

# **REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

10 March 2017

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Akers-Belcher, Allan Barclay, Kevin Cranney, Dave Hunter, Jim Lindridge, Brenda Loynes and Paul Thompson

Officers: Andrew Carter, Assistant Director (Economic Growth and Regeneration)  
Matthew King, Planning Policy Team Leader  
Lynda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **69. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **70. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **71. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2017**

Received.

### **72. Hartlepool Local Plan Submission Document** (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

**Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

**Purpose of report**

Approval was sought to report the Local Plan to Full Council to seek permission to submit the Local Plan, and other supporting documents, to the Secretary of State in accordance with Part 20(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 22 of the Town and

Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The report provided the background to the development and subsequent consultation of the Local Plan. Further detail was provided around the Publication Local Plan main consultation issues across the following key areas:

- Minimising and Adapting to Climate Change;
- Infrastructure;
- Quality of Place;
- Housing;
- Strengthening the Local Economy;
- Managing and Enhancing the Rural Area;
- Retail and Commercial Development;
- Leisure and Tourism Development'
- Historic Environment; and
- Natural Environment.

It was highlighted that the Local Plan and its timely delivery were crucial to the Council, not only to provide certainty to developers and inward investors, but also in view of the Government's requirements on local authorities to 'produce' a local plan early in 2017.

The Chair thanked all officers involved for their hard work and commitment to ensuring such an effective unprecedented consultation process was undertaken and this was reflected in the objections/support received.

A discussion ensued on the reference to the provision of wind turbines within the Local Plan and the Principal Planning Policy Team Leader confirmed that the majority of supportive responses received were for renewable energy generally and the benefits in relation to climate change.

### **Decision**

Members approved the reporting of the Local Plan to Council to seek permission to submit the Local Plan, and other supporting documents to the Secretary of State in accordance with Part 20(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

### **73. Supported Accommodation and Outreach Support for Vulnerable Young People - Procurement** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Director of Children's Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference CAS/61/16.

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval for the process to identify the preferred procurement solution for the delivery of supported accommodation services and support for vulnerable young people.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee**

The report outlined the background to the Council's statutory duty to provide accommodation to persons under 18 who have been assessed as requiring accommodation under the Children Act 1989 or because they are owed a duty under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 alongside duties towards homeless young people under the Housing Act 1996. The report noted the drivers for change which included one provider not continuing to provide generic Young People's support services in Hartlepool and current contract for floating support and supported accommodation for teenage parents being due for renewal. It was noted that increased and improved multi agency working in assisting vulnerable young people in finding appropriate support and accommodation will complement the procurement of support services.

A review of historical and current provision had been undertaken by the Children's Services and Housing Sections. Data was provided that covered the period January 2016 – December 2016 which showed that 51 young people were placed with the main commissioned supported accommodation providers. The status of these young people was outlined in the report which also showed that the average length of stay of a young person in accommodation since the beginning of January 2016 was 6.5 months.

The outcomes that were sought through the proposed procurement process were detailed in the report and the procurement options were included within the report as follows:

- Framework agreement;
- Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS); or
- Block contracts.

The advantages and disadvantages of each option were included within Appendix 1.

Consultation had been undertaken through a consultation event on 24 January 2017 with future events planned for 16 March and 25 April 2017. Feedback from the consultation and information events will be addressed and considered as part of the preferred option and will be reported back to this Committee.

A Member sought clarification on the average length of stay for an individual in supported accommodation and the type of support mechanisms in place when they have moved on. The Principal Housing Advice Officer confirmed that individuals had stayed in supported accommodation from 3 months to 2 years and moved on when they were ready to live independently with minimal support including floating support as outlined in the report. In relation to individuals who sought to return to supported accommodation, the Principal Housing Advice Officer indicated that individuals would need to recognise why their move into independent living failed and demonstrate a commitment to changing their behaviour in a positive way.

In response to a question from a Member, the Principal Housing Advice Officer confirmed that the supported accommodation provision was always oversubscribed and a waiting list was in operation. The Chair added that discussions on the provision of supported accommodation for young people had been undertaken with one of the options being to develop a 'Foyer' project in conjunction with the Thirteen Housing Group which would provide supported accommodation and support into employment, however this had not progressed. A Member commented that a level of ambition around more support for young people was needed to build on the good work already undertaken by Stonham through future contract arrangements. The Principal Housing Advice Officer confirmed that the new provider would be expected to provide support activities to enable residents to undertake training and be work ready. The Chair sought clarification on the cost of the project and the Principal Housing Advice Officer indicated she would circulate that information to Members.

Concern was expressed by Members that providers were moving away from supporting young people as it was perceived that the provision of supported accommodation for young people with learning difficulties was a more lucrative business.

The Principal Housing Advice Officer confirmed that specific accommodation was provided for teenage parents with alternative provision through floating tenancies with support for any teenagers that could not be accommodated within the Unit.

Members considered the options as noted above and taking into account the security the provision of Block Contracts offered the provider and the Council, Members were fully supportive of this option.

**Decision**

- (1) That Block Contracts be approved as the preferred procurement solution for the delivery of supported accommodation services and support for vulnerable young people.
- (2) That the cost of the provision of supported accommodation for young people in Hartlepool be forwarded to Members of the Committee.
- (3) That a further report be submitted to the Committee to note the awarding of contracts, once the procurement process had been undertaken.

**74. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 9.53 am

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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