

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

27 June 2008

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

Present:

Officers: Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Catherine Frank, Principal Community Strategy Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

1. Deferral of meeting

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder the meeting was adjourned to be reconvened at 10.00am.

27th June 2008

The meeting was reconvened at 10.00am at the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Upon reconvening the following Members were present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Catherine Frank, Principal Community Strategy Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

2. The Building (Local Authority Changes) Regulations 1998 *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder in respect of Building Control charge levels and to seek agreement for the proposed new charges with effect from 1st July 2008.

Issues for Consideration

The Local Government Association has produced a model scheme of charges and in the past had produced annual advice of guidance levels for charges. As individual authorities have changing circumstances and needs it had become increasingly difficult to maintain national uniformity therefore no guidance had been produced this year. The charges Regulations require authorities to set charges at such a level to cover their relevant costs. As this authority's current charge levels are in accordance with the last guidance issued, together with the fact that the authority has achieved compliance in respect of the requirement for recovery of costs, it was proposed that the Council would not increase its charges to Table A (new dwellings), but would increase charges to Table B (Extension to dwelling) by an average of 4% and increase only the first three bands in Table C (other work – mainly commercial) by an average of 4.2%.

In addition charges were also made to cover the costs of search and reproduction of copies of certificates in relation to building regulation applications. All certificates for decision notification and completion of building works are given free as part of the building control service however additional copies are available at a charge. These certificates were usually requested years after the building work had been completed and in most cases for house sales. The current charge of £6 per certificate is insufficient to cover the costs involved in the search and reproduction and it was therefore proposed to raise this to £30

Full details of the proposals were attached as an appendix to the report.

Decision

- i. That the proposed levels of charges incorporating the 4% and 4.2% average increases be formally adopted.
- ii. That the proposed increase to £30 to cover the costs of providing copies of certificates be formally adopted.

2. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 – Quarter 4 Monitoring Report *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

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 final quarter of the year.

Issues for Consideration

The report detailed the progress against the actions contained in the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 and the progress for key performance indicators for the period up to 31 March 2008. Key departmental achievements during 2007/8 were also highlighted.

Decision

That the progress against actions and indicators be noted and endorsed.

3. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund(NRF) and Neighbourhood Element Programme Outturns 2007/8 *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the 2007/8 financial outturn of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and Neighbourhood Element Programmes.

Issues for Consideration

In 2007 Cabinet agreed the final 2007/8 NRF programme within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) finances. In October 2007 the Comprehensive Spending Review announced that NRF would not continue beyond March 2008. In January 2008 the Portfolio Holder agreed for delegated authority to be given to theme partnerships to agree modifications within their NRF Programmes in order for them to be able to respond quickly and utilise the funding effectively. In addition the Head of Community Strategy was given delegated authority to approve new activities in the 2007/8 financial year up to the value of £20,000.

In total £4,500,696 of NRF was available to spend in 2007/8, including

£125,477 carried forward from the previous year. In total £4,477,442 was spent leaving £23,253 to be carried forward into 2008/9. This would be used to contribute to those NRF schemes continuing through the Area Based Grant.

In addition £613,681 of the Neighbourhood Element was available in 2007/8, including £32,681 carried forward from 2006/7. In total £560,302 was spent leaving £53,379 to be carried forward into 2008/9. As there had been limited underspend on projects funded by the other funding streams pooled in the LAA grant the overall carry forward would be within the 5% set by Central Government.

Decision

That the 2007/8 outturn position of the NRF and Neighbourhood Element programmes be agreed.

P DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 2nd July 2008