

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

18th June 2007

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Red Room, Avondale Centre,
Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio
Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Councillor Edna Wright

1. **Illegal Burning of Materials on the Longhill and Sandgate Industrial Estates** (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the 'multi-agency' strategy, spearheaded by the Council's Neighbourhood Action Team, to tackle the problem of illegal burning on the Longhill and Sandgate Industrial Estates.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Details were given of the various agencies working with the Neighbourhood Action Team (NAT) to combat the problem of illegal burning on the Longhill and Sandgate Industrial Estates. The strategy was designed to increase surveillance in the area and provide a decisive response to incidents of fire. All residency groups in the area had been contacted by the NAT to make them aware of the new multi-agency approach along with all local councillors and the occupiers of every unit on the Industrial Estates. A copy of the working strategy was attached as an appendix to the report.

Decision

1. That the multi agency approach be endorsed and the report noted
2. That a letter be sent to all the participating agencies urging that the strictest actions be taken at all times
3. That a letter be sent to all occupiers advising that the new Portfolio Holder would support and encourage the strictest actions against anybody responsible for these fires
4. That a letter be sent to residents' groups and councillors asking for their support and for any relevant information to help prosecute offenders.

2. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08

(Director of Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request approval to the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan for 2007 / 2008.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007 / 08 detailed the actions, performance indicators and associated risk in achieving objectives planned to be carried out by the department . National and local performance indicators were identified within the Plan, showing previous year's performance along with targets for the coming year and each indicator. In line with corporate planning requirements the plan would be reviewed on a quarterly basis. A copy of the Plan was attached as an appendix.

The Portfolio Holder expressed his wish that targets be challenging but realistic. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that he felt they were firm but achievable.

Decision

That the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 be approved.

3. Making Space for Water, Integrated Urban Drainage – Defra Pilot Study (Lead by Northumbrian Water Ltd)

(Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

1. To advise the Portfolio Holder of the Making Space for Water initiative entitled “Integrated Urban Drainage”, its objectives, progress to date, and implications for Local Authorities.
2. To seek approval to a public meeting for consultation with interested stakeholders.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

In late 2006, as part of the Making Space for Water initiative, Defra announced the intention to fund 15 representative studies around the country entitled “Integrated Urban Drainage”. All the statutory sewerage undertakers in England were invited to bid for grant funding to undertake an area specific study. Details were given within the report of the objectives of the studies. Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL) assembled and submitted a bid for one of the 15 study packages on offer. This was successful and commenced in early 2007.

The study is programmed to take 12 months and will consist of data collection, selection of site specific local areas, involvement of wider stakeholders by public meeting, assessment of problems and solutions and presentation of results to Defra. Following data collection specific areas have been selected within Hartlepool for detailed study as follows:

- Middle Warren/Slake catchment in the North area
- Valley Drive/Burn Valley catchment in the Central area
- Queens Meadow /Stell catchment in the South area

Study of these has commenced and it was now proposed to arrange a public consultation meeting in late June/early July.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the study was totally Defra grant funded and there were no financial implications upon the Council.

Decision

That the advertisement and arrangement of a public meeting at a suitable local venue in the near future, and at no cost to the Council, be authorised.

4. Criteria for Supporting Bus Services (Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide information on the development of a scoring system in order to evaluate supported bus services and guide priorities for the introduction of new contracts.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report gave details of a proposed scoring system for supported bus services. This had come about as a result of an independent review of the Council's supported bus services published in December 2006. Following this review independent consultants had been appointed to carry out further analysis of the supported bus service and formulate a scoring system to evaluate new contracts. The suggested points scoring system was attached to the report as an appendix. The final decision regarding allocation of points and criteria would need to be made by Council following consultation with internal and external stakeholders.

The Portfolio Holder requested that the final scoring system be brought for his attention prior to consideration by Council. He also requested that the reference to ignoring wards in close proximity to the Town Centre be removed from the draft criteria.

Decision

That officers be authorised to consult with stakeholders to refine the proposed scoring system to aid the prioritisation of supported bus services.

5. Revised LTP Budget Allocations for 2007/08 *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide information on the local transport capital outturn expenditure in 2006/07 and seek approval for the revised LTP budget allocations and programme for integrated transport and structural maintenance in 2007/08.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report provided details of the 2007/08 local transport capital allocations, the revised budget allocations and the actual allocations as of May 2007. Particular attention was drawn to the integration of transport within Hartlepool and the planned Hartlepool Transport Interchange. A thorough study on aligning bus and rail timetables would be conducted prior to the opening.

Decision

1. That the revised distribution of local transport capital funding for 2007/08 be approved.
2. That a detailed review of scheme estimates against spends be brought to a future Portfolio meeting.

6. Service 401 – Hartlepool/Stockton Countryside Bus (Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide information on the withdrawal of external funding for Service 401 – Hartlepool / Stockton Countryside Bus.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Since 1996 the Council has supported the operation of a countryside leisure bus service twice a week during the six week summer holiday period. In 2003 the Hartlepool service was integrated with the Stockton Borough Council countryside bus to provide a single through service for Stockton and Hartlepool residents known as the 'badger bus'. The service was tendered by Hartlepool with promotional material published by Stockton. In May 2007 Stockton Borough Council informed Hartlepool that they were not in a position to be able to commit to the scheme for Summer 2007. This was a result of the relatively low number of passenger journeys by Stockton residents and a feeling that their element of the funding could be better spent elsewhere.

The total cost of providing the service in 2006 was £14,000 and this was split equally between Councils. The total subsidy per passenger (excluding marketing and promotion) was £9.42, compared to an average of £1.09 for Hartlepool's current supported bus contracts. The late notice of withdrawal of external funding meant it was not possible to complete all necessary procedures to enable the service to operate in July 2007. Non-operation would provide a cost-saving of £6,000 from the supported bus services revenue budget in 2007/08.

The Portfolio Holder noted that he was disappointed at the withdrawal of funding by Stockton Borough Council.

Decision

1. That the report be noted.
2. That officers be authorised to explore other opportunities to improve access to country sites in partnership with other local authorities and organisations.

3. That the £6,000 saving be ring-fenced for the provision of similar access to country sites subject to Portfolio Holder approval.

7. Local Safety Schemes (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report the list of potential safety schemes following a review of updated road casualty data.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the updated list of potential safety schemes and the investigations that had taken place into the Hartlepool road casualty figures. The Portfolio Holder advised that due to his position as Ward Councillor for Throston and the placement of Hart Lane at the top of the list he would like to defer the decision to Cabinet.

Decision

That approval of the updated safety scheme list, and development of a scheme for the section of Hart Lane from Dunston Road to Duke Street be deferred to Cabinet.

8. Loch Grove – Petition for Tarmacing of Verges (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise on the receipt of a petition from residents of Loch Grove asking for the grass verges in the grove to be replaced by parking bays or tarmac.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained details of a petition asking for consideration to be given to the replacement of the existing grass verges with parking bays or tarmac. Residents felt the grove was too narrow to accommodate parking on the road together with the free movement of traffic along it. This was resulting in cars being parked on the grass verges and in the turning head at the top of the grove. The estimated cost of the works would be £3,956.

Decision

1. That the petition be noted.
2. That the Neighbourhood Manager add the scheme to the list of those identified for the South area.
3. That a letter be sent to the Chair of the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum including a copy of the petition.

9. School Safety Scheme and Cyclepath Improvement Works – King Oswy Drive *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the proposals to implement a 20mph speed limit and associated traffic calming on King Oswy Drive in the vicinity of Barnard Grove school and carry out improvement works to the cyclepath in the same vicinity.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Several years ago the National Cycle route 14 was constructed in Hartlepool with a section going along King Oswy Drive. This section was constructed in such a way that various obstructions remained in its path, including trees, street furniture and parked cars. Funding was now available to carry out improvement works to the route over several years. It was proposed that the first phase be carried out between Barnard Grove and Speeding Drive and in order to minimise disruption to residents the scheme would be combined with the provision of a 20mph speed limit on King Oswy Drive in the vicinity of Barnard Grove School. Details were given of the proposals as follows:

- That the existing cycleway between Barnard Grove School and Speeding Drive be realigned and repositioned to reduce the number of obstacles and allow residents to park on the tarmac path.
- That a 20mph speed limit be introduced on King Oswy Drive between Barnard Grove to a point just south of Weymouth Drive, including parking restrictions outside the school and five speed cushions

Residents, local Ward Councillors and Barnard Grove School were sent plans showing four possible traffic calming schemes and giving information of the proposals to improve the cycleway. Consultees were also invited to attend an event at Barnard Grove School. 48 consultation sheets were returned with the most popular option being to implement speed cushions and a 20mph speed limit. The schemes would be funded through the Local Transport Plan at a cost of £8,000 for the traffic calming and 20mph speed limit and £60,000 for

the cycleway improvements.

Ward Councillor Edna Wright attended the meeting and gave her views on the proposals following consultation with residents. She requested the following:

- That yellow lines on King Oswy Drive and Barnard Grove be extended
- That bollards be installed on the grassed area to prevent parking
- That no speed cushions be positioned directly outside any driveways
- That the number of cushions be reduced to 3 or 4
- That reconsideration be given to the amount of money being spent on cycleway improvements.

The Head of Technical Services advised that all of the suggested amendments to the traffic calming measures were feasible. However in the case of the cycleway improvements these were part of a countrywide drive for the provision of cycleways as part of Safer Routes to Schools. The Council had to prove their commitment to reducing the number of vehicles on the road to the Government and a specific element of Local Transport Plan funding was set aside for cycleways.

Decision

1. That the existing yellow lines be extended
2. That officers ensure there are no speed cushions directly outside residents' driveways
3. That the proposed improvements to the cycleway be implemented at the cost indicated
4. That consideration be given to the cost of installing bollards and a report brought back to the Portfolio Holder

10. Union Street – Proposed One Way Street (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the proposals to introduce a one way system on Union Street.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Details were given of proposals to introduce a one-way system on Union Street with traffic being required to travel in a westerly direction from Durham

Street to Northgate. Residents, businesses and local Ward Councillors were sent plans showing the proposals with one objection received.

Decision

That the implementation of a one-way system on Union Street be approved.

11. Kinross Grove – Petition for Conversion of Grassed Area into Road and Car Parking Area (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise on the receipt of a petition from residents of Kinross Grove asking for the grassed area outside their properties to be converted into an access road and car parking facilities.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained details of a petition asking for consideration to be given to the conversion of the existing grassed area outside 13 to 18 Kinross Grove to an access road and car parking facilities. This request was as a result of anti-social behaviour and the distance that elderly residents had to walk to gain access to vehicles.

Officers reported that due to the narrowness of the grassed area it would not be feasible to create parking bays. The only option would be to create a 4.8m wide road between Kinross Grove and Kirriemuir Road with a parking lay-by on one side. The estimated cost would be £75,000 and it was felt unlikely that the monies received from the South area forum would be enough to cover this.

Decision

1. That receipt of the petition be noted and consideration be given to this request at a future date should funding become available.
2. That a letter be sent to the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit alerting them to the problems in this area and inviting other proposals to alleviate the problem.

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on

the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 13 – Proposed Changes to Stagecoach Bus Services (Para 3 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

13. Proposed Changes to Stagecoach Bus Services (Para 3) (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide information on proposed changes to Stagecoach services.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

These are set out in the exempt section of the minutes

Decision

That officers be authorised to discuss the impact of these changes in more detail with Stagecoach and that the opportunity for providing financial support be considered as part of the assessment of the new supported bus service contracts at a special Portfolio Holder meeting to be arranged for early July 2007.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 22nd June 2007