

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

19th May 2008

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

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (in the absence of the Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
 Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
 Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
 Catherine Frank, Principal Community Strategy Officer
 Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

87. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 – 4th Quarter 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 fourth quarter of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A detailed report was provided on the progress against the actions contained in the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 and the fourth quarter outturns of key performance indicators. Of a total of 48 actions for which the Portfolio Holder was responsible 8 were not expected to reach their target while 18 performance indicators were not expected to be achieved. Reasons for this were detailed within the report with particular attention drawn to statistics in relation to recycling and road accident casualties.

Decision

That the progress made against key actions and indicators be noted.

88. Parklands Way – Traffic Regulation Order *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To report a petition requesting that the school time restrictions for West Park Primary School be extended further along Parklands Way.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report contained details of a petition requesting that the existing parking restrictions in Parklands Way be extended to cover the bend in the road outside no. 24. The existing parking restrictions in Parklands Way and Conisdiffe Road had recently been extended to prevent parking directly outside West Park Primary School and therefore improve safety and visibility for children and motorists.

Following investigation officers had determined that the bend in the road did not cause any visibility problems. The Council's Traffic Liason Group had felt that extending the restrictions would serve no real purpose and extending the lines would only displace parked vehicles outside other residents' houses. Parents would be required to park further away from the school, necessitating a longer walk for pupils. Officers had therefore recommended that the parking restrictions should not be extended.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that he was minded to approve the officer recommendations not to increase the existing parking restrictions. However he did feel that some action needed to be taken against illegally parked motorists. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that enforcement was carried out in the area on a regular basis but there were concerns that to increase the parking restrictions would only displace the problem and lead to more complaints from residents. He suggested that officers could take to residents and ask if they had any other suggestions as to how the problem could be improved. Walking to school also needed to be encouraged.

Decision

- i. That the extent of the Traffic Regulation Order in Parklands Way remain unchanged
- ii. That officers engage in discussion with residents for alternative

solutions.

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

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To agree the housing section of the Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan for 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

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

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 once again been carried out together to reduce the duplication of effort and to improve governance arrangements. The detailed plans contained full details of associated risks that could prevent the department achieving its objectives and described the management controls in place to mitigate those risks identified.

In addition, 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. Each service area group had been reviewed and appropriate plans established to ensure the department took steps to fully meet its equality and diversity obligations.

The departmental actions and performance indicators would 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

That the housing section of the Regeneration and Planning Departmental Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11 be approved.

90. Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) – The Way Forward *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the implementation of the NAP Review Action Plan and present a range of proposals for the future development of NAPs to the Portfolio Holder for agreement.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for Hartlepool was agreed in 2002 and NAPs developed for the seven identified priority neighbourhoods. The process was reviewed in October 2006 and 34 recommendations made to be taken forward by March 2008. The majority of these had now been implemented but since that review a number of developments had created the need to reassess the role, remit and function of NAPs.

The Portfolio Holder considered a NAP discussion paper in December 2007. Partners, including Ward Councillors, were then asked to give their comments on the discussion paper to the Community Strategy Team. These comments showed clear support for the majority of proposals in the discussion paper. Details were given within the report of the proposed changes which the Portfolio Holder was asked to approve. A six-month action plan had now been developed and Partners asked to consider the role that their organisations would be asked to play in the development of NAPs in the future, particularly their involvement in the development of theme assessments for NAPs.

Decision

- i. That the progress made on the NAP Review Action Plan be noted
- ii. That the proposed changes to NAPs in Hartlepool be agreed
- iii. That the NAP Way Forward Action Plan be approved

91. School Crossing Patrol Service Consultation Update *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the results of the consultation exercise conducted with regard to the employment of School Crossing Patrol wardens at light controlled/zebra crossing locations.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In December 2007 the new Local Authorities Road Safety Officers' Association (LARSOA) School Crossing Patrol Management Guidelines were issued. Part of their recommendation was that consideration be given to the removal of staff from light controlled crossing points or zebra crossings provided there were no other road safety issues. The Portfolio Holder had asked that consultation take place with all those directly affected by the potential implementation of these guidelines and consequently consultation had taken place with School crossing patrol staff, Trade Unions, Ward Councillors and Schools. There had been an overall majority in favour of retaining the school crossing patrol staff with telephone calls, letters and a petition in favour of their retention all being received outside of the formal consultation process.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that he was surprised that LARSOA had put such a possibility forward and asked that officers look at wider coverage within the town.

Decision

That the current employment of School Crossing Patrol Wardens at light controlled/zebra crossing locations remain unchanged.

92. Progress on Kerbside Recycling *(Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of actions taken to address concerns recently expressed by Elected Members at Council.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A report had been presented to the last Portfolio meeting advising on the

actions to be undertaken following member concerns regarding the performance of the kerbside recycling contractor. The report had identified various issues recognised as areas for improvement.

The Head of Neighbourhood Management advised that two meetings had recently been held with the contractor, Abitibi Bowater, to discuss the specific issues brought forward. Immediate disciplinary action had been taken against one employee following an incident of abusive language, details were given of further actions which had been taken. The choice of containers had also been a matter of debate and the possible alternatives to the current system in use were outlined within the report. A further meeting with the contractors was scheduled for June 11th.

The Mayor advised that he had spoken to the Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder, for whom he was substituting at this meeting. The Portfolio Holder had requested that this matter be discussed when he was able to be present and comment on the matter himself. The Mayor also commented that he felt there was room for improvement regarding the receptacles used.

Decision

That the report be noted and the matter forwarded for discussion with the Portfolio Holder at his next Portfolio meeting.

P DEVLIN

ACTING CHIEF SOLICITOR

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