Member Committee’s

Hartlepool Council became a unitary authority in April 1996, having previously been part of Cleveland County Council. It is the smallest of five small unitary authorities in the Tees Valley sub-region and in population terms is one of the smallest unitary authorities in the country. It has a net revenue budget in 2017/2018 of £73m.

It has 33 Councillors. The political balance is as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Group</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Group</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartlepool Independent Group</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putting Hartlepool First Group</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Council moved to a Committee System of governance, in May 2013, followed a comprehensive public consultation exercise and referendum and at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on the 2 May 2013, Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher was appointed as the Leader of the Council.

The membership of each of the Council’s Policy and other Committees is broadly based on the overall political balance of the Council (as detailed above). Each committee fulfilling the role and remit specified within the Council’s Constitution.

Membership of the Policy Committees is as follows:-

**Finance and Policy Committee**

Cllr C Akers-Belcher *Chair (Leader)*

*Cllr Cranney* Vice-Chair (Deputy Leader)/Chair Regeneration Services

Cllr Thomas *Chair Adult Services*

Cllr Harrison *Chair Children’s Services*

Cllr S Akers-Belcher *Chair Neighbourhood Services*

Cllr Brown

Cllr Marshall

Cllr Smith

Cllr Cassidy

Cllr Moore

Vacancy
Adult Services Committee
Cllr Thomas Chair
Cllr McLaughlin Vice Chair
Cllr Hamilton
Cllr C Richardson
Cllr Little
Cllr Tennant
Vacancy

Neighbourhood Services Committee
Cllr S Akers-Belcher Chair
Cllr Beck Vice Chair
Cllr Belcher
Cllr James
Cllr Cassidy
Cllr Loynes
Cllr T Richardson

Regeneration Services Committee
Cllr Cranney Chair
Cllr Lindridge Vice Chair
Cllr Cook
Cllr Brown
Cllr Smith
Cllr Moore
Vacancy

Children’s Services Committee
Cllr Harrison Chair
Cllr Trueman Vice Chair
Cllr James
Cllr Beck
Cllr Little
Cllr Lauderdale
Cllr Moore

Co-opted Members:-
C. of E. Rep – Jo Heaton
R.C. Rep – Stephen Hammond
School Head Teacher Representatives, and
Young Peoples Representatives

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Hartlepool Borough Council is an equal opportunities employer.
Under the new governance arrangements, Hartlepool’s Overview and Scrutiny function is focused upon its statutory Scrutiny responsibilities in relation to health and crime and disorder, as defined within the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and Police and Crime Act 2006. Responsibility for fulfilling these responsibilities sits with the Audit and Governance Committee, the membership of which includes any Member, with the exception of those who sit on the Finance and Policy Committee.

Membership of the Audit and Governance Committee is as follows:-

Cllr Loynes *Chair*
Cllr Tennant *Vice Chair*
Cllr Belcher
Cllr Cook
Cllr Hamilton
Cllr Beck
Cllr Hall

Plus - Independent Member(s) and Parish Council representatives when dealing with standards functions and one fully co-opted representative from a responsible local policing body during consideration of Crime and Disorder Committee matters.

The Council also has two community forums serving the ‘north and coastal’ and ‘south and central’ areas of the town. All Councillors are represented on one of these consultative forums.

The Council has a detailed written constitution, which includes decision-making procedures and a delegated decision-making scheme.