

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

22nd June, 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.10 a.m. at the Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)
 Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
 Catherine Frank, Neighbourhood Renewal and Strategy Officer

6. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and Neighbourhood Element Programme Outturns 2006/7 *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the 2006/7 financial outturn of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and Neighbourhood Element (NE) Programmes.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the total NRF available to Hartlepool for 2006/7 was £4.8 million and that the final outturn involved a carry forward of less than 3% of the total allocation. The total NE funding available to Hartlepool for 2006/7 was £412,800 and the final outturn involved a carry forward of £32,681. Both carry forward amounts were well within the 5% limit set by central government.

In future as the NRF and NE were to be included within the LAA grant for 2007/8 it was proposed that in future the financial monitoring of these grants be undertaken by the Cabinet as part of the wider LAA monitoring

arrangements already established.

Decision

That the 2006/7 outturns for the NRF Programme and Neighbourhood Element Programme be agreed and the change to the financial monitoring arrangements for 2007/8 be noted.

7. The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998 *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder of the position in respect of Building Control Charge levels and to seek agreement for the proposed new charges with effect from 1 July 2007.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Local Government Association has produced a model scheme of charges and in the past had produced annual advice of guidance levels for charges. As individual authorities have changing circumstances and needs it had become increasingly difficult to maintain national uniformity therefore no guidance had been produced this year. The charges Regulations require authorities to set charges at such a level to cover their relevant costs. As this authority's current charge levels are in accordance with the last guidance issued, together with the fact that the authority has achieved compliance in respect of the requirement for recovery of costs, it was proposed that the charges be increased by a maximum of 5% to reflect budget requirements to maintain service delivery. Full details of the proposals were attached as an appendix to the report.

Decision

That the proposed levels of charges incorporating the 5% and 1.6% increase be adopted.

8. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2006/7 – 4th Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2006/7 in the final quarter of the year.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the progress against the actions contained in the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 and the progress for key performance indicators for the period up to 31 March 2007. Key departmental achievements during 2006/7 were also highlighted.

Decision

That the achievement of key actions and performance Outturn information be noted.

9. Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan 2006-11 *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the key points of the recently launched Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Action Plan and the implications for Hartlepool.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

In January 2007 the Portfolio Holder approved comments to One NorthEast in response to the draft RES Action Plan which had been out to consultation from October 2006. These comments reflected discussions with One, the other Tees Valley Local Authorities and the Tees Valley

Partnership. The contents of the finalised Action Plan were outlined in the report and detailed information was given on the themes of Business, People and Place. In relation to the Place theme it was felt that Hartlepool's potential within the Tees Valley City Region was more fully recognised than within the draft Action Plan although the lack of recognition for "Hartlepool Quays" was a disappointment. The level of resources for the Place theme was a concern and discussions would be needed at the regional and sub-regional level to seek to safeguard Hartlepool's interests in this respect.

Decision

That the report be noted

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 28th June 2007