

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

22 February 2008

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

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Manager
Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager
Gemma Clough, Principal Regeneration Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

66. Draft One: Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update *(Head of Regeneration)*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To seek comments on draft one of the Rossmere Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) Update. A copy of the draft plan and a summary document highlighted the priority concerns and the actions to address these.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report described the background to Neighbourhood Action Plans with a specific focus on the Rossmere NAP. It outlined the current position with regard to the consultation process, from the initial community conference to the formation of the draft NAP along with some of the residents' key concerns as identified in the plan. The report also described the format of the NAP and explained that a residents' summary pamphlet is to be produced to outline the priorities which the Rossmere Forum is working to address, following the prioritisation exercise. Finally the report identified the financial implications of the NAP once endorsement has been sought from the Rossmere Forum, the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder, the South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum and the Hartlepool Partnership.

The draft NAP update had already been taken to the Rossmere Forum, the

South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum and the Hartlepool Partnership for comment.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether Ward Councillors had been involved in this Action Plan and was informed that they had been written to and one had attended a Forum at the Rossmere Youth Centre. Another Ward Councillor had expressed concerns regarding drug taking activity in the area and the Principal Regeneration Officer agreed to contact him to elicit further information.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the Draft Action Plan and commented on Ward Councillors' concerns.

67. Stagecoach Fares Increase *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to apply increased fare scales on bus services operated by Stagecoach on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Hartlepool Borough Council supports a number of bus services that are contracted to Stagecoach. Following a period of increasing costs of bus operation, including the price of fuel and wage costs in line with the annual wage award, fares on Stagecoaches commercial services in Hartlepool had been increased on 3 February 2008.

To avoid confusion for passengers, it is custom and practice to implement the same fare scales on supported contracts as commercial services. Child fares are based on half the adult fare to the nearest 5 pence above. There are no financial implications to the Council as a result of the proposed price increases.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the application of the revised fare scales on supported bus services operated by Stagecoach.

68. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report *(Director of Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 in the third quarter of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report showed details of progress against Housing Service actions contained in the Departmental Plan and the third quarter outturn of key performance indicators.

There are a total of 17 actions and 22 performance indicators assigned to this portfolio holder. Of these, all 17 actions had achieved or were expected to achieve targets. 16 of the 22 Performance Indicators had achieved or were expected to achieve targets. Among the targets already met or exceeded this year are the number of households assisted for both the Hartwarmers insulation programme and Warm Front, the number of Registered Social Landlord schemes starting on site and the number of households receiving assistance to secure more suitable accommodation in relation to their disability. Only one Performance Indicator was not on target which was the average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation of households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need. The reasons for this were outlined in the report.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress against key actions and the third quarter outturn of performance indicators and said that he was pleased with the progress of the department.

69. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 – Quarter 3 Monitoring Report *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 to the end of the third quarter of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report showed details of progress against actions contained in the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan and the outturns to the end of the third quarter of key performance indicators.

Within the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan there are a total of 62 Actions and 72 Performance Indicators identified. The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood and Communities has responsibility for 55 of these actions and 59 of these performance indicators. 52 of the actions identified have either been completed or are expected to achieve completion within the target.

The Head of Public Protection reported that the ICT developmental plan was unlikely to achieve target as several criteria had been changed. The Portfolio Holder asked that the Head of Finance and Business Development keep him updated as to when it was likely to be implemented. The reasons for the other Actions not being on target were also outlined.

Nineteen of the Performance Indicators have been highlighted as expected to achieve target with 13 indicators currently being highlighted as already having achieved target. A further 17 indicators have been highlighted as being collected on an annual basis and therefore no updates are available for those at present. The remaining 11 performance indicators were reported as not expected to achieve target.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress against key actions and the third quarter outturn of performance indicators.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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