

CULTURE, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

22nd February 2006

Present:

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

Officers: John Mennear, Acting Assistant Director (Cultural Services)
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Mike Blair, Acting Transportation and Traffic Manager
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

77. Coniscliffe Road – Proposed Traffic Regulation Order – *Head of Technical Services*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for a proposed traffic regulation order in Coniscliffe Road.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

A local resident of Coniscliffe Road has made a complaint about the parking difficulties that occur in Coniscliffe Road at school times. A site visit has taken place which confirmed that Coniscliffe Road becomes heavily congested with parked vehicles during school times (8.30 – 9.30am and 2.30 – 4.00pm). This is as a result of parents taking and collecting their children from West Park School. During this site visit it was identified that some of the children had no option but to cross the road between parked vehicles, close to the school gates. As a result of this, 3 proposed parking restriction amendments were drawn up (Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report) and consultation was carried out with the residents of Coniscliffe Road. From this consultation it was determined that residents had mixed views on which scheme they would like to be implemented.

As a result of the residents' mixed opinions on which proposal would be implemented, a meeting was held with the school headmaster, Councillor Morris and officers. The view that any of the proposals would be likely to

cause a knock on effect in nearby streets was confirmed at this meeting. It was suggested that additional school time restrictions be implemented only on the top part of Coniscliffe Road. This would keep the area closest to the school which is currently unregulated clear of cars, and would also cause minimum disruption to residents. As a result of all of the comments collected during the consultation, it was agreed that extending the school time restrictions to cover the area outside the school, on both sides of Coniscliffe Road (Appendix 4 to the report) would be the best option. This would prevent parking at this location and, therefore, allow a safe area for children to cross the road, closest to the school gate. It would also still allow parents to park in Coniscliffe Road at school times, and not displace these vehicles into neighbouring streets.

The Portfolio Holder requested that the residents affected by the new proposals be formally consulted on the proposals. Councillor Payne stated that a further report should only be brought back if there were any objections to the proposals, otherwise the scheme could be implemented once the consultation had ended.

Decision

That the revised proposals extending the school time restrictions to cover the area outside the school, on both sides of Coniscliffe Road, as set out on the plan at appendix 4 to the report, be approved for further consultation with those residents directly affected; should no further objections be received, the scheme to be implemented as approved.

78. Durham Cross Boundary Contracted Bus Services - Head of Technical Services

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder about changes in cross boundary supported bus contracts between Hartlepool and County Durham and request consideration of future arrangements.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report indicated that Hartlepool Borough Council currently supports, in partnership with Durham County Council (DCC), a limited number of bus services that operate into County Durham from Hartlepool and in the financial year 2004/05 the HBC contribution had been £23,538.48. The report detailed the destinations served.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that DCC has a severe shortfall in their supported bus services budget for the financial year 2005/06 and to offset this shortfall, significant cuts had taken place in the network of supported

bus services DCC supports, including some that operate into the Hartlepool area. At present a proportion of those services are supported jointly by HBC and DCC with the remainder being supported solely by DCC. The services affected were the 33 and 230. The withdrawal of support would mean that late evening subsidised services would be withdrawn; full details were set out in the report. There were some alternative services that could be used but these would not fully cover the withdrawn services. There were also concerns that for some routes, the only viable alternative was via rail.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that due to the relatively high cost of retaining the journeys on services 33 and 230, some £25,000, and also the relatively low passenger numbers, it was recommended by the Head of Technical Services that those journeys be not supported by HBC at the present time. The Portfolio Holder was concerned that the figures reported were those supplied by Durham County Council and not by the bus companies. The Portfolio Holder asked that officers speak directly to the two bus companies to ascertain the costs of maintaining some or all of the services.

Decision

That further discussions be held with the bus companies on the possible retention of some or all of the cross boundary services 33 and 230 that Durham County Council is now proposing to withdraw financial support from.

79. Local Safety Schemes – Head of Technical Services

Type of Decision

Non-key

Purpose of Report

To request confirmation of the safety scheme programme for 2006/07 and provide an update on the scheme list in view of recent investigations.

Issues considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the proposed schemes for 2006/07 and the locations added to the programme since the previous report. The local safety scheme prioritisation list was attached as an appendix to the report. Also attached was a copy of the Road Safety Investment Monitoring Form which showed the level of detail required by the Department for Transport when proposing local safety schemes.

The report included details of the following schemes which were included in the prioritisation list: -

Clifton Avenue
Easington Road (West View Road – King Oswy Drive)
Newburn Bridge

Victoria Road
Park Avenue
Caledonian Road

The Portfolio Holder requested that another traffic survey on Caledonian Road be undertaken at the earliest opportunity and asked officers to inform the ward councillors and the Member of Parliament as to when the survey was to be undertaken.

Decision

- 1 That the proposed schemes outlined in part 3 of the report be approved in principle for implementation in 2006/07, subject to detailed design and positive public consultation.
- 2 That Easington Road is added to the safety scheme list at position 8.
3. That another traffic survey on Caledonian Road be undertaken at the earliest opportunity and that ward councillors and the Member of Parliament be informed as to when the survey was to be undertaken.

80. Fees and Charges – Exceptions Report – Director of Adult and Community Services

Type of Decision

Non-key.

Purpose of Report

To report provided an update of the annual review of charges for services and identified those increases which were in excess of the inflationary increase of 3%.

Issues considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report focused on above average percentage increases for fees and charges in relation to the entrance fees at the Hartlepool Maritime Experience, auditorium hire at the Town Hall and Borough Hall for 2006/07 and allotment rentals for 2007/08. An appendix to the report detailed the 2005/06 charges, the percentage increase and the proposed 2006/07 charges.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that whilst the charges had been included as part of the budget for 2006/07, he had wished to see those charges increased over the rate of inflation brought to his Portfolio meeting for separate consideration. The charges still compared very favourably when compared to other attractions in the north east and the Portfolio Holder supported their approval.

Decision

That the revised schedule of fee and charge increases for 2006/07 and 2007/08 be approved

81. Renaissance in the Regions 2006-8 Delivery Plan –

Director of Adult and Community Services

Type of Decision

Non-key.

Purpose of Report

To advise the Portfolio Holder of the approval by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council of the NE Hub Delivery Plan and reported on the content of the Tees Valley element of the Plan. The report also set out the specific initiatives in the 2006/08 Delivery Plan and sought endorsement to the plan.

Issues considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report contained detailed background information and an outline of Renaissance funding and the 2006/08 Delivery Plan. Specific projects proposed under the Plan were also outlined in the report.

The 2006-8 delivery plan for the Tees Valley would, for the most part, continue on from 2004-6, with the exception of the Curiosity Shop, which had now finished its highly successful Tees Valley tour. It had generated a great deal of interest within the sector and it was hoped that during 2006-8 the Curiosity Shop would be taken by other museums services nationally. Specific projects proposed for 2006-8 were; Tees Valley Collections online, Museums Drama Project, Outreach Team, Changing Museums.

The delivery to date of 'Renaissance in the Regions' by Hartlepool Museums service on behalf of the Tees Valley had been universally regarded as a success. This had been acknowledged not only by the accolades for innovation and engagement but had been recognised by an enhanced funding support for the second phase of funding (2006-8). The Portfolio Holder indicated his delight in the additional funding that had been obtained and congratulated all the officers involved in the service. The Portfolio Holder asked that press releases detailing the success of the service be issued.

Decision

That the 2006-8 Renaissance delivery plan for the Tees Valley be endorsed.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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