by the Secretary of State culminating in the announcement on 25th July 2007; the Council agrees to support the proceedings, co-equally, with other District Councils within County Durham, who had expressed similar intent.

RESOLVED: *That the decision taken be affirmed.*

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 item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Act.

CAB.56/07 ASSET MANAGEMENT SALE OF LAND, MORRISON CLOSE, NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Consideration was given to a report regarding the sale of a parcel of Council-owned open space verge at Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe. (For copy see file of Minutes).

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

Published on 31st August 2007.

These Minutes contain no key decisions and will be implemented immediately.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Liz North On 10388 816166 ext 4237 email: enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

Item 4

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

13th SEPTEMBER
2007

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Learning and Employment Portfolio

UTILISING LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS GROWTH INITIATIVE FUNDS

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Sedgefield Borough Council has received £558,082 through the Government's Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LABGI) as a result of increased economic activity during 2005/06 and 2006/07. The report proposes that this funding be utilised to stimulate further economic growth through the establishment of the following funds:

- *Enabling Capital Investment – Economic Regeneration (£300,000)*
Supporting the preparatory work required to commence capital projects aimed at stimulating economic growth, coming forward through the Council's Major Regeneration Initiatives (MRI) process.
- *Enabling Capital Investment – Community Regeneration (£100,000)*
Supporting the preparatory work required to commence capital projects aimed at stimulating community regeneration, coming forward through the Council's Local Improvement Programme (LIP).
- *Stimulating Economic Growth – Project Fund (£100,000)*
Enabling non-capital activities such as research, marketing and promotion to be undertaken to maximise the impact of the above capital investments.
- *Economic Response Fund (£58,082)*
Contingency funding to enable the Council to react to major redundancy or closure announcements.

- 1.2 The application of these funds over a two-year period is aimed at perpetuating an increase in economic activity and stimulating further potential LABGI payments, should the scheme be continued beyond its current three-year approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that:
- (i) Members approve the use of resources received through the Local Authority Business Growth Initiative to create four funds aimed at stimulating future economic growth.
 - (ii) Members approve the delegation of funding decisions to the Capital Programmes Team, up to a limit of £75,000 for schemes identified through the MRI process.

3. UTILISING LABGI FUNDING

Background

- 3.1 The Local Authority Business Growth Initiative was introduced by the Government in 2005 to reward local authorities for encouraging greater levels of business growth. The initiative provides successful local authorities with an annual payment to reflect the increase in business rates collected within their area, for the financial years 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- 3.2 To date, Sedgefield Borough Council has received funding of £558,082 to reflect the growth in business rates during 2005/06 and 2006/07. A further award is also anticipated for 2007/08.
- 3.3 Although the funding does not come with any restrictions on its use, the rationale behind the scheme is clearly around supporting economic growth and stimulating further increases in the amount of business rates collected in the future.
- 3.4 This report therefore proposes that the funding received by the Council through LABGI should be invested in four specific areas:
- Enabling Capital Investment – Economic Regeneration
 - Enabling Capital Investment – Community Regeneration
 - Stimulating Economic Growth – Project Fund
 - Economic Response Fund

Enabling Capital Investment – Economic Regeneration (£300,000)

- 3.5 One of the key areas where the Council are able to impact upon future economic growth is the development of infrastructure and

accommodation to meet the needs of future employers. To achieve this, the Council are undertaking a series of capital investments, through the Major Regeneration Initiatives programme. Although the Council is currently in an advantageous position regarding the funding of major capital projects, difficulties are being experienced in funding the necessary preparatory work required to bring these capital projects forward.

- 3.6 As general preparatory activities such as masterplanning and feasibility work can be expensive and are classed as revenue items, the Council struggles to meet these costs effectively from existing budgets. Although more direct preparatory costs such as design work *can* be capitalised *if* the scheme progresses to the implementation stage, the significant revenue consequences of not reaching this stage also need to be met from existing budgets.
- 3.7 A fund established to support the preparatory activity that is currently difficult to undertake would therefore increase the quality of projects coming forward and ensure better value for money is achieved through the Council's Major Regeneration Initiatives programme. The level of risk inherent in any major capital project would also be reduced, and the Council's ability to influence economic growth will consequently be greatly enhanced.
- 3.8 Although the balance of the fund would reduce as preparatory work is undertaken, any costs relating to design work on schemes that progress to the implementation stage would be reclaimed from capital sources. The role of the fund would therefore be to meet non-refundable costs such as masterplanning and feasibility work and also to 'underwrite' any costs relating to design work on identifiable capital schemes. Obviously *any* expenditure incurred on schemes that do not progress to implementation will need to be met fully from this fund.
- 3.9 As the principles behind LABGI funding are about stimulating a continual increase in economic activity, the preparatory work to be supported through this fund should specifically focus on projects coming through the MRI process that contribute towards economic aims, such as those relating to the creation of business floorspace or town centre regeneration.
- 3.10 As the preparatory work required to kick-start projects can be described as 'early stage' feasibility or masterplanning, a limit of £75,000 per scheme is proposed - any scheme requiring a greater level of preparatory work will be referred separately to Cabinet. As part of their role in managing the MRI programme, it is also proposed that the Capital Programmes Team within Strategy and Regeneration be responsible for agreeing the funding limit and profile for preparatory work to support each individual MRI scheme, up to the value of £75,000.

Enabling Capital Investment – Community Regeneration (£100,000)

- 3.11 Alongside the investments aimed at increasing economic activity, the Council are also embarking on a major programme of capital investment in local communities, through the Local Improvement Programme (LIP). The need to facilitate this expenditure through support for feasibility and design work is similar to that required to stimulate economic activity, albeit on a smaller scale.
- 3.12 On 11 January 2007, Cabinet approved the creation of a delegated approval process to support the preparatory work required by LIP projects up to a limit of £15,000. Following this approval a total of 5 grants have been awarded by the Capital Programmes Team, which has led to more advanced and accurately costed schemes being brought forward for determination. Given the increased amount of LIP activity being experienced, there is a need to outline a clear budget to provide for these abortive or non-recoverable, early-stage technical costs.
- 3.13 It is therefore proposed that LABGI funding be used to fund further work through this delegated route, using similar principles as those outlined above (i.e. the funding of abortive or non-recoverable preparatory work). This joined-up approach will enable the Council to make a valuable contribution towards the community regeneration aims that are intrinsically linked to the economic vitality of the Borough.
- 3.14 Again, it is hoped that this budget allocation may not be required as all LIP projects that require a development grant go through an initial appraisal and are subject to Area Forum consideration before any decision is made on an initial development grant. However, as with all capital projects the possibility exists that the technical work will highlight major issues that could prevent further development. This budget would cover this eventuality as if the project is realised that initial technical work will be regarded as a capital cost and be met from LIP funds.

Stimulating Economic Growth – Project Fund (£100,000)

- 3.15 The investment of LABGI money to facilitate major capital projects would contribute significantly towards providing the right physical infrastructure to facilitate economic growth. To accompany this, investment also needs to be made in the non-physical aspects that affect economic conditions within the Borough.
- 3.16 The lack of discretionary funds available to support projects to stimulate economic growth currently restricts the activities that can be undertaken, particularly in relation to maximising the impact and spreading the benefit gained from significant capital investment. It is

therefore proposed that a fund be established to enable the Council to support issues relating to capital investments, such as:

- Research into future supply/demand issues
- Marketing and promotion of economic opportunities
- Establishment of links between development opportunities and the local population

3.17 It is proposed that this funding be managed by the Economic Development Team within Strategy and Regeneration.

Economic Response Fund (£58,082)

3.18 As the unrestricted nature of LABGI funding is relatively unusual in local government terms, it is proposed that the remaining balance of existing LABGI funds be ring-fenced to enable the Council to respond to issues such as the announcement of significant redundancies or the closure of a major employer within the Borough. As it is not always possible to predict the impact that different economic issues will have on the Borough, it would be prudent to retain the ability to react to changing circumstances and contribute towards co-ordinated activities with key partners, should such eventualities arise.

3.19 As with the Stimulating Economic Growth Project Fund, it is proposed that this funding is also managed by the Economic Development Team.

Timescales

3.20 As the future of LABGI funding is uncertain beyond any awards due for 2007/08, it is essential that the funds being established provide benefit beyond the current financial year.

3.21 The timetable attached to Local Government Re-organisation, emphasises the importance of utilising the LABGI funding to facilitate the Council's priority capital projects within the next two years.

3.22 The resources used to enable major capital expenditure to take place should be able to cover a two-year period, as some of the preparatory costs covered will ultimately be refunded from successful capital schemes. As the resources allocated for projects to stimulate economic growth will also be linked to the opportunities provided through capital investment, these funds should be drawn down over a similar period. A full evaluation of the impact of these funds is proposed towards the end of 2008/09.

3.23 Due to the nature of the economic response fund established, the timescale for its use is unpredictable. It is proposed however that the future of this fund be reviewed as part of the final evaluation of the other LABGI funded elements, should any funds remain at that point.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

HR Implications

- 4.1 No human resource implications have been identified, as the proposed funds will be managed by staff currently within the Strategy & Regeneration Division, under the terms of their existing job descriptions.

Financial Resources

- 4.2 The identified LABGI funding has been received by the Council in addition to existing financial allocations and does not form part of current revenue budgets. The use of this resource for the purposes identified above will however reduce potential pressure on revenue budgets over the next three years, as the need to identify funding for significant preparatory work, from within existing resources, is alleviated. The application of these funds over a two-year period is also aimed at perpetuating an increase in economic activity that could potentially trigger further LABGI payments, should the scheme be continued beyond its current three-year approval.
- 4.3 The balance of resources allocated to the different funds is reflective of the fact that capital projects aimed at increasing economic growth will, by their nature, be large scale and consequently the cost of preparatory work will be significantly higher than that required for community regeneration projects.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Council's Capital Programmes Team to ensure the funds have been targeted appropriately. Consultation has also taken place with the Accountancy Services Manager over the availability and targeting of LABGI resources.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Risk Management

- 6.1 The size and complexity of major capital projects carry with them inherent risks, as does the involvement of private sector developers and a constantly evolving property market. By using LABGI resources to effectively 'underwrite' the cost of preparatory work for major capital projects, the risk of abortive work impacting upon the Council's revenue budget is minimised. The other elements of the funds proposed, carry a lower degree of risk and have consequently been allocated a lower level of funding.

- 6.2 As the impact of Local Government Re-organisation on the MRI programme is yet to be determined, there inevitably remains a risk that utilisation of LABGI funding could be constrained by any limitations placed on the MRI programme as a result of transitional arrangements.

Sustainability

- 6.3 The sustainability of the fund will be largely dependant upon how successful the preparatory work is in progressing schemes towards the implementation stage, and how effective the capital projects are in stimulating further economic activity and subsequent LABGI payments.
- 6.4 The principles of sustainable development will be at the heart of all capital schemes being pursued, and are consequently key elements of any preparatory work supported through LABGI funds.

Social Inclusion

- 6.5 The principle of social inclusion is also at the heart of all capital schemes being pursued, and will consequently form a key element of any preparatory work supported through LABGI funds.

Procurement

- 6.6 All preparatory work undertaken will be procured in line with the Council's Standing Orders.

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no overview and scrutiny implications identified at this stage.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

- 8.1 No appendices are attached to this report.

Contact Officer	Richard Horniman
Telephone Number	01388 816166 Ext. 7756
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Wards: Whole Borough

Key Decision Validation: This issue represents a key decision

Background Papers:
Report to Cabinet 11 January 2007 – Local Improvement Programme (LIP)

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"/>

Item 5

REPORT TO CABINET

13th SEPTEMBER 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

The Respect Standard for Housing Management

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 On the 21st January 2007 Cabinet considered a report on the new powers available to the Council as a landlord to tackle anti social behaviour from its tenants. The report recommended the adoption of these powers and identified the need to address, a new policy initiative from the Government called the Respect Standard for Housing Management.
- 1.2 The Respect Standard for Housing Management, (The Standard) which was launched in August 2006 as part of the Government's Respect Agenda. The Standard sets out the key components a social landlord should have in place to deliver an effective response to Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). To date, over 100 Social Landlords have signed-up to the Standard, owning approximately 32% of all social housing stock in England.
- 1.3 Sign-up is voluntary, however, the components of the Standard have been built into the Audit Commissions Key Line of Enquiry 6 (Tenancy and Estate Management), and will be applied to inspections of social landlords from February 2007.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council signs-up to the Respect Standard showing that it is committed to doing all that is reasonably possible to provide excellent services to tackle anti social behaviour and create a culture of respect through its housing management role.
- 2.2 That the Housing Department's Statement of Policy and Procedure on Anti Social Behaviour are updated to reflect the changes set out in this report.
- 2.3 That the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) developed from the self assessment carried out against the Standard is set out in Appendix 1 is implemented.

3. The Respect Standard – Core Commitments

3.1 The Standard was launched in August 2006, it was introduced by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to promote and foster best practice by social landlords dealing with ASB. Signing-up to the Standard is voluntary and will not involve inspection, however its core elements have been built into the Audit Commission **Key Line of Enquiry (KLOE) 6 Tenancy & Estate Management**. This will be applied from February 2007 to all inspections of social landlords carried out by the Audit Commission. If the Council is to achieve its stated ambition to deliver a high quality housing service meeting the requirements of the Standard is a key element of achieving this.

3.2 The Standard is built around six core commitments, which are further sub-divided into a number of key actions. The six commitments are:

- Accountability and Leadership
- Empowering and reassuring residents
- Prevention and early intervention
- Tailored services for residents and provision of support for victims and witnesses
- Protecting communities through swift enforcement
- Support to tackle the causes of anti social behaviour

Full details of the Respect Agenda can be accessed on the DCLG's website at: www.communities.gov.uk/standardsignup

4. Self Assessment and Implementation of the Respect Standard

4.1 Landlords signing-up to the Standard are expected to undertake a self-assessment against the Core commitments, and produce a Service Improvement Plan for addressing any areas for service improvement. The DCLG have stated they intend to publish a Performance Management Toolkit during 2007 to assist signatory landlords in fully meeting the Standard.

4.2 Pending the publication of the Government's Respect Standard Performance Monitoring Toolkit. Self-assessment has been undertaken against KLOE 6 and using the Housing Quality Network's self assessment questionnaire. The self assessment involved Officers from the Council, Tenants, Police and other key stakeholders. The assessment identified that the Council's approach as a landlord in tackling ASB met many of the key actions set out in the Standard.

The six core commitments of the standard are subdivided into 61 questions. The self assessment showed that the service fully met 35 of the requirements of the questions and that key areas for improvement identified included:-

- Extending the use of measuring and responding to Customer Satisfaction Surveys to support service improvement;
- Consider the use of introducing Good Neighbour Agreements where required;
- Using effective reporting of ASB (number and type of case and outcomes) to resident and community groups through a variety of media;
- Consider the use of early intervention services to tackle ASB such as Mediation;
- Improving customer access to contact staff and report ASB outside of normal office hours;
- Ensure effective measures are in place to establish that witnesses and victims feel safe, that they are well protected and supported throughout the court process;
- Include information of ASB policies and procedures in induction training for all housing staff;
- Develop clear procedures on domestic violence to support the work carried out by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

- 4.3 A Service Improvement Plan developed as a result of the Standard is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. It is recommended that the Council sign-up to the Standard given that it meets the majority of the requirements of
- 4.4 the Standard and has developed a SIP to ensure full compliance to the Standard.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 No additional implications have been identified as a result of this report.

6. Consultations

- 6.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Tenants Housing Services Group and Housing Federation who supports the Council being a signatory to the Respect Standard.

7. Other Material Considerations

Links to Corporate Ambitions/Values

7.1 The Community Strategy for Sedgefield Borough has adopted 4 key outcomes for the Borough one of which is *“a Borough with strong communities where people can access the housing and services they want in attractive and safe neighbourhoods.”* The Borough Councils ambitions mirror the Community Strategy’s outcomes and the implementation of the Service Improvement Plan and becoming a signatory of the Respect Standard can contribute to the delivery of this ambition.

7.2 Risk Management

Failure to sign up to the Standard and delivery the SIP may result in the Council being unable to fulfil its duty to work with partners to tackle ASB and fail to meet the requirements of the Key Line of Enquiry 6, as and when the Council is inspected by the Governments Audit Commission.

7.3 Health & Safety

No additional issues have been identified

7.4 Equality & Diversity

Full account will be taken of the Council’s obligation to promote equality and diversity in the implementation of this Standard.

7.5 Legal and Constitutional

No additional issues have been identified

7.6 Sustainability

No additional issues have been identified

7.7 Information Technology

No additional issues have been identified

7.8 Crime and Disorder

By signing-up to the Standard the Council consolidates to its statutory duty to work with partners to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough as outlined in Section 17 of The Crime And Disorder Act 1998.

- 7.9 Human Rights
No additional issues have been identified
- 7.10 Social Inclusion
No additional issues have been identified
- 7.11 Procurement
No additional issues have been identified

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

None

9. List of Appendices

Contact Officer Lee Dunn
Telephone Number 01388 816166 Ext. 7771
E-mail address ldunn@sedgefield.gov.uk

Wards: All

Key Decision Validation:

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report 11th January 2007
 Respect Standard for Housing Management DCLG August 2006
 Respect Standard for Housing Management: A guide for Landlords August 2006.
 The Respect Handbook

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"/>

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THE RESPECT STANDARD SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

August 2008

Improvement Priority	Actions	Resp. Officer	Milestone	Comments
1. Accountability, Leadership & Commitment				
1.1 Brief staff in relevant service areas in the organisation about Respect and about what is expected from them and the organisation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefings / training to be carried out once sign up to the Standard has been carried out. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Oct 2007	
1.2 Provide adequate training for key staff and partners on the Respect standard. Ensure that the respect agenda links into other agendas and responsibilities such as community cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report sign up to the Respect Standard to CDRP and other key partners. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Dec 2007	
1.3 Ensure that all our strategies and action plans dovetail on Respect issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of policy and procedures to be reevaluated 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Dec 2007	
1.4 Use Customer Satisfaction Surveys to measure our response to ASB outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use intelligence to support the tracking, actions and impact on performance on ASB. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Dec 2007	

THE RESPECT STANDARD SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

August 2008

Improvement Priority	Actions	Resp. Officer	Milestone	Comments
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2. Empowering & Reassuring Residents

<p>2.1 Consider the use of Good Neighbour Agreements (GNA's) in areas where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting further guidance on the use of GNA's. 	<p>Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson</p>	<p>April 2008</p>	
<p>2.2 Ensure regular reports are made to resident groups on sources of complaints, actions carried out and performance of Tenancy Enforcement Team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants Housing service Group, Residents Federation, Residents Association and Tenants Conference as required. 	<p>Sylvia Dodsworth</p>	<p>April 2008</p>	
<p>2.4 Publicise actions carried out to the community using a variety of media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Tenant Participation Team to raise awareness and publicise outcomes of ASB interventions. 	<p>Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson</p>	<p>Sept 2007</p>	

3. Prevention & Early Intervention

<p>3.1 Explore the use of early intervention measures to tackle ASB – Mediation, ABC's & Injunctions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediation service to train internal staff to carry out mediation activities. 	<p>Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson</p>	<p>Oct 2007</p>	
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THE RESPECT STANDARD SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

August 2008

Improvement Priority	Actions	Resp. Officer	Milestone	Comments
4. Tailored Services for Residents and Provision of Support for Victims and Witnesses				
4.1 Explore additional methods For residents to report ASB 24/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One common telephone number / internet etc. link to CDRP & Neighbourhood Services. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	June 2008	Explore the possibility of introducing one telephone number
4.2 Introduce a witness support Scheme, provide information, CCTV and other measures to ensure support in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect information from Courts and witness support agencies / services as well as Court user information. Packs need to be developed to include information of the National Witness Protection Scheme (NWPS). 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	June 2008	
4.3 Ensure that witnesses and victims feel well protected,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer Satisfaction surveys to be amended to include appropriate questions. Action plan and procedure for working with witnesses / victims to be introduced to ensure support is in place. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Dec 2007	
4.4 Raise awareness of methods to ensure staff are aware of customer profiles (Languages, literacy) etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of language line, have in place other methods of being able to access / gather evidence. Raise awareness to staff of the National Witness Protection Scheme (NWPS) 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Dec 2007	

5. Protecting Communities through swift enforcement				
5.1 Consider ASB training for Relevant staff at inductions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with HR to ensure that ASB is included in the induction of new staff as required. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Dec 2007	
5.2 Ensure effective working with the Domestic Violence Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the victims of Domestic Violence who are Council Tenants. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Dec 2007	

THE RESPECT STANDARD SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
August 2008

6. Support to Tackle the Causes of ASB				
6.1 Identify vulnerable tenants at risk of committing ASB early. Ensure risk assessments carried out by staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable peoples working group set up working with Social Services. Training for staff required on lettings policy and use of forms to identify vulnerable people. Breakaway Training may be required for relevant staff. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Apr 2007 / 08	
6.2 Explore packages to sustain vulnerable peoples tenancies and methods of measuring outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above Training required for staff on working and supporting vulnerable tenants. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Apr 2007 / 08	
6.3 Raise awareness and work closely with youth diversionary / work teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Youth workers via CDRP and raise awareness to staff of type of work carried out etc. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Apr 2007 / 08	
6.4 Raise awareness of support packages that are in place to allow perpetrators of ASB to mend their ways. Ensure staff are fully aware of support options available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore support packages working with all support services. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Apr 2007 / 08	
6.5 Ensure that tenants at risk of perpetrating ASB are made aware that refusal of offers of help may trigger enforcement action and the sanctions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training will be given as above. 	Lee Dunn & Neil Hobson	Sept – Apr 2007 / 08	

THE RESPECT STANDARD SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
August 2008

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Item 6

REPORT TO CABINET

13TH September 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Portfolio Social Regeneration and Partnership and Housing

Redevelopment proposal for 'The Rows', Ferryhill Station

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council has identified within the Housing Strategy and Community Strategy its key priorities for intervention through housing led renewal within the three priority communities of Ferryhill Station, Dean Bank, Ferryhill, and Chilton West. The Master Plans for these communities form the basis for the strategic regeneration interventions. This report considers proposals to redevelop the first of these communities at Ferryhill Station.
- 1.2 The site is made up of three phases. Phases 1 & 2, the former site of Chapel Row, a cleared brownfield site which formally housed dense terraced accommodation which was acquired and demolished by the Council in 2003. It is proposed that this site is released for the provision of a mixed tenure housing. Phase 3 is made up of Clive, Wolseley, Trafalgar, Nelson and the odd numbered properties of Haig Street. A significant number of properties have been demolished however some are still occupied and a number of vacant properties still remain. A location plan is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Three Rivers Housing Group the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) own approximately 60% of Phase 3 land and for this reason it is recommended that a partnership based approach to the whole development be adopted.
- 1.4 Phases 1 and 2 of the site could be released for sale on the open market without any restrictions from the Council and subject to detailed planning permission be developed as any other site in the Borough. However this report recommends that the approach the Council takes in relation to release of land on Phases 1 and 2 and future development of Phase 3 is based on a partnership approach for a number of key strategic reasons.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The approach to the release of land at 'The Rows', Ferryhill Station as set out in this report is adopted.

3. A Strategic Approach To The Redevelopment of 'The Rows', Ferryhill Station.

- 3.1 The development site is located within Ferryhill Station in an area know locally as 'The Rows' which is encompassed within Chilton Ward. Phase 1 and 2 of the site amounts to 0.40 ha (0.98 of an acre). Phase 3 amounts to 1.60 ha (3.96 acres) and is subject to future clearance of properties and relocation of residents. Ferryhill Station has been strategically identified as an area requiring significant market renewal as demonstrated through the master plan for the area.
- 3.2 Phase 1 and 2 of the site could be released for sale on the open market without any restrictions from the Council and subject to detailed planning permission be developed as any other site in the Borough. However following consultation with residents, a requirement to provide mixed tenure housing to assist those residents who currently occupy houses within Phase 3 to relocate to new properties in Phases 1 & 2 has been identified. Priority for the remaining social and affordable properties to be developed on the site will be given to other residents affected by the master plans from Dean Bank and Chilton West.
- 3.3 It has therefore been proposed that on Phase 1 & 2 of the development 30 dwellings will be constructed, comprising of 10 units for sub market rent, 10 for shared ownership and the remaining 10 units for sale. Construction of these units will include:-
- Eco homes very good standard
 - Design to Scheme Design Standards (SDS) and Secured By Design (SBD)
 - Housing unit sizes exceeding market levels
 - Investment in the external appearance and finishings
- 3.4 The adoption of a partnership based approach is recommended to be undertaken with Three Rivers Housing Group the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) who have significant ownership of property within Phase 3 of the site. The development is aligned to the regeneration works through the Durham Coalfields Housing Renewal Programme which has been set within the sub regional housing strategy. The approach has been shown to deliver higher quality solutions to such developments than a purely commercially led approach. In the case of this development the investment in unit sizes, energy efficiency measures and mix of tenures support the strategic housing renewal vision for the area.
- 3.5 It is proposed to dispose of Phases 1 & 2 as hatched on the attached plan to Three Rivers Housing Group for residential development to support the wider strategic regeneration in accordance with the agreed mixed tenure and agreed standards of construction.
- 3.6 Following the acquisition and demolition of the remaining properties on Phase 3 as cross hatched on the attached plan it is proposed that the site be jointly marketed together with Three Rivers Housing Group for speculative residential development.
- 3.7 The resulting capital receipt will be equally shared after allowing for acquisition and demolition costs and any necessary repayment of historical investment by the Housing Corporation.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A separate report on the resource implication of the disposal of the sites will be presented to Cabinet.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The redevelopment of 'The Rows' has included extensive consultation with local residents and stakeholders. This consultation will be maintained during the delivery phases to ensure effective community support.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Links to Corporate Ambitions/Values

The Community Strategy outcomes include a Borough with Strong Communities where residents can access a good choice of high quality housing. The Council's ambitions, which are linked, to the Community Strategy outcomes are articulated through the Corporate Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Borough Councils ambitions mirror the Community Strategy's outcomes and the development of 'The Rows' will make a direct contribution to this outcome through the provision of social, shared ownership and older persons accommodation.

6.2 Risk Management

The joint development proposal has been subject to a storm risk assessment a summary of which is attached as Appendix 2.

6.3 Health and Safety

There are no additional implications over and above for existing staff of the Borough.

6.4 Equality & Diversity

Full account will be taken of the Borough Council's obligation to promote equality and diversity.

6.5 Sustainability

One of the objectives of the Master Plan proposals is to improve the housing choices available to meet current and future demand and to support economic growth by providing modern attractive homes in sustainable neighbourhoods, which will contribute to the delivery of sustainable communities throughout the Borough.

6.6 Crime & Disorder

The Council's duty under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 has been taken into account considering the recommendations and should bring about sustainable change through improving the local environment.

6.7 Legal & Constitutional

A separate report on the resource issue of the disposal of the sites will be presented to Cabinet including details of the legal and constitutional issues.

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Overview and Scrutiny implications of this report.

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 Location Plan 'The Rows' Ferryhill Station.

8.2 Appendix 2 Risk Assessment – Risks to the development of 'The Rows' Ferryhill Station.

Contact Officer Dianne Hedley/John Wilkinson
Telephone Number 01388 816166 Ext. 4462 or 4377
E-mail address dhedley@sedgefield.gov.uk
jwilkinson@sedgefield.gov.uk

Wards: Chilton

Background Papers:

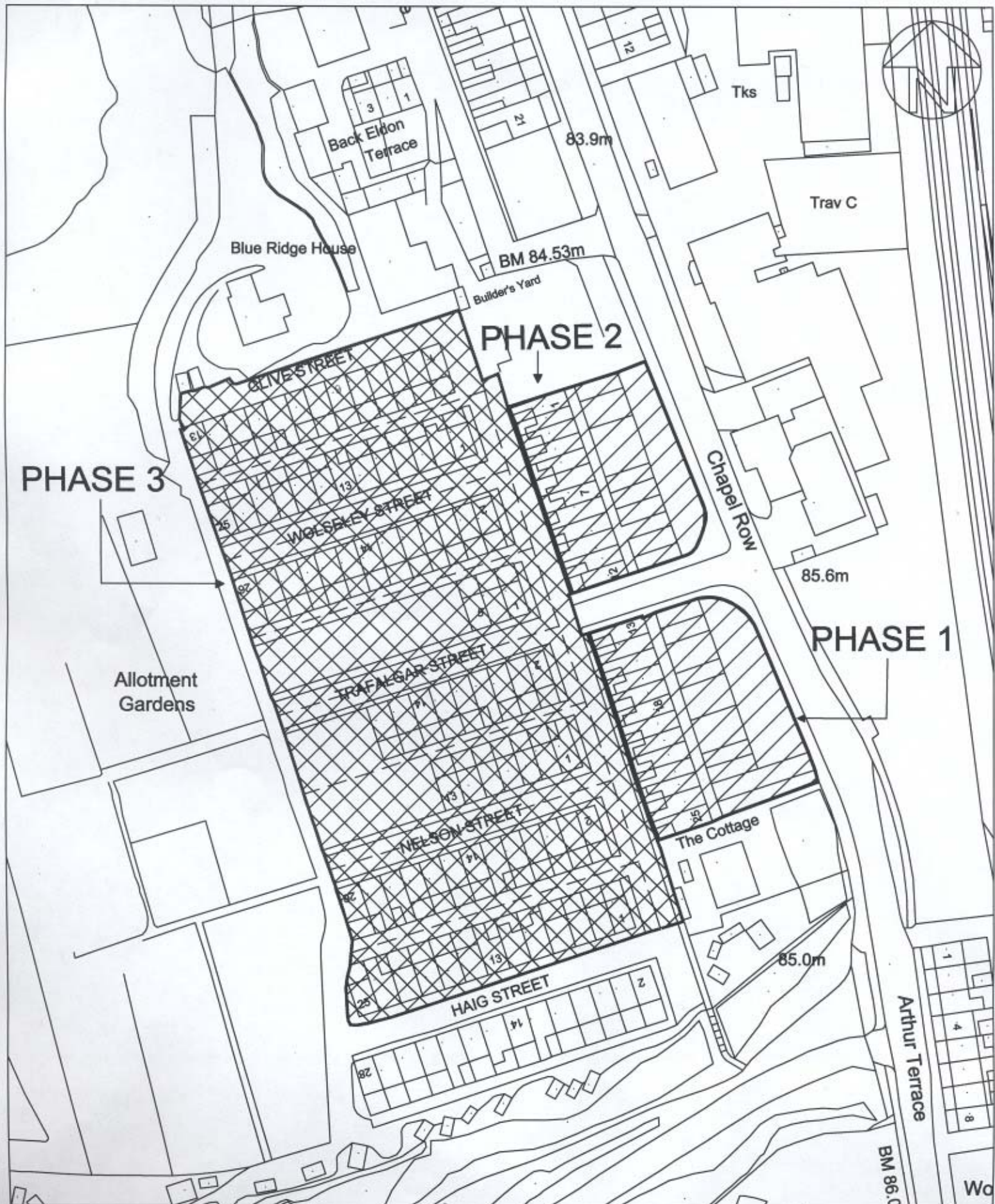
- Joint report of Director of Neighbourhood Services & Head of Strategy Regeneration Coalfield Housing Renewal – Master Planning provided to Cabinet 13th July 2006.
- Community Strategy
- Corporate Plan

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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STORM (STrategic and Organisational Risk Management) RISK ASSESSMENT							
RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX							ISSUED BY
							Dianne Hedley
							ISSUED TO Glyn Hall
LIKELIHOOD OF RISK HAPPENING	A	VERY HIGH					
	B	HIGH		3			DATE ISSUED 21.8.07
	C	SIGNIFICANT			1,2,	5	
	D	LOW			4,	6	APPROVED BY
	E	VERY LOW					
	F	ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> WRITE DOWN THE RISKS BELOW AND SCORE THEM. ENTER THE RISK NUMBER FROM THE LEFT HAND COLUMN BELOW INTO THE RELEVANT BOX IN THE MATRIX ABOVE. IDENTIFY THE TARGET SCORE, ENTER IN THE MATRIX ABOVE AND NOTE THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE RISK IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN BELOW. 		4 NEGLIGIBLE	3 MARGINAL	2 CRITICAL	1 CATASTROPHIC		
		IMPACT ON ACTIVITY OR PROJECT RED: HIGH Priority AMBER: MEDIUM Priority GREEN: Low Priority					RISK ASSESSMENT ACCEPTED BY
No	DESCRIPTION OF RISK (WHAT CAN GO WRONG)	LIKELIHOOD OF RISK HAPPENING	IMPACT ON ACTIVITY OR PROJECT	OVERALL SCORE	TARGET SCORE	ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE TARGET SCORE	LINKS TO
1	Housing Corporation historical Investment to be fully repaid	C	2	C2	D3	Taking account of RCGF regulations SBC together with Three River's Housing Group to jointly enter into negotiations with the Housing Corporation	
2	Rejection of funding bid to English Partnerships	C	2	C2	F2	We will not enter into the disposal with Three Rivers until confirmation of secured funding is received.	
3	Cost over runs on Phase 1 & 2 of the redevelopment	B	3	B3	F4	Heads of terms will reflect Three Rivers sole responsibility for entering into fixed Partnering Contract and cost over runs.	
4	Retraction of the agreed tenure specification of properties within Phase 1 & 2	D	2	D2	F4	To be fixed by terms of sale agreement..	
5	Joint Venture Agreement not robust leading to breakdown of development	C	1	C1	E1	Ensure construction of Joint Venture agreement involves all appropriate parties and legal representation.	
6	Unsuccessful in securing CPO	D	1	D1	F1	Effective legal representation & endorsement by Gov. Office	

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TITLE:

**Redevelopment Proposals
The Rows
Ferryhill Station**

REF

SCALE
1:1250

DATE
21/08/07

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECYCLING SERVICES REVIEW GROUP - REVIEW OF FUTURE RECYCLING SERVICE OPTIONS
CABINET RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN**

Review Recommendations	Cabinet Response		Implementation for consideration by Management Team	
	Agreed?	Comments	Responsibility	Timescale
1. The Groups preferred option for a co-mingled collection system be implemented in the long term, be noted.	Yes	The Review Groups long-term preferred option for recycling services be noted. However in light of the Government's decision regarding Local Government Review it is considered that the long-term preferences for recycling services be addressed in the development of the Waste Management Strategy of the new Unitary Authority.	Director of Neighbourhood Services	March 2008
2. The Kerb-it Scheme to continue until 31 March 2008.	Yes		Streetscene Manager	March 2008
3. Consideration be given for various options for the continuation of a kerbside collection service after 31 March 2008, including working in partnership with current partners of the existing kerb-it scheme.	Yes		Technical Services Manager Streetscene Manager	August 2007

Review Recommendations	Cabinet Response		Implementation for consideration by Management Team	
	Agreed?	Comments	Responsibility	Timescale
4. The segregated collection of glass for recycling continues following the withdrawal of the Kerb-it Scheme in 2008	Yes		Streetscene Manager	On-going
5. Glass collection methods are continuously reviewed to allow full appraisal of collection, separation and disposal options available at that time	Yes		Streetscene Manager	On-going
6. Sedgefield Borough Council's 29 bring sites be rationalised, with the retention of 6 dedicated sites at Newton Aycliffe (Tesco), Sedgefield (Library), Shildon (Co-op), Spennymoor (Asda), Tudhoe Civic Amenity Site and Aycliffe Civic Amenity site, and phasing out of the remaining 23 sites	Yes		Streetscene Manager	September 2007
7. A separate, free collection service for televisions, monitors and white goods continues to be provided to all residents of the Borough	Yes		Streetscene Manager	On-going

Review Recommendations	Cabinet Response		Implementation for consideration by Management Team	
	Agreed?	Comments	Responsibility	Timescale
8. The free green waste collection service offered in a limited area of the Borough be withdrawn following the cessation of Waste Performance Grant funding in 2007/08	No	Existing arrangements to be maintained in the short term subject to financial consideration when setting the 2008/09 Revenue budget.	Technical Services Mgr Streetscene Manager	October 2007
9. The provision of a discretionary chargeable green waste collection service, offered throughout Sedgefield Borough, is explored for introduction post-April 2008	No	As a consequence of Local Government Review it is considered that this recommendation should not be progressed. Long term arrangements for the collection of 'green waste', considering the financial; operational and sustainability impacts of the various options available, will need to be addressed in the Waste Management Strategy of the new Unitary Authority.	Technical Services Mgr Streetscene Manager	October 2007
10. A comprehensive education and awareness-raising campaign be promoted to support recycling arrangements.	Yes		Technical Services Manager	On-going

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT – REDUCING ECONOMIC INACTIVITY (INCREASING EMPLOYABILITY)
REVIEW**

CABINET RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN

Review Recommendations	Cabinet Response		Implementation	
	Agreed?	Comments	Responsibility	Timescale
1. Cabinet recognises that the official unemployment rate does not give a true picture of the economic conditions of the Borough.	<u>Yes</u>	Cabinet recognises that there are significant numbers of residents in the Borough that suffer economic disadvantage and that the economic conditions in the Borough are far more complex than the headline unemployment figures would suggest. Despite the low official unemployment rate Economic development remains a priority for the Council and its partners as reflected in the Community Strategy and corporate Plan.	Head of Strategy and Regeneration	Corporate Plan 2007-2010

<p>2. Sedgefield Borough Council's Economic Development Service focuses on supporting entrepreneurship and access to employment in disadvantaged communities.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>	<p>The Cabinet is aware of the changing economic conditions within the Borough and notes the upturn in the market for land and premises and the improving employment rate in the Borough. However Cabinet is concerned that many in our disadvantaged communities are being excluded from the labour market, having a detrimental effect on the productivity of the borough. Economic policy will focus on improving access to employment, training and entrepreneurship in disadvantaged communities as well as more traditional aspects of economic development. This will be reflected in the Corporate Plan and monitored through the Prosperous SWG.</p>	<p>Head of Strategy and Regeneration</p>	<p>June 2007</p>
<p>3. The Borough Council cease grants of up to £10,000 for companies and refocus on smaller grants for individuals starting businesses.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>	<p>In line with Policy set out above, the Cabinet agrees that there is little additionality in giving out such grants as the market has improved and other agencies such as ONE now fulfil this service. Council resource will be redirected into supporting individuals seeking to start in business with continuing effort on aftercare and support. Cabinet has agreed a new grant programme of small grants to individuals in anticipation of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Head of Strategy and Regeneration</p>	<p>Implemented April 2007</p>

<p>4. Systems need to be in place to link training services to information on company expansions and relocations.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>	<p>The Cabinet agrees that information brought into the Council via planning applications, enquires to Economic Development and employer forums needs to be used systematically to ensure residents can be trained to take up new opportunities. Officers will be instructed to examine how internal communications can be improved.</p>	<p>Head of Strategy and Regeneration</p>	<p>September 2007</p>
<p>5. The Government is lobbied to provide further funds, paid to local authorities, for neighbourhood-focused regeneration activity.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>	<p>The Cabinet is awaiting the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review currently being carried out in Government.</p>	<p>Head of Strategy and Regeneration</p>	<p>September 2007</p>
<p>6. The Council actively engages in the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative programme as integral to its economic development function.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>	<p>The Council is actively involved in the LEGI programme at an officer level, with mainstream resources diverted to support the programme. Cabinet notes that there is less scope for political involvement in the programme and will be recommending that officers examine this gap.</p>	<p>Head of Strategy and Regeneration</p>	<p>September 2007</p>
<p>7. The value of the Local Strategic Partnership is recognised in tackling such a multi-faceted problem as employability.</p>	<p><u>Yes</u></p>	<p>The Cabinet notes that as the democratically elected body for Sedgefield Borough the Council leads the development of the Community Strategy. This plan is currently being refreshed however Cabinet fully supports Employability as one of the key strategic objectives for partnership working through the LSP. Cabinet will also lobby to ensure that Employability is incorporated within the Local Area Agreement.</p>	<p>Head of Strategy and Regeneration</p>	<p>September 2007</p>

8. The important role of the voluntary and community sector in delivering services locally is recognised.	<u>Yes</u>	The Voluntary and Community Sector are better placed than the Council in reaching many residents with employability issues. The Council is working with CAVOS to explore how the Community and Voluntary sector can be commissioned to carry out work in this area.	Head of Strategy and Regeneration	Ongoing commitment
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Item 9

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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