

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

29 August 2008

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

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers:

Denis Hampson, Head of Emergency Planning
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning & Conservation Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

6. Invitation to Speak at a Conference in Germany (*Head of Emergency Planning*)

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

The report was presented to inform the Portfolio Holder that the Head of Emergency Planning had been invited to attend the 4th European Congress on Disaster Management in Bonn, Germany as a speaker.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

This prestigious conference organised by the German Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, attracting approximately 1100 delegates from across Europe was to be held on 8 and 9 October 2008 and the Head of Emergency Planning had been asked to give a presentation and be part of a panel to consider the capabilities of training and exercising particularly in respect of the chemical industry. The Head of Emergency Planning has spoken on this topic at 6 previous conferences across the UK. The invitation was also due to be reported at the Emergency Planning Joint Committee.

Travel and hotel accommodation costs were to be met by the organisers of

the conference with any ancillary costs being met from the training budget of the Emergency Planning Unit.

The Portfolio Holder expressed concern that the invitation would not significantly increase the officer's workload but the Head of Emergency Planning said that this would be monitored so that this did not happen. The Portfolio Holder suggested that this should be publicized via a press release.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the attendance of the Head of Emergency Planning at this conference.

7. Proposed Extension to Headland Conservation Area *(Landscape Planning & Conservation Manager)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report was presented to consider extending the boundary of the Headland Conservation Area to include the Heugh Breakwater.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

An appraisal of the Headland Conservation Area was carried out in 2007 by consultants Scott Wilson in consultation with local groups, Ward Members and officers and the subsequent report concluded by providing a number of suggestions to consider in the future, one being the extension of the boundary of the conservation area to include the Heugh Breakwater.

The report resulted in an extensive document which summarised the character of the conservation area and provided a number of suggestions to be considered further which was reported to the Portfolio Holder on 20 November 2007. At that meeting the Portfolio Holder agreed to further consultation regarding the boundary extension.

Issues for consideration when reviewing the extension of the boundary were the historic development of the area as well as the impact the breakwater had on the architectural character of the area. The breakwater was built in 1870 as the beginning of a larger plan for a harbour of refuge which was never finished. Although conservation area status would not convey any statutory power to enforce a particular level of repair and maintenance of the structure, the appraisal report indicated that the Breakwater's inclusion would reinforce the importance of the structure to the character of the area.

Three rounds of public consultation were carried out and there was support

for the proposed inclusion. The Planning Committee were consulted regarding the proposed extension of the boundary at the meeting held on 6 August 2008 and no objections were raised.

PD Ports as the local Port Authority have jurisdiction over the Breakwater and they had been consulted directly. Their response was attached to the report as Appendix 2. Although they acknowledged the historical significance of the breakwater it is noted that the structure was not relevant to the safe operation of the modern commercial port and cautioned that any increase in costs for breakwater maintenance would be passed onto port users and asked that if the designation took place, then the Borough Council take responsibility for any and all additional duties and costs that may arise from the proposed inclusion. PD Ports suggested that the future responsibility for the breakwater should be passed to the council and asked whether this option could be considered. There had been discussions in the past with the Neighbourhood Services Department regarding this possibility but the Council had chosen not to proceed with this proposal any further due to the need for ongoing maintenance of the structure and a lack of available funding sources to support this..

Any inclusion of the breakwater within the Conservation Area would not impose any additional direct statutory responsibility on the owners but would acknowledge its historic and architectural interest and local views as expressed in the appraisal. Any extension of the Conservation Area would necessitate publicity of the decision in the London Gazette as well as local press.

The Portfolio Holder stated that he was in favour of the inclusion of the breakwater as this reflected the views of the local people who treasured the structure.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the consultation responses provided in the report and approved the extension of the boundary of the Headland Conservation Area to include the Heugh Breakwater.

8. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2008/2009 – Quarter 1 Monitoring Report *(Head of Support Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder on the

progress made against the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2008/2009 in the first quarter of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Departmental Plan set out the key tasks and issues along with an action plan to show what was to be achieved by the department in the coming year. Within this plan there were a total of 167 actions and 44 performance indicators assigned to the department.

Of the actions with Quarter 1 target dates, the preparation of Local Area Agreement delivery and improvement plan for 2008/2009 had not been completed by the due date. However, the draft was agreed by Hartlepool Partnership in July with the final version determined by Cabinet in August.

In addition three further actions shown in Table 2 of the report were also not completed within the originally anticipated timescales. Whilst the actions were integral to the corporate plan outcome of 'reducing harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol' they were however, largely the responsibility of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and beyond the direct control of Council officers. Officers had liaised with the PCT and revised target dates had been established.

At this early stage of the year, there were no performance indicator issues to be brought to the attention of the Portfolio Holder.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress against key actions in the first quarter of the year.

The meeting concluded at 10.10 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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