

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

9 July 2007

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Avondale Centre,
Dyke House School, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond) - In the Chair

Councillors: Pam Hargreaves (Deputy Mayor)

Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods & Communities Portfolio Holder)

Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Paul Walker (Chief Executive)
Andrew Atkin (Assistant Chief Executive)
Nicola Bailey (Director of Adult and Community Services)
Adrienne Simcock (Director of Children's Services)
Dave Stubbs (Director of Neighbourhood Services)
Tony Brown (Chief Solicitor)
Mike Ward (Chief Financial Officer)
Alastair Rae (Public Relations Officer)
Angela Hunter (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

36. Apologies for Absence

None.

37. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

38. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2007.

Confirmed.

39. Efficiency Strategy *(Chief Financial Officer)*

Type of decision

Non Key.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform member's of:-

- the progress that has been made in relation to the existing Efficiency Strategy,
- provide an update on changes to the drivers behind the efficiency agenda,
- identify the issues to be addressed within the development of the strategy
- suggest a framework for the development of the strategy

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

As previously reported, the Council's existing strategy developed from the need to meet the Government's Gershon Targets and was based around the main themes of the Gershon Report namely:-

- Procurement
- Productive time
- Transactional Services
- Corporate Services
- Construction

The monitoring statement against the Gershon Targets for 2006/07 would be reported in detail with the outturn reports. In total this target has been achieved. The current position on the major projects initiated through the Efficiency Strategy was attached as Appendix A, with the projects classified as Green detailed within the report.

It was noted that whilst a number of other large projects were Amber and had not achieved their targets, they were broadly progressing in accordance with their programme. The Chief Financial Officer highlighted to Members some areas that had been identified as potential risks and the measures introduced to reduce this risk. The recent CPA inspection had identified a number of issues which may impact upon the efficiency strategy and the report set out how to begin to address these issues incorporating greater elements of service development.

Business Process re-engineering (BPR) had been recognised as a crucial link between the ICT Strategy and Efficiency Strategy and the report examined the development of a framework to assist the Efficiency Strategy achieve targets set for 2008/09. A range of projects had been identified to be considered within the BPR programme and included broadening the concept of the Front and Back Office as well as introducing “internal shared services” and they were attached as Appendix B. The projects at this stage only consider the issues in the narrower sense of sharing within the Council. Cabinet at some stage will need to consider this in more detail, particularly should the level of efficiencies not be achievable by sharing in house.

Members sought clarification on how the calculations in relation to the Gershon savings had been identified. The Chief Financial Officer confirmed that both revenue and capital expenditure over the previous three years had been used and that this was a comparable figure fixed over three years. In response to a question, the Chief Financial Officer indicated that the corporate initiatives identified would impact on a departmental level and this would need to be taken into account at the planning stage.

Decision

- (i) The report was noted.
- (ii) The progress in 2006/07 and so far in 2007/08 was noted.
- (iii) The Business Project Re-engineering programme attached at Appendix B was approved.
- (iv) Approved the framework as set out in Section 5 and 6 of the report.

40. Members' ICT Provision (*Chief Financial Officer*)

Type of decision

Non Key.

Purpose of report

To agree a programme for the provision of ICT equipment and ancillary items to individual Elected Members.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Performance Portfolio Holder presented a report which outlined the background to a pilot scheme and demonstrations which had been held for Elected Members in relation to ICT provision. It was suggested that a phased approach be undertaken or the implementation of ICT provision to all Members. Support arrangements would be in place to assist Members

during the initial roll out programme provided by the Members' Services Team.

The following three options were identified in relation to equipment and broadband provision:-

- Home pc and own broadband with remote access to HBC network
- HBC Desktop Managed Service (Laptop) with HBC broadband
- HBC Desktop Managed Service (Laptop) with own broadband

It was noted that a budget had been agreed as part of the budget process for 2007/08 that would be used for the provision of equipment, although this is not sufficient to enable all Members to take up the options identified within the report. However, this may be considered as a budget priority as part of the budget process for 2007/08 dependent upon take up.

Members sought clarification on what levels of control would be in place in relation to accessing the internet. The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that all Members would be expected to sign up to the Council's Internet and Email Policy in the same way as employees do. Members were reassured that there were mail and web filters in place which would flag up any inappropriate sites visited. This would be monitored by Northgate Information Systems and reported to the Assistant Chief Executive or Chief Personnel Officer as appropriate.

Decision

- (i) Stage 1 of the implementation programme includes those Elected Members who were interested in using ICT and who are also a:
 - Member of Cabinet
 - Chair or Vice-Chair of the Council
 - Scrutiny Chair
 - Group Leader
- (ii) The Performance Portfolio Holder to agree the initial list of those identified for Stage 1 in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive.
- (iii) Members' Services Team contact those Elected Members identified in (ii) above and compiles a list of their preferred options and existing equipment/broadband.
- (iv) The Chief Personnel Officer and Assistant Chief Executive review the Stage 1 process and agree further implementation stages with the Performance Portfolio Holder.

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

Type of decision

Non Key.

Purpose of report

To report the list of potential safety schemes (See Appendix 1) following a review of updated road casualty data.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Neighbourhood and Communities Portfolio Holder presented a report which identified the top five locations from the result of investigating updated road casualty data. All five had similar accident records and were investigated further and separated into three categories:

- Those which were uncontrollable
- Those down to driver error
- Those where the introduction of safety measures would make a significant impact

The five locations were given a points system based on these categories and this was detailed in Appendix 2. As a result of this system it was noted that Hart Lane (Dunston Road to Duke Street) was first on the list. The Portfolio Holder had referred this report to Cabinet in light of the fact that the area first on the list was in his Ward area. The Neighbourhood and Communities Portfolio Holder indicated that there was funding available from the Local Transport Plan for the scheme deemed the highest priority and that other schemes would be developed in partnership with Neighbourhood Action Plans, New Deal for Communities and Neighbourhood Forums wherever possible.

Clarification was sought on whether the Cleveland Safety Camera Partnership was in receipt of the information provided in this report in relation to casualties or high speeding areas. The Director of Neighbourhood Services indicated that he would ensure that the Partnership receive a full copy of this report. Members acknowledged that there had been a problem in Hart Lane for a long time in particular with vehicles being driven through red traffic lights. The Director of Neighbourhood Services responded that moving traffic offences were still the responsibility of the Police but that the addition of a yellow box at the traffic light junction would be considered and this was something that the Authority could enforce.

A Member indicated that the issue of implementing 20 mph restrictions in

residential areas had recently been raised at a ward surgery. The Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that this restriction was currently being piloted around schools and the success of this would be examined at the end of the pilot.

Decision

- The updated safety scheme list was approved.
- A scheme for the section of Hart Lane from Dunston Road to Duke Street be developed with the detail of the scheme be approved by the Neighbourhood and Communities Portfolio Holder.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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