

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

18 January 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Avondale Centre, Raby Road, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning
Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
Chris Hart, Planning and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety)
Michelle Daurat, Tall Ships Project Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

27. Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Grant – Victoria Buildings, Headland - *(Director of Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of Decision

Key.

Purpose of report

To seek Portfolio Holder approval to a proposed Townscape Heritage Initiative grant of £200,000 to restore and convert Victoria Buildings on the Headland to create a retail showroom selling bedroom, kitchen and bathroom furniture,.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager reported that Victoria Buildings was a grade 2 listed building dating from 1853, last occupied 18 years ago. The building had deteriorated due to weather and vandalism therefore extensive external repairs were necessary including structural works, although the building was re-roofed in 1993 with the aid of a Council

conservation grant. The cost of the proposed works was £830,256 with a grant of £200,000 recommended. This grant was to be funded from £134,000 Heritage Lottery Fund resources as well as £66,000 from the Single Regeneration Budget resources for key buildings. The Major Regeneration Projects budget established to support Victoria Harbour and related projects did have spare capacity in the current financial year to cover the £66,000 match funding and it was recommended that this would be an appropriate use of the major regeneration projects budget.

A separate approval was required by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the £200,000 grant as part of the THI. A formal application would, if the Portfolio Holder approved these proposed overall grant arrangements, be made to the HLF.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the proposed grant of £200,000 to restore the Victoria Buildings for retail showroom purposes, utilising the major regeneration projects budget, subject to confirmation of the £134,000 contribution from the Heritage Lottery fund.

28. Proposed Conservation Area in Hart (*Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report considers the request by a resident for Hart Village's consideration for designation as a conservation area.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Local Authorities have a duty under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Section 69 to review their areas from time to time to consider whether further areas of conservation are called for. The definition of a conservation area is an area with 'special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Designation of a conservation area gives control over demolition and can be the basis for policies to preserve and enhance all aspects of the character and appearance of the area.

Hart Village retains some of its layout and buildings from the Anglo-Saxon period, overlaid in the 12th to 15th centuries by medieval additions and alterations. There is a grade 1 listed church and various grade 2 listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the village but the remaining character of the village is given by post war residential development or alterations of earlier buildings which do not respect the

original architectural character of Hart.

English Heritage was approached regarding various issues in Hart, by the same individual who had written to the Mayor and English Heritage had responded expressing surprise that Hart was not a conservation area.

Officers had met with members of Hart Parish Council regarding their wish to see the area designated as a conservation area and it was suggested that there was concern regarding development within the area that didn't respect the character of the village and concern that there was nothing in place to protect the wider village.

The Portfolio Holder has responsibility for conservation. However the Planning Committee has an interest in the designation of conservation areas and this matter will be taken to their next meeting on 23 January for information.

The proposal to designate the area as a conservation area was considered by Council Members in 2001 as part of a review of conservation through the scrutiny process. At this time members decided not to resolve to consider the area for designation as a conservation area.

The Conservation Area Advisory Committee discussed this matter at its meeting in December and concluded that although there were interesting areas, it was felt that the overall character of the village was dominated by the changes which had occurred to both existing properties and the new housing which has developed. For this reason the committee indicated they could not support a proposal for a conservation area in the village.

Officers had suggested that the Parish Council put together a Village Design Statement as an alternative option to conservation area status and English Heritage had agreed that this was a solution which would appear to meet the concerns of the Parish Council.

The Mayor expressed concerns that the village was not a conservation area and was informed that there were currently a number of listed buildings and tree preservation orders in place within the village. He suggested that another alternative would be to have Conservation Area status on only parts of the village and the Landscape Planning Conservation Officer said that a further appraisal would need to be undertaken with regard to this.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and proposed that officers work with residents on a Village Design Statement with a view to considering a conservation area at a later date.

29. Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy (2006 – 2009) Update on Action Plans - (Head of Community Strategy)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the activity and progress in delivery of the action plans, during the past 18 months.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Hartlepool's Alcohol Strategy was approved by Cabinet in 2006 as a response to the Government's requirement for local strategies and following a scrutiny exercise related to young people's binge drinking and associated behaviour. The action plan for 2007/08 prioritised:-

- The promotion of sensible and responsible drinking messages
- Specific work with young people including parents and families
- Training for all front line services to deliver screening and brief interventions
- Ongoing enforcement action and consideration of criminal justice interventions.

The format of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy reflects the 4 cross cutting areas of the current national Local Area Agreement framework i.e.

- To reduce underage drinking and challenge the prevailing culture of binge drinking in children and young people
- To provide treatment services and support to tackle misuse of alcohol as experienced by individuals, their families and carers.
- To develop effective multi-agency interventions to tackle alcohol related crime, focusing both on enforcement and the underlying reasons for alcohol misuse.
- To ensure that Hartlepool is a safe and enjoyable place to live, work or visit.

The strategy is strengthened through multi-agency action plans, which have to be achieved within existing resources and structures because there is no additional or dedicated funding available. Analysis suggests that there will be an increase of dependent and hazardous drinkers needing more specialist intervention and there is a lack of suitable treatment in Hartlepool leading to inappropriate hospital referrals. Accident and Emergency are treating a significant number of cases linked to alcohol related incidents, estimating that at least 80 % of the weekend activity is alcohol related.

The aspiration and key objectives of Hartlepool Alcohol Strategy are still

relevant, do not require change and due to the commitment of PCT finances a specialist alcohol treatment service will be operational by April 2008 offering prescribing, community detoxification and other structured psycho social interventions. Primary Care and other front line personnel will be trained and deliver screening and brief interventions.

Other actions include:-

- Strengthening enforcement actions
- Encouraging well managed, neighbourhood friendly licensed premises
- Promoting sensible drinking.

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has recently decided that delivery of the Alcohol Strategy will be one of its key priorities for 2008/09 due to the impact on communities associated with alcohol fuelled behaviour.

The Portfolio Holder expressed concern at the ease with which cheap alcohol could be obtained from supermarkets and suggested that they be included in any initiatives. There is however, nothing that can be done to raise the price of alcohol from supermarkets to discourage alcohol abuse. A Scrutiny visit had recently taken place to Middlesbrough to visit Pods and shelters where youths congregate but it had been found that youths were drinking here, albeit in a supervised environment. The Portfolio Holder asked that any reported incidents of selling alcohol to underage drinkers, were followed up with enforcement action.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder received the update on progress over the past eighteen months and commented on the future action plans to tackle local alcohol issues.

30. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) 2007/08 - (Head of Community Strategy)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report was to seek agreement from the Portfolio Holder to provide Theme Partnerships delegated authority to agree modifications within their 2007/08 NRF programme. The Portfolio Holder was also requested to agree the amendment to the Jobs and Economy programme.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The report set out the 6 month spend position of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and sought delegated authority for Theme Partnerships to agreed modifications within their 2007/08 NRF theme programmes to ensure that a full spend is achieved by 31 March 2008. There are also two new projects from the Jobs and Economy theme for approval, Hartlepool Voluntary Wheels and Local Enterprise Training Scheme Growing Opportunities.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed delegated authority for Theme Partnerships to agreed modifications within their 2007/08 NRF programme and agreed the amendments to the Jobs and Economy Programme for 2007/08.

31. Pride in Hartlepool Proposals - (*Head of Public Protection*)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To consider a recommendation from the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of a proposal for an environment scheme.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The Green Tourism Business Scheme was a National Scheme which is open to all tourism related businesses to measure their environmental performance through a range of environmental indicators. This would link with the Hartlepool Climate Change Strategy and provide a good image of the town prior to the Tall Ships in 2010. The proposal was for Pride in Hartlepool to pilot fund the initial joining fee for businesses up to the end of March 2008.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed the recommendation of the Pride in Hartlepool Steering Group in respect of the environmental scheme.

32. Tall Ships' Sponsorship Services Tender - (*Tall Ships Project Manager*)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To request the Portfolio Holder's approval to proceed with appointing an individual/company to generate corporate sponsorship income for the Tall Ships' Races 2010.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Portfolio Holder

It was proposed to appoint an individual or company to work with Hartlepool Borough Council and its partners to generate substantial sponsorship income to contribute towards the running costs of the Tall Ships' Races 2010. It was suggested that the successful tenderer be appointed for a two year period, via a restricted tender process. It was the intention that the individual/company was paid on a commission only basis and the start date identified would be around 1 April 2008.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder authorised procedures for the appointment on an individual/company to generate sponsorship income for the delivery of the Tall Ships' Races 2010.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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