

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

16 May 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Matthew King, Principal Planning Officer
Derek Gouldbum, Urban Policy Manager
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

42. Sea Change *(Urban Policy Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to inform the Portfolio Holder of a new regeneration initiative entitled Sea Change and sought endorsement to investigate options for a potential bid.

Issues for Consideration

The report set out the background to the Sea Change initiative, identified the principal funding criteria, bidding process and timescales relating to the scheme and provided advice on the development of a potential Hartlepool bid under the newly announced grants programme.

Sea Change is an initiative led by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) to implement a programme of cultural investment in seaside resorts, led on behalf of DCMS by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). Officers from the Regeneration Department were currently assessing the criteria for the Sea Change programme and gathering ideas for the content of a bid in consultation with other Council officers. In terms of timing of a bid, given the need to develop proposals, consult with key partners,

identify match funding opportunities and assess delivery options, it was suggested that the bid would be submitted for the second wave of funding in December 2008 rather than the first (June) deadline to enable the bid to be developed to a sufficiently high standard of quality and detail to maximise the potential success of a Hartlepool application as there was likely to be a very competitive bidding process. Advice was being sought from One North East on the type of submission likely to succeed. Any revenue implications would have to be met either by the Council and/or associated partners. Match funding was required towards any Sea Change Grants awarded of 100% for large projects and a minimum 50% for smaller schemes.

When the scheme(s) to be submitted were finalised these would be brought back to the Portfolio Holder for approval. Following discussion, it was considered that it would be more realistic to submit a Hartlepool bid under the smaller grant programme, but officers will continue to explore the potential for a submission under the large grant scheme in consultation with key partners.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the details of the Sea Change initiative and authorised Officers to investigate potential bids by Hartlepool under the new funding programme.

43. Policy for the Provision of Sandbags in the Event of Flooding *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to consider the Council's response to request for sandbags to prevent or contain floor waters in the event of an incident where property was at risk from flooding from streams, watercourses and surface water run off.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the Council's current position with regard to the provision of sandbags to members of the public in the event of a flooding incident, including the absence of a detailed policy to guide response and expenditure on this service. A series of recommendations for consideration and approval were presented designed to improve flood preparedness by:-

- Establishing priorities for the deployment of sandbag resources

- Rationalising the Council's response to public requests for sandbags during a flooding incident
- Ensuring that public expectations of a flood incident response assistance to be provided by the Council remains realistic

Several areas in Hartlepool were Environment Agency Designated Flood Watch Warning Zones and there were also other known flood risk areas. There are currently no arrangements to formally sandbag properties during a flood warning although the council does monitor the situation and would, dependant on specific circumstances, endeavour to provide assistance to affected residents although there is no legal obligation to do so and the landowner/resident is primarily responsible for the protection of their property. The Pitt Report makes recommendations on how Local Authorities should deal with flooding arrangements and the following points would be considered.

Deployment of the Council's supply of sandbags would be determined as follows:

- To prevent loss of life or serious injury
- Maintaining access for the Emergency Services
- Protection of vital community facilities (e.g. elderly care homes)
- Protection of highways and transportation routes
- Protection of Hartlepool Borough Council Property

Decisions to deploy sandbags would be made in two ways:

- The Director of Neighbourhood Services / Head of Technical Services will authorise the deployment of sandbag resources as they risk assess to be appropriate within the priorities specified at 4.1.1 above.
- Duty Highways Supervisor / Highways Teams in their normal course of duties will deploy them as they see a need within the priorities contained at 4.1.1 above, or at the request of the Emergency Services

Traditional sandbags have a limited shelf life and therefore it was proposed that the Council procure a number of the new design flood protection sacks which could be stored more conveniently and deployed more rapidly. It was proposed that the new sandbag policy be combined with a public information strategy to advise members of the public living in flood risk areas of the actions that the Council are able/unable to undertake during the response to a flooding incident.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder

- approved the adoption of the Sandbag Policy as outlined in section 4.1 of the report, in order to guide responding officers in

the emergency management of flooding events where sandbags were to be issued

- endorsed the budget pressure for the procurement of new design flood protection sacks which would be utilised in the event of a flooding emergency
- agreed the recommended base line stock level of new design flood protection sacks and traditional sandbags for storage in the Lynn Street depot to maintain preparedness for a localised flooding event, i.e. 2000 new design flood protection sacks at a total cost of £6440 and 1500 traditional sandbags
- endorsed the proposed Public Information Strategy included at section 4.2 of the report designed to inform residents living in known flood risk areas of flood response/assistance that the council can and cannot provide, as well as the Environment Agency advice and initiatives which residents living in flood risk areas can use in order to take action to prepare for flooding by adopting measures to protect their property

44. Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy *(Head of Regeneration)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report was to obtain Portfolio Holder endorsement of the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Issues for Consideration

The Green Infrastructure Strategy had been produced by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit in partnership with officers from the five Tees Valley Local Authorities and a number of other agencies such as the Tees Forest. This was a strategic document which each of the Tees Valley Local Authorities had been asked to approve. The aim of the Strategy was to produce a strategic approach to developing a network of green corridors and green places within the Tees Valley. The report explained what the Strategy sought to achieve and identified the positive impacts it could have within Hartlepool, including potential funding towards schemes contained within the strategy.

Green infrastructure would create attractive places and environments offering a quality of life to encourage people to stay in the area and attract new investment. Council officers have identified a list of projects and have submitted them to the Joint Strategy Unit (JSU) for inclusion within an Implementation Strategy. Funding from a number of sources is currently being looked into and £500,000 has been secured in principle for this financial year from Single Programme

money from One North East and it is hoped that there may be a further £4,500,000 available over the next 5 years shared by the 5 Councils in the Strategy. If Growth Point Status is achieved by the Tees Valley, then provisions in the Planning Bill via a new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which allows local councils to apply a CIL on new developments in their areas to support infrastructure delivery, would establish a better way to increase investment. The Steering Group must now meet to discuss which projects that can start to be delivered within this financial year and it is likely that Hartlepool will receive funding towards some of its proposed schemes.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy.

45. Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan 2008/09-2010/11 *(Director of Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to agree the Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Issues for Consideration

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Departmental Plan outlined the main activities the department would undertake during 2008/09 – 2010/11 and included a detailed action plan for 2008/09.

The report indicated that the structure of the Departmental Plan was based on a corporate template and designed to be consistent with other plans across the council. It had clear links to the strategic aims and objectives contained in the Council's overall Corporate Plan and also formed the basis for more detailed service planning for each division of the department.

For 2008/09, service planning and the preparation of the Statement of Internal Control had been brought together to reduce duplication of effort and improve governance arrangements. Appendix 1 of this year's Plan contained full details of associated risks that could prevent the department achieving its objectives and described the management controls in place to mitigate identified risks.

Five separate Diversity Impact Needs Requirement Assessments had

also been carried out as part of the service planning process and these were shown within the Department Plan document at Appendix 2. Each of the main service areas had been reviewed and appropriate plans established to ensure the department takes steps to fully meet its equality and diversity obligations. The departmental actions and performance indicators were to be regularly monitored by senior managers throughout the year. In addition, a quarterly report would be submitted to the Portfolio Holder to provide an update on progress and to highlight any key areas of achievement or concern.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder considered and approved the contents of the Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan document for 2008/09-2010/11.

P DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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