

CULTURE, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

9th November 2005

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (Culture, Housing and Transportation Portfolio Holder)

Officers: John Mennear, Acting Assistant Director (Cultural Services)
Mike Blair, Acting Transportation and Traffic Manager
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also present Councillors Rob Cook and Steve Wallace

46. **Main Event and Conference Management** (*Acting Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the Events Officer within Cultural Services to undertake an MA in Event and Conference Management

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

It was proposed that the Events Officer within the Arts, Museums and Events Section be given leave to undertake a two-year MA in Events and Conference Management through the Cultural Management Unit at Northumbria University. Funding for the first year would be through Tees Valley Single Programme (Coastal Arc) and the local authority would be asked to provide match funding through the Arts, Museums and Events budget for the second year. The course would be a flexible distance learning programme using web based tutorial support and therefore would have a minimal impact on work time.

Decision

That approval be given for attendance on the course.

47. School Crossing Patrol Request – Throston Grange Lane *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the request to establish a School Crossing Patrol warden on Throston Grange Lane

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A request had been made by two parents whose children attended Throston Grange Primary School for a School Crossing Patrol on Throston Grange Lane. Following surveys Officers had determined that Throston Grange Lane did not meet the nationally agreed criteria for the establishment of a Crossing Patrol. The cost of establishing a Crossing Patrol would be £1,500 initially with further revenue costs of £3,500 per annum and the current revenue School Crossing Patrol budget was unable to sustain any further sites without additional funding being allocated. Officers therefore recommended that the Portfolio Holder reject the proposal.

Throston Ward Councillor Steve Wallace addressed the Portfolio Holder. He commented that the reason the necessary numbers of children were not crossing Throston Grange Lane was because the crossing was not there yet. Parents tended to take their children to school by car but if there was a crossing they would take them on foot. This would be in line with the Council's 'Safer Routes to Schools' programme designed to stop unnecessary car journeys and would help prevent congestion at Throston Grange Primary School. Councillor Wallace handed a 120-person petition to the Portfolio Holder in favour of the Crossing Patrol.

Councillor Rob Cook, Chair of the North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum, supported Councillor Wallace's comments. Cook considered that the recommendation not to approve should be rejected in favour of supporting the implementation of a crossing patrol as requested by the parents in the area.

In response to these comments the Acting Transportation and Traffic Manager said a crossing patrol was only one solution to the problem and officers could liaise with the school to come up with a travel plan at a later date. Mr Blair commented that officers could only make recommendations based on the evidence available and there were no guarantee that the proposed crossing would be sufficiently utilised.

The Portfolio Holder agreed that formulae did not take account of roads such as Throston Grange Lane where average speeds were high and considered that the establishment of a crossing patrol would be money well invested.

Decision

That the establishment of a School Crossing Patrol on Throston Grange Lane be approved.

48. Loan of Painting ‘Youth’ by Charles Napier Hemy
(*Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To inform on the possible loan of the painting ‘Youth’ by Charles Napier Hemy from the museum collections.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Hartlepool Museums Service had been approached to loan the painting ‘Youth’ by Charles Napier Hemy to Penlee House Gallery and Museum, Cornwall, for a three month period in 2006, as part of a temporary exhibition of the artist’s work. Insurance and transport costs for the loan would be fully covered by Penlee House.

Decision

That approval be given for the loan of the painting ‘Youth’ by Charles Napier Hemy to Penlee House Gallery and Museum, Cornwall.

49. Mowbray Road – Safer Streets Scheme (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to a consultation exercise to be carried out on a safer streets scheme and , subject to no serious objections being raised, implementation of the scheme

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Acting Transportation and Traffic Manager reported that following residents' complaints about the speed of traffic on Mowbray Road a speed survey had been carried out. The results showed 85% of cars drove at an average speed of 36mph. As traditional traffic calming methods could not be used owing to Mowbray Road's bus route status. It was proposed that a Vehicle Activated Sign be placed at the junction with Kesteven Road. Officers would consult on the proposal with the residents of the affected area, The Fens School and Local Ward Councillors. The estimated cost of the scheme would be £5,000, funded through the Local Transport Plan.

The Portfolio Holder was asked to approve the consultation and implementation of the scheme, provided there were no serious objections.

Decision

That approval for the consultation and implementation of the scheme be given, subject to no serious objections being raised

50. A Shared Pedestrian and Cycle Link from Greatham C of E Primary School to Saltaire Terrace (Revised Scheme) *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the consultation findings on the safer routes to school shared pedestrian and cycle link, to increase levels of walking and cycling to and from Greatham C of E Primary School.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Following a travel survey undertaken with pupils of Greatham C of E Primary School, consultation to upgrade the shared pedestrian and cycle link had been carried out. Those consulted included the school, parents, pupils, residents in the neighbouring area and the Ward Councillor. No objections had been made to the original scheme but due to budgetary constraints, an amended scheme was now proposed. Further consultation would therefore be undertaken with residents in the neighbouring area and any objections received would be reported back to the Portfolio Holder.

The scheme would be funded through the Local Transport Plan and as the proposed cycleway would cross a public right of way under the conditions of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 there would be a legal process lasting approximately three months.

Decision

That the upgrade of an existing right of way to a shared pedestrian and cycle link from Greatham C of E Primary School to Saltaire Terrace be approved, subject to no objections being received from the further consultation.

51. Supported Bus Service Extensions Services 822 and 828 (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder regarding the proposed diversion of Stagecoach service 3 via Hucklehoven Way, and possible alternatives

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

As a result of the revised Stagecoach bus timetables introduced in March 2005, the commercial bus service No 3 was revised which resulted in the loss of services operating along Hucklehoven Way. Concern had been expressed by Ward Councillors that the school pupils from the Burbank Street area did not have access to a local bus service to and from school, in particular those attending Brierton and English Martyrs Schools. The existing supported bus services operating were detailed in the report and included the no 828, 822 and 829. The Portfolio Holder had requested at the 5th October meeting that Stagecoach be approached with a view to reinstating the No 3 bus service in school time only, with one bus on a morning and one in the afternoon. However Stagecoach had stated that this diversion would not be possible.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged the budgetary concerns but asked Officers to undertake a cost comparison with other supported bus schemes and report to a future meeting on the outcome of the investigation.

Decision

That a report be submitted to the Portfolio Holder detailing a comparison of this proposal with other supported bus services.

52. Creation of Additional Business Parking Bays (Director of Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To consider the creation of additional permit controlled business parking bays, to meet demand of several businesses operating within controlled parking zones.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Several businesses had expressed an interest in the use of permit controlled parking bays and the lack of availability and minimal turnover of existing designated bays suggested that the creation of additional business bays would be welcomed. To that end officers recommended the creation of four additional business bays in Dalton Street. Many of the properties in Dalton Street were now empty as part of the NDC clearance proposals. Costs would be met from the Parking Services budget.

Decision

- i. That the creation of four additional business bays in Dalton Street be approved.
- ii. That the necessary changes to the Traffic Regulation Order be advertised as part of the legal procedure, with any objections being referred back to the Portfolio Holder for further consideration.

53. Local Safety Schemes (Director of Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the proposed traffic calming guidelines and prioritise the potential schemes for future years.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Government had set casualty reductions targets for all local authorities in 2000. A number of strategies were employed to help achieve these targets as failure could affect the Council's Local Transport Plan funding and Corporate Performance Assessment. It was recommended therefore that only schemes which were likely to make a demonstrable impact on

sites where there had been accidents which caused fatal or serious injuries be developed for next year's programme.

The report detailed the criteria needed for traffic calming measures to be considered and gave details of the schemes approved for implementation this financial year. Potential sites for next year were detailed as an appendix to the report in order of priority and approval was sought to begin development of next year's schemes in this order.

Chair of the North Consultative Forum Councillor Rob Cook addressed the Portfolio Holder. Councillor Cook requested that a number of locations lower on the list be given higher priority, specifically King Oswy Drive, Clavering area, Hart Lane, Chester Road and Cleveland Road. He felt the low numbers of casualties in the Clavering area were due to good fortune.

The Portfolio Holder asked why Newburn Bridge was still an accident hotspot despite so much previous expenditure on safety schemes. The Acting Head of Traffic and Transportation said he felt Officers had not got it wrong but by their very nature people would speed. The only possible answer might be a major redesign of the road. The Portfolio Holder also asked if Officers could review the issues in Caledonian Road as residents and the town's MP had expressed concerns. The Portfolio Holder also had concerns in relation to the speeding in Clavering and requested that the issues be reviewed. Councillor Payne also suggested installing a Vehicle Activated Sign on Caledonian Road and requested that while it was outside the designated area, officers seek a contribution from the NDC.

The Portfolio Holder asked if any of the schemes lower down the list could be affected by serious accidents in the future. The Acting Head of Traffic and Transportation said this would only happen in the event of a major accident.

Decision

- i. That the traffic calming guidelines set out in the report be approved.
- ii. That the order of priorities, as detailed in the appendix, be reviewed in light of the comments set out above.

54. Beach Lifeguard Season 2005 (*Acting Director of Adult and Community Services*)

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the Beach Lifeguard Season for 2005

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In 2004, The Royal Life Saving Society had undertaken a beach safety assessment identifying various aspects of running a beach lifeguard service. Based on this Hartlepool Borough Council had reinstated the beach lifeguard. The Cultural Services Officer gave the Portfolio Holder details of the hours of operation and the areas covered and recruitment and training of the personnel.

There had been 10 reported aquatic incidents and five major land-based first aid incidents in the 2005 lifeguard season. Full details of these incidents were set out as an appendix to the report. There had also been a mystery visit by the Royal Life Saving Society on 17th and 18th August, the results of which were set out in the report and were favourable.

The Portfolio Holder reinforced the need for continuing training but indicated that the report was very encouraging. The Cultural Services Officer indicated that officers were satisfied with the results of the inspection and the service provided during 2005 but disappointed that dogs were still being taken into dog ban areas by their owners. However Mr Mennear considered that without the lifeguards in place, this problem could have been much worse.

Decision

That the report be noted and welcomed.

55. Learning from Complaints, 1st April 2005-30th September 2005 *(Acting Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non Key

Purpose of report

To provide an overview of the operation of the Department's Complaints and Representations Procedures.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report advised the Portfolio Holder that 20 complaints had been received (one of which had later been withdrawn) during the period 1 April 2005 to 30 September 2005. Seventeen concerns had also been received during the reporting period together with 89 compliments. There had been no appeals during the quarter. Statistical analysis and appropriate general information were included in the report. It was highlighted that the complaints and compliments relating to the Adult Care services would be reported to the Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder.

Decision

That the report be received and noted

56. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be 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 the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Minute 57 – Appointment of Specialist Contractors to the Capital Programme at the Hartlepool Maritime Experience (Para 8 – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Council under a particular contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services)

57 Appointment of Specialist Contractors to the Capital Programme at the Hartlepool Maritime Experience – Para 8 (*Acting Assistant Director (Community Services)*)

Type of decision

Non Key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to appoint specialist contractors to undertake the upgrading of the 'Fighting Ships' sound sequence and the dry docking and hull repairs of PSS Wingfield Castle.

To seek approval of a shortlist of exhibition design companies to submit design proposals for new exhibition galleries within the attraction to a fixed budget.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Full details of the issue are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

- i. That the budgetary elements be approved
- ii. That the proposed project procurement proposals through specialist

- providers be approved
- iii. That the selected tenderers list for the exhibition via a design submission to a fixed price be approved.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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