

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 28th January 2008

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

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder)

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

56. Thornbury Close/Templeton Close Traffic Calming *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of a traffic calming scheme in Thornbury Close and Templeton Close

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A petition had been submitted previously seeking the installation of traffic Calming measures in Thornbury Close while concerns had been raised via Iain Wright MP over Templeton Close. An investigation into the accident records and speed surveys for both roads had shown no accidents in the last 3 years and 85th percentile speeds of 25mph. In view of this traffic calming was previously not recommended. However community concern had remained particularly as these were the only 2 streets in the estate without traffic calming. As a result of this a low cost traffic calming scheme had been developed in the form of 2 “thumps” – or mini road humps - in each street.

Consultation with residents and ward councillors had shown 13 for and 8 against traffic calming in Thornbury Close with 8 for and 7 against traffic calming in Templeton Close. Details of the objections were given within the report.

A resident, Mrs Bullie, attended the meeting and indicated she was in favour of the proposals – her reason being the safety of children who regularly play at

the junction. The Portfolio Holder advised that he had been minded to refuse the measures but following Mrs Bullie's comments he was now minded to approve the proposals. He did however request that officers ensure none of the "thumps" were located across any private driveways.

Decision

That the traffic calming scheme for Thornbury Close and Templeton Close be approved...

57. Minor Works Proposals, Neighbourhood Consultative Forums *(Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of Minor Works Funding.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the Minor Works proposals considered by the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums. The following schemes were proposed:

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- i) St Mark's Church Hall – improvements to the external disabled access - £250

Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- ii) Furness Street – installation of fencing to the rear of Furness Street and Middleton Road - £9,000
- iii) Musgrave Walk – bulb planting - £1,400
- iv) Rift House Recreation Ground – renewal of the perimeter fence line - £5,000
- v) Valley Drive – investigatory works in support of a proposed drainage scheme - £2,000
- vi) Reedston Close – fencing scheme - £750
- vii) Spencer Grove – parking provision - £1,800
- viii) Middleton Road – improvements to Tots Garden - £2,662

South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

- ix) Claymore Road – replacement of grass verges with tarmac - £6,109
- x) Saltaire Terrace – replacement of grass verges with tarmac and provision of a dropped kerb - £6,525.89

Decision

That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums be approved.

58. M Block Traffic Calming *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of a traffic calming scheme for the M Block in Owton Manor.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In August 2007 details of a petition from residents of Moffat Street and the surrounding area requesting traffic calming had been given to the Portfolio Holder. This had led to proposals being drawn up to cover the whole of the M Block. This would involve the introduction of a 20mph speed limit and the installation of speed humps.

Consultation letters had been sent to residents and ward councillors, the results showed 95 people in favour of the scheme and 8 against. Details of the reasons for objection were given in the report. The total cost of the scheme would be £35,000, to be funded as follows:

- £15,000 from the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum
- £10,000 from the Owton NAP Forum
- £5,000 from the Local Transport Plan
- £5,000 from Housing Hartlepool

The Portfolio Holder thanked the partners for their financial contributions to this project.

Decision

That the traffic calming scheme for the M Block be approved.

59. Avenue Road, Proposed Taxi Rank Order - Objection
(Head of Technical Services)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the Traffic Regulation Order following an objection to the

scheme.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The existing taxi rank on the East side of Avenue Road was frequently full to capacity and it had been agreed to provide an additional rank adjacent to the police station. The Police were prepared to accept this with the proviso that they retain the right to cone off the area for their use when necessary.. During the legally required advertising process 1 objection was received relating to visibility for vehicles leaving the Civic Centre however steps had been taken to ensure this would not be an issue.

The Portfolio Holder indicated his support for the scheme but had some concerns relating to u-turns being performed on that stretch of road. Officers advised that, under new powers provided by the Traffic Management Act 2004, from April 2008 the Local Authority would be able to enforce illegal u-turn manoeuvres, but the Department for Transport had not yet approved any camera devices to enable this to be carried out. The Director of Neighbourhood Services felt the courts should be relied upon to take the word of traffic wardens over drivers as it could be a year before cameras were approved. The Portfolio Holder requested officers instigate a right turn ban on this section of road and inform taxi companies that an order would be put in place to enforce illegal u-turns, following a 1 month amnesty.

Decision

That the Traffic Regulation Order outlined in the report be approved.

60. Cycle Training/Promotions Funding Applications *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek permission from the Portfolio Holder to submit formal bids to the Department for Transport for funding to increase existing levels of cycle training and to Cycle England for the appointment of a Bike It Cycling Promotion Officer.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Department for Transport had invited Councils to apply for funding to deliver additional schools cycle training, to be allocated to those Councils that could demonstrate an increase on the existing cycle training levels delivered to schools. The grants equate to approximately £40 per child, double the funding used for cycle training by the Road Safety Unit. In addition Cycle England were due to announce funding for the appointment of a Bike It Cycle

Promotions Officer to encourage and promote cycling across schools and businesses. Any grant awarded through this funding stream would need to be match funded by the Council.

A bid would therefore be submitted to the Department of Transport for £26,000 to train 650 children in national standard cycle training while a bid for £15,000 would go to Cycle England, to be match funded for the 3 years the post would be in place.

Decision

That staff be granted permission to submit bids to the Department for Transport in respect of funding additional cycle training and to Cycle England for the appointment of a Bike It Officer.

61. Dog Control Orders *(Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the necessary steps to be taken in order to comply with the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

At the Portfolio meeting in January 2007 the Portfolio Holder gave approval to commence the process of making Dog Control Orders under part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, and to replace existing dog byelaws currently in use by the council. In accordance with the regulations the Parish Councils had been informed of the intention to introduce Dog Control Orders. Public consultation had been carried out through a variety of mediums and the proposals were compiled following this initial consultation exercise. Further consultation on the draft proposals was then conducted.

Details were given to the Portfolio Holder of the proposed Hartlepool Dog Control Orders, under the following categories:

- Fouling of Lands by Dogs Order
- Dogs on Leads by Direction Order
- Dogs (Specified Maximum) Order
- Dogs on Leads Order
- Dogs Exclusion Order

Maps were provided showing the precise areas in question. The proposed

level of fixed penalty would be £80, with a £30 discount if this was paid within 7 days of issue.

The Portfolio Holder commented that this was a big problem in Hartlepool and requested a large advertising campaign on this issue in Hartbeat and the local press. The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that this issue would also be returning to the Neighbourhood Forums for information.

Decision

1. That the adoption of the proposed Dog Control Orders as per the attached appendices be approved
2. That authority be given for the necessary steps to be taken to comply with the Dog Control Order (Procedures) Regulations 2006.

62.. Three Year Local Transport Capital Settlement (208/09-2010/11) *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To provide information on Hartlepool's three year local transport capital settlement for 2008/9 to 2010/11 and seek approval for the proposed budget allocations for integrated transport and highway maintenance.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Hartlepool's final second Local Transport Plan (LTP) was submitted to the Government in March 2006. The firm allocation of funding for the last 3 years was subsequently confirmed by Government Office for the North East in November 2007.

Details were given within the report of the capital settlement for integrated transport and highways capital maintenance. Allocations for both were less than the final planning guidelines on which the second LTP was based. The proposed distribution of capital allocations for each LTP scheme type for 2008/09 to 2010/11 were attached to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention. This distribution was based on the allocations published in the final second LTP. Amendments were made to reflect the reduced capital settlement for integrated transport and highways maintenance announced in November 2007.

Capital funding would also be carried forward from 2007/08, including funding allocated for the Hartlepool Transport Interchange and York Road highway improvements. The exact level of funding to be carried forward and revised budget allocations would be report to a further Portfolio meeting.

The Portfolio Holder indicated his concern at the lack of funding for highways. He would speak to the Mayor and arrange for a letter to be sent to the appropriate parties referring to the inadequacy of the settlement.

Decision

That the firm three year local transport capital settlement be noted and the proposed distribution of capital funding for 2008/09 be approved.

63. Neighbourhood Action Team, Environmental Enforcement *(Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

1. To inform the Portfolio Holder of the key activities and performance of the Neighbourhood Action Team over the past 12 months
2. To inform the Portfolio Holder of new initiatives introduced by the Neighbourhood Action Team, aimed at improving the environment and providing a safer, cleaner place for people to work and live.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Head of Neighbourhood Management reported that the Neighbourhood Action Team's achievements contributed significantly to providing a safer, cleaner environment for the people of Hartlepool and the team was fundamental Council key aims and objectives. Details were given of achievements of the last 12 months as follows:

- Dog Related Issues
- Litter
- Fly Tipping/Covert Surveillance
- Abandoned and nuisance Vehicles/ANPR vehicle
- Stop, Search and Seize operations

While further information on the following new and forthcoming initiatives was also detailed:

- Dog Control Orders
- Safer, Cleaner, Greener Initiative
- Illegal Burning – Longhill and Sandgate Industrial Estates
- 'SmartWater' Initiative
- Commercial Waste Initiative
- Littering on School Routes

The Portfolio Holder requested that his thanks be passed on to the Neighbourhood Action Team for their efforts.

Decision

That the report be noted.

64. 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)(Variation) Order 2006

Minute 65 – School Crossing Patrol Service (Para 3) – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

65. School Crossing Patrol Service *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek the views of the Portfolio Holder with regard to implementing new School Crossing Patrol (SCP) Management Guidelines.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Details were given of the Local Authorities Road Safety Officers' Association (LARSOA) revised guidelines in relation to the employment of School Crossing Patrol Wardens at light controlled/zebra crossing locations and the financial savings to be made if the management guidelines were formally adopted by Hartlepool Borough Council.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that further detailed consultation would be needed on this issue before any firm recommendations were made. The Portfolio Holder concurred with this, advising he would wish to see any proposals implemented in time for the start of the new school year if possible.

Decision

1. That the report be noted
2. That extensive consultation be carried out on the issues detailed within the confidential report.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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