

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

28 April 2008

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am in the Avondale Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond) - In the Chair

Councillors: Pamela Hargreaves (Deputy Mayor),

Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder).

Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder),

Robbie Payne (Finance & Efficiency Portfolio Holder),

Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder),

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services
Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Briggs, Assistant Director, Children's Services
John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services
Alistair Rae, Public Relations Manager
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
Geoff Thompson, Head of Regeneration
Graham Frankland, Head of Procurement and Property Services
Nigel Johnson, Principal Housing Regeneration Officer
Sue Johnson, Assistant Director, Children's Services
Peter McIntosh, Building Schools for the Future Manager
Rachel Smith, Strategy Manager,
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also Present:

Shaun Cook, Chair of Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum

274. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods & Communities Portfolio Holder).

275. Declarations of interest by members

None at this point in the meeting.

276. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2008

Confirmed.

277. Final Report – The Availability of Good Quality Affordable Rented Social Accommodation in Hartlepool *(Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To outline the findings and conclusions of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum presented the report which outlined the terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, conclusions and recommendations of the forum's investigation into the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool.

In response to the Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum concerns regarding the proposals for Coronation Drive, the Mayor acknowledged the concerns of residents and provided assurances that no decision had been made in relation to the future of this site. A Member added that whilst the need for affordable housing was recognised, the importance of retaining open space was emphasised.

Decision

That the recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum, as set out below, be approved:-

- (a) That a review of land availability, including brownfield and greenfield sites, be undertaken with the aim of identifying possible additional sites for affordable rented social housing;
- (b) That as part of the review of the local planning policy additional provision be made for the identification of suitable sites for the provision of affordable housing;
- (c) That a criterion based policy supporting in principle the disposal of Council land to Registered Social Landlords at below market value be created, with the requirement that each case be considered, against a set criteria, on its own merits whilst taking into consideration the possible impact on capital receipts;

- (d) That a rigorous analysis be undertaken of the results of the 'Housing Needs Assessment' together with testing and refinement to determine future developments and requirements of the town, including the provision of flats;
- (e) That ways of working more closely in partnership with Registered Social Landlords for the provision of affordable rented social accommodation in the town, and the development of opportunities contained within the Green Paper, be explored;
- (f) That the provision of housing for elderly/disabled residents in Hartlepool needs to be explored in innovative ways, for example by considering possible provision of accommodation on one level on sites where conventionally large building plots required for bungalows are not available;
- (g) That local planning policy be revised, through the Local Development Framework, to require the provision within all new housing developments of good quality affordable housing, including social rented housing and accommodation for elderly/disabled and young/single residents; and
- (h) That the Council's local planning policy be amended/updated to include provision for affordable accommodation and, in particular, social rented accommodation recognising the housing needs assessment recommendations.

278. Scrutiny Investigation into the Availability of Good Quality Affordable Rented Social Accommodation in Hartlepool – Action Plan *(Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To agree an action plan in response to the findings and subsequent recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report provided brief background information and a proposed Action Plan, attached at Appendix A, for the implementation of the recommendations, as outlined in Minute 277 above which had been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder.

Decision

That the Action Plan, attached at Appendix A, be approved in response to the recommendations of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the availability of good quality affordable rented social accommodation in Hartlepool.

279. Interim Report into Hartlepool Borough Council's CCTV Provision Scrutiny Referral *(Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee)*

Type of decision

Not applicable

Purpose of report

To provide the interim report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee into Hartlepool Borough Council's CCTV Provision, as formally referred to Scrutiny by Cabinet on 22 January 2008.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Chair of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum presented the report which included background information and details of the issues that had been identified in relation to the CCTV provision that would need addressing before a CCTV strategy for the town could be finalised. The report set out the aim of the investigation, terms of reference, methods of investigation, findings, the current effectiveness of CCTV provision in the town, the examination of good practice of CCTV provision at a neighbouring local authority together with conclusions and recommendations.

The Mayor agreed with the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's recommendation that this issue be investigated in greater detail and emphasised the importance of input from the police in the evidence gathering process.

During discussions on the advantages and disadvantages of CCTV, it was suggested that the investigation should include the examination of the effectiveness of CCTV and whether the availability of CCTV cameras reduced the fear of crime.

Decision

- (a) That the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum investigates in greater detail the issue of Hartlepool Borough Council's CCTV Provision to be concluded and reported back to Cabinet by the end of September 2008, to enable any budgetary requirements to be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2009/10.
- (b) That the Terms of Reference of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into CCTV provision in Hartlepool cover the following key areas/issues:-
 - (i) Considers the establishment of a fund for the repair, replacement, renewal and appropriate running costs of the CCTV system. Whilst the control of CCTV provision in Hartlepool should remain with the Council, the Forum should investigate with partner organisations (e.g. Cleveland Police,

Cleveland Fire Brigade) for a financial contribution into this fund;

- (ii) Investigates the utilisation of Planning gain to ensure that where appropriate CCTV camera provision is built in, or where this is not viable then funding should be sought to add to the repair, replacement, renewal and running costs fund;
- (iii) Reviews the current camera provision throughout Hartlepool to recommend if cameras should be decommissioned, relocated or new cameras commissioned;
- (iv) Engages with all partners to ensure that CCTV cameras continue to contribute to combating crime and the fear of crime;
- (v) Seek ways of partnership working with utilities and other authorised contractors who dig up the roads in Hartlepool, to ensure that fibre optic cables can be laid at the same time, therefore, improving the network;
- (vi) Investigate if the current transmission service provider, British Telecommunications, are providing a quality service or if other providers in the market place might exceed those standards;
- (vii) Assess the current siting of the Community Monitoring Centre and engage with Housing Hartlepool to discuss future plans for the building, as well as the Service Level Agreement between the Council and Housing Hartlepool for the operation of the CCTV system that is due to expire in March 2009; and
- (viii) On conclusion of the scrutiny investigation into CCTV by the Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Forum, publicity should be generated through a variety of mediums, including the Council's 'Hartbeat' magazine to highlight the role of CCTV cameras in Hartlepool i.e. What the cameras are there for, what the cameras do, who runs them etc.

280. Corporate Plan 2008/9 – 2010/11 – Part 1 *(Assistant Chief Executive)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To enable Cabinet to discuss the Council's Corporate Plan for 2008/9 to 2010/11.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Performance Portfolio Holder advised that as in previous years the plan would be produced in two parts. Part 1 described the context for identifying the priority outcomes for improvement, the medium term financial strategy, performance and risk management arrangements and the detailed actions agreed for each outcome, attached at Appendix A.

Part 2 would continue to contain the detailed supporting information relating to performance statistics, some of which the Council was required to publish by 30 June. This was the final year Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) would be collected and published. The Government had identified a new set of 196 National Indicators (NIs) which councils and partners such as the police and PCTs would be required to collect and provide to central government. Part 2 of the plan would include outturns and targets for NIs where possible. This information was currently being collected as part of the normal performance indicator collection process which would be presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in May/June for consideration. At this stage Cabinet was only being asked to consider Part 1 of the Corporate Plan.

Details of the proposed timetable for consideration of Parts 1 and 2 was included in the report.

Decision

- (a) That Part 1 of the Corporate Plan 2007/08, be approved.
- (b) That parts 1 and 2 be received at a meeting of the Cabinet on 27 May 2008.

281. Housing Market Renewal Programme 2008-11 *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Key – Tests (i) and (ii) apply

Purpose of report

To describe and agree the scope of the housing market renewal programme for central Hartlepool 2008-11. This report was further to a previous report to Cabinet in February 2007 and subsequent report to the relevant Portfolio Holder in May 2007 on the likely shape of the future programme, and was set within the context of recent funding allocations from government, associated risk and financial considerations and proposed arrangements for delivery.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Mayor provided background information, as set out in the report, to the development of the housing market renewal programme. The Regeneration and Liveability and Housing Portfolio Holder, at a meeting in May 2007 agreed to the targeting of the residual 2006-08 resources towards supporting strategic acquisition of properties within the following key areas in partnership with Housing Hartlepool and Hartlepool Revival.

- The Perth/Hurworth/Gray/Turnbull Street area of North Central Hartlepool (within the boundary identified in **Appendix 1**)
- Belle Vue (within the boundary identified in **Appendix 2**),
- The Carr/Hopps/Richardson Street areas (within the boundary identified in **Appendix 3**), and
- The Dyke House estate, to support the investment strategy of Housing Hartlepool. This work will be funded by Housing Hartlepool and will complement the housing market regeneration activity across the central area of the town. (**Appendix 4**)

Funding from the housing market renewal programme came almost exclusively from external sources, primarily the North East Housing Board through the Single Housing Investment Pot (SHIP) and Department of Communities and Local Government via the Housing Market Renewal Fund (HMRF). Additional resources had also previously come from the New Deal for Communities programme. Hartlepool's SHIP Objective 1 allocation for 2008-2011 had been announced by the North East Housing Board as £3.27m. Details of further funding was provided, as set out in the report.

In addition, it was reported that discussions had been held with English Partnerships over recent months around the potential for additional resources being made available to the Council to support housing market renewal specifically within the Perth Street area of north central Hartlepool. English Partnerships had recently confirmed verbally that an allocation of £4.85m had been made available for 2008-2010. This allocation included specific conditions which were still being determined.

The Mayor noted that based on the level of available resources and taking account of the financial modelling and implementation framework it was clear that there were insufficient resources to achieve all of the identified priorities within the 2008-11 timeframe. Consideration had therefore been given to the available options taking into account a number of factors including deliverability, value for money, community aspirations, funding constraints and expectations and resource availability, details of which were outlined in the report. Further details of the overall position on funding based on resource allocations, delivery arrangements, financial and risk considerations, human rights issues were included in the report.

The Mayor also noted the risks associated with the strategy proposed

including the uncertainties of funding beyond 2011 and the credit crunch.

Cabinet were happy with the general approach and supported the option to proceed with the three identified areas of Perth Street, Belle Vue and the Carr/Hopps Street area. A Member, however, expressed disappointment suggesting that in some cases a number of surrounding areas were suffering decline despite the ongoing housing regeneration activity in the town.

Decision

- (a) Cabinet agreed to the use of resources as set out in the report to progress acquisitions by agreement in the Perth Street area and to agree that the remaining resources were prioritised to purchase from the owner occupiers in wider Carr/Hopps St area and Belle Vue.
- (b) To continue to work with Housing Hartlepool to explore ways of progressing the delivery of the Belle Vue site.
- (c) Officers be authorised to undertake preparatory Compulsory Purchase Order work.
- (d) That the management arrangements, be noted and that the refresh of the Memorandum of Understanding with Housing Hartlepool, be agreed.
- (e) That the progression of, selection and other arrangements for establishing a suitable partnership with an interested private sector developer/developers to progress the schemes, be agreed.
- (f) That the advice received from the Chief Solicitor in respect of Human Rights issues, be noted.
- (g) That further reports would be prepared for Cabinet's consideration in due course in respect of the various recommendations outlined above and also in relation to any other relevant activities and processes associated with delivering appropriate redevelopment of these sites, such as associated legal and planning procedures.

282. Financial Support to the Voluntary Sector – Applications to the Community Pool 2008/09 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider the details of two grant applications to the Community Pool for funding in 2008/2009 referred by the Grants Committee of 6 March 2008.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Grants Committee, at its meeting on 6 March considered the applications of 25 organisations. Two Members of the Committee declared an interest in Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre. Therefore the determination of the grant could not be made by the Grants Committee

and was referred to Cabinet for consideration.

The decision in relation to the application from the Hartlepool Credit Union Forum was deferred as the group had been unable to provide the necessary supporting documentation to enable officers to make an informed recommendation at that time. The Grants Committee thought it appropriate that the application be brought to Cabinet for consideration as the outcome of the application could have a bearing on the delivery of the Financial Inclusion Strategy.

Belle Vue Sports and Youth Centre had requested a grant of £23,750 being the level of grant which was approved for 2007/8 and grant aid would be used as a contribution towards the salary costs of two key posts within the organisation: an operations manager and a caretaker. In the report to the Grants Committee Officers recommended that the Grants Committee approved a grant of £23,750 for 2008/2009 which was the sum being considered by Cabinet. Appendix 2 provided details of the application from Belle Vue and proposed outputs/benefits which would be achieved with grant aid from the community pool in 2008/2009.

Hartlepool Credit Union was the development arm of Hartlepool Credit Union Ltd which was a financial co-operative owned and controlled by its members. It operated on the principle of equality, democracy and care for the community and was a member of the Financial Inclusion Partnership, the aim of which was to increase the availability of support to enable individuals to take control of their financial responsibilities. Hartlepool Credit Union Forum had requested a grant of £44,335 for 2008/9 as a contribution towards running costs including the salary costs of three posts: a Business Development Manager, a Development Officer and a Collector as well as rent, rates, insurance and publicity materials. As resources were limited and as Hartlepool Credit Union Forum had not previously been in receipt of a grant from the Community Pool, in accordance with awards made to other groups, Officers recommended that approval of an award of £16,654 as a 50% contribution towards the salary costs of a Business Development Manager and a Development Officer.

Appendix 3 provided details of the application from Hartlepool Credit Union Forum and proposed outputs/benefits which would be achieved with grant aid from the Community pool in 2008/2009.

A Member highlighted the excellent work of the Credit Union and expressed concerns regarding the level of grant funding recommended of £16,654 and queried why the amount recommended was substantially less than what had been requested. In response, the Assistant Director of Community Services provided clarification in relation to the criteria and the reasons for this recommendation. Following a Member's suggestion that the full amount requested be awarded, a lengthy debate ensued regarding the implications of this suggestion. Following further discussion it was agreed that a minimum contribution of £16,654 be awarded and that the application be further considered at the next meeting of the Grants Committee.

Decision

That a grant to Hartlepool Credit Union Forum of £16,654, be approved and in light of the suggestions, as outlined above, the application be further considered at the next meeting of the Grants Committee.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE BELLE VUE SPORTS AND YOUTH CENTRE APPLICATION, THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR PAYNE DECLARED A PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST, AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND LEFT THE MEETING.

COUNCILLOR HARGREAVES, DEPUTY MAYOR TOOK THE CHAIR

283. Inquorate Meeting

As a result of the Mayor and Councillor Payne leaving the meeting it was noted that a quorum was not present at the meeting. The Deputy Mayor indicated that (as permitted under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Constitution) she would exercise her powers of decision and would do so in accordance with the wishes of the Members present, indicated in the usual way. The decision, as set out in the decision record, was confirmed by the Deputy Mayor accordingly.

282. Financial Support to the Voluntary Sector – Applications to the Community Pool 2008/09 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider the details of the grant application to the Community Pool for funding in 2008/2009 referred by the Grants Committee of 6 March 2008.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Assistant Director referred Members to the contents of the report, as set out in Minute 282 above relating to the application from Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre.

Decision

That a grant to Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre of £23,750.00 for 2008/2009 be approved.

284. Quorate Meeting

The Mayor and Councillor Payne rejoined the meeting. It was noted that the meeting was now quorate.

THE MAYOR IN THE CHAIR

285. Schools Transformation – Future Use of Brierton

Community School Site *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request Cabinet to approve the retention of Brierton Community School site for the development of a community campus and associated facilities.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder presented the report which provided background information to the proposal to create a community campus on the site currently occupied by Brierton Community School. It was proposed that the current Catcote Secondary Special School buildings be replaced by new build at the current Brierton Community school site, as part of the development of a community campus. Further work had concentrated on the potential scope of the community campus and potential key features which were included in the report.

It was intended that the replacement of Catcote School, the provision of hydrotherapy facilities and some redevelopment of existing sports facilities would be funded from over £10 million of Building Schools for the Future capital investment. An application had been made in principle for £7.6 million of additional government capital to fund the relocation of Springwell School.

The Schools Transformation Project Board, at its meeting on 2 April agreed to support the development of the community campus and recommended to Cabinet that the site currently occupied by Brierton Community School be selected as the site for the community campus following Brierton's school closure in the summer of 2009.

The Mayor sought assurances that the Brierton upper school site, once vacated, would not remain empty for an unreasonable length of time and highlighted that normal practice would be for the building to be demolished. The Assistant Director advised that a future report would outline the proposals for the school and at present, there were no capital resources available to demolish the building.

Decision

- (i) That Brierton Community School site be retained following closure in order to facilitate the development of a community campus.
- (ii) That the transfer of Catcote Secondary Special School to the Brierton Community School site be approved as part of BSF investment.
- (iii) That further reports be submitted to Cabinet as the potential detail of the community campus was developed by the Schools Transformation Project Board.

286. School Transformation – BSF Strategy for Change: Part 2 *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To request Cabinet to approve in principle the submission of Part Two of the BSF Strategy for Change.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder provided information on the background to the requirement on authorities who had been admitted to the BSF programme to produce a Strategy for Change. The deadline for submission of the Strategy for Change Part Two to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) was 13 May 2008. The draft strategy was attached at Appendix 1. The Schools Transformation Project Board endorsed the draft document for submission to Cabinet for approval in principle. The Project Board would consider a final draft of the document on 7 May prior to formal submission.

The draft Strategy for Change Part Two was completed on 17 April and sent to a number of key partners and stakeholders as detailed in the report. Consultees had been requested to respond by 2 May in order that any responses received could be considered by the Schools Transformation Project Board on 7 May 2008.

The Director of Children's Services thanked Members for their support in this process.

Decision

- (i) That the content of Part 2 of the Strategy for Change be approved in principle, subject to final amendments to be agreed by the Schools Transformation Project Board.
- (ii) That the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and the Chair of the Schools Transformation Project Board be authorised to give final approval to Part 2 of the Strategy for Change and its appendices following the Board meeting scheduled for 7 May 2008.

287. Applications to the Community Asset Transfer Fund – Havelock Centre and Hartlepool People Centre*(Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the applications in respect of the Hartlepool People Centre and the Havelock Centre.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder reported that Cabinet had agreed in December 2007 to support the Government's Community Asset Transfer Fund proposal with two applications for the Hartlepool People Centre and the Havelock Centre. The proposal for the Hartlepool Peoples Centre was approved and the proposal for the Havelock Centre was rejected. With regard to the Havelock Centre, the report identified the possible impact on future service provision.

Decision

- (a) That the outcomes of the applications to the Community Asset Transfer Fund, be noted.
- (b) That commencement of negotiations with Hartlepool People and custodian authorities for the disposal and development of the Peoples Centre, be approved.
- (c) That a further report on the impact of the outcomes be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet.

288. Local Government Access to Information

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph detailed below in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 289 – Para 4 (information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority).

289. Single Status Agreement *(Corporate Management Team)*

Type of decision

Key

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The issues considered by Cabinet are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

The decision is set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

P DEVLIN

ACTING CHIEF SOLICITOR

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