

# **REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

15 September 2017

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: S Akers-Belcher, Cook and Lindridge

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Jim Ferguson, Planning and Development Manager  
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Manager

### **27. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Loynes

### **28. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **29. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017**

The minutes were received

The Committee was updated on the following matter arising from the minutes:-

Minute 23 – Tees Valley Investment Fund – Expressions of Interest

The Committee had been informed of the outcome of the expressions of interest that had been submitted to the Tees Valley Combined Authority Investment Fund. The Director advised Members that since the last meeting, the Mayor of the Combined Authority had requested further information. A presentation to the Mayor was to be made, therefore, later in the month. Members were advised that despite the unforeseen delays, further issues were not anticipated.

**30. Savings Programme 2018/19** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

**Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

**Purpose of report**

To enable Members to consider proposals to achieve further savings in 2018/19.

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

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods presented the report which provided background information to the comprehensive report that had been considered by Finance and Policy Committee on 2 December 2016 and the approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20 by Council on 23 February 2017. Whilst Council had approved savings of £1.685m in 2018/19 and £0.785m in 2019/20 to begin to reduce the budget deficits in these years, it was highlighted that they did not address the full deficits and savings of £2.320m that still needed to be identified, a summary of which was detailed in the report.

Members were advised that an update of the MTFS had been considered by the Finance and Policy Committee on 24 July which had highlighted the continuing financial risks facing Local Authorities over the next few years, details of which were provided.

The Director provided a breakdown of the savings proposals that had previously been agreed by the Committee and Council for 2018/19 and 2019/20. The net impact of these savings together with details of how the savings would be achieved was set out in the report. The risks associated with the proposals and the considerations which had been taken into account in developing the proposals were also provided.

It was highlighted that the impact of achieving further savings for 2019/20 would be challenging and would require further changes, whilst ensuring services were maintained as far as practical. The implications of reducing capacity were reflected in service requirements.

Members discussed risk implications with particular reference to the continuing impact of reducing budgets on staff morale and emphasis on the need to value the workforce. The Director highlighted also that demands on staff were continuing to increase whilst resources were reduced.

## **Decision**

The contents of the report and comments of Members with particular regard to the workforce issues were noted and would be utilised to formulate a response to be presented to Finance and Policy Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### **31. Hartlepool Local Plan Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan to Support the Habitats Regulations Assessment** *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

#### **Type of decision**

Forms part of Budget and Policy Framework

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek endorsement of the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan which had been produced to sit alongside the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Hartlepool Local Plan. The Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan was a requirement of Natural England to illustrate that any negative impacts that the Local Plan will have on the environmental designations along the coast can be suitably mitigated.

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

The report provided the background to the development of the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan. Further detail was provided in relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment, which had been submitted to the Secretary of State and assessed for its impact on European Sites, the outcome of which was set out in the report. The detail and costing of the various requirements identified to mitigate the indirect effects identified were set out within the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan, attached to the report at Appendix A.

Members were advised that through the work of the HRA and the development of the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan the Council had worked closely with Natural England, who had withdrawn their objections to the plan and now considered the plan to be sound and legally compliant.

## **Decision**

That the Mitigation Strategy and Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A, be endorsed.

## **32. Great Place: Greater Tees Programme** *(Assistant Director, Economic Growth and Regeneration)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To inform Members of the recent announcement regarding the successful Great Place bid to the Arts Council and Heritage Lottery and seek approval to provide a financial contribution to the Greater Tees programme from the Council's museum acquisition reserve.

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

The report set out the background to the Great Place Greater Tees Programme, led by the Tees Valley Combined Authority, which had been devised through consultation with a wide range of arts and heritage organisations who worked with people and in communities across the Tees Valley.

The Great Place Greater Tees Programme funding had been awarded £1.1735M including VAT on the basis of the projects and descriptions of activity provided by each partner for the submission to Heritage Lottery Fund/Arts Council England and Heritage England and each place's partnership funding commitment. Details of the programme objectives were provided. It was noted that the programme would build capacity in Hartlepool. The original ask from Hartlepool had been £76,000 and had been provided in full. TVCA had allocated additional funding of £14,000 to Hartlepool to allow for additional identity work to be carried out making the total Hartlepool budget £90,000. Given the number of overarching programmes that would be delivered across the Tees Valley, the overall contribution to Hartlepool would increase, details of which were included in the report.

Members expressed their support of the project and requested that the Director explore digital opportunities to project images from the Council's art collection into the public realm.

### **Decision**

The Committee approved the scheme and agreed to the use of an element of the Museum's acquisition fund to fund the Council's contribution to the project, as set out in the financial implications of the report.

### **33. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

The Chairman ruled that the following items of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

### **34. Medals**

The Vice-Chair advised the Committee of the impending auction of medals which had been awarded to the Jones brothers, from Hartlepool, who had lost their lives in World War 1. A view was expressed in relation to the maximum value of the bid and the distinction between the monetary and beneficial value of the medals.

#### **Decision**

Officers were authorised to bid for the medals, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee.

### **35. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Chair highlighted that the next meeting would be held at the re-scheduled date of Tuesday 24 October at 2.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 3.50 p.m.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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