

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

1 September 2008

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

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond) - In the Chair

Councillors: Pam Hargreaves (Deputy Mayor)
Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)
Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)
Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder),

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive
Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Paul Briggs, Assistant Director, Resources and Support
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Derek Gouldburn, Urban Policy Manager
Amy Waters, Principal Housing and Regeneration Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Councillor Geoff Lilley

94. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Peter Jackson and Robbie Payne.

95. Declarations of interest by members

None.

96. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2008

Confirmed.

97. Affordable Housing Development Plan Document Preferred Options Paper – For Consultation *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To seek approval of, for consultation purposes, the Preferred Options Paper, comprising the second public stage in the preparation of the Hartlepool Affordable Housing Development Plan Document (DPD).

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services reported that the strategic aim of the Affordable Housing DPD was to address the recently identified shortfall of affordable housing provision in the Borough. Its purpose was to provide clarity and detail about the amount and type of affordable housing provision that would be required on new housing developments in Hartlepool. The recent Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny investigation into the provision of good quality affordable social rented accommodation in Hartlepool provided a series of recommendations that had been taken into account in the formulation of key policy options within this document.

The publication of a preferred options paper represented the second stage in the preparation of this Affordable Housing Development Plan Document relating to the consideration of preferred options following responses from the Issues and Options consultation which ended on 30 June 2008. A preferred options paper had been prepared to form the basis of this consultation and was attached at Appendix 1.

The discussion paper sets out for comment preferred policy options for each of the main issues highlighted in the previous paper in terms of the delivery of affordable housing and justification for the preferred options in terms of consultation responses, sustainability appraisal findings and evidence base.

The consultation would be wide ranging in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement and would last for six weeks until 13 October 2008. In light of response to the consultation and of the sustainability appraisal of the options put forward, a preferred policy would be developed in the form of a publication document for further consultation in January 2009.

In response to a Member's request for clarification that the comments from earlier discussions of Cabinet had been considered, the Director of Regeneration and Planning Services stated that an element of flexibility had been introduced into the emerging policy and each site would be considered on its own merits and in accordance with local needs and the

comments from earlier discussions had been taken into account.

Members emphasised the importance of shared ownership options, some flexibility in the policy and the need for consultation with Elected Members on the various options. Members indicated that they looked forward to the outcome of the process. The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services made reference to the recommendation in 16.9 of the options paper that there should be 80% social rented housing and 20% intermediate tenure on each site which included shared ownership schemes.

A Member referred to the recent national decline in the building trade and queried whether this would delay progress in providing affordable housing. Members were advised that Government announcements were expected this week in relation to the “credit crunch” implications and this issue was being further explored at a Tees Valley level to try and maintain activity in the building industry.

Decision

- (i) That the Preferred Options Paper for Affordable Housing DPD for consultation purposes, be approved subject to minor editing and updating.
- (ii) That delegated powers to the Director of Regeneration and Planning Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be agreed to approve the associated Sustainability Appraisal report for consultation within the same period.

98. National Review of 16-19 Funding and Machinery of Government Changes *(Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To inform Members of national changes being proposed to funding for 16-19 year olds from 2010 and to indicate the preparatory work which was being undertaken in relation to the proposed new arrangements.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder presented the report which contained background information on the Government's intention to transfer funding for 16-19 participation in education and training to local authorities, giving local authorities clear responsibility for commissioning across the whole 14-19 sector and for delivering the Government's intention that by 2015 all young people would stay in education or training to at least 18 years of age.

The Government had asked each authority to analyse and report on a number of issues which included learning patterns, local supply and demand, cross-border collaborations and existing local authority planning as outlined in the report. In addition, the government had asked each local authority to:-

- Enter into discussions about their make up of sub-regional groupings and to give an indication to GONE of their preferred groupings by 26 September 2008.
- Work in a sub-regional and/or regional grouping rather than working individually.
- Consider learners who required highly specialist placements because of learning disabilities.
- Ensure a clear alignment between the regeneration agenda and skills agenda.

The Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services had been undertaking discussions with other Tees Valley authorities which would provide a significant link to the wider agenda of the Tees Valley and also, more broadly in the region and with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to identify possible groupings and consider possible inter-authority commissioning models.

A regional planning forum had been established which included the LSC, regional directors of Children's Services and Regional Development Agency to begin the process of identifying LSC planning, commissioning and funding arrangements. This would support local authorities in their planning for new arrangements.

In response to queries regarding how employers would be involved in the process and whether transport issues had been considered, the Assistant Director indicated that apprenticeships would be a major focus and transport issues would be further explored. The Chief Executive added that a large proportion of funding would be allocated to employers and the needs of employers across the Tees Valley would be examined. Following a Member's comments on the need to ensure the appropriate skills were available to meet the needs of employers, the Chief Executive highlighted the advantages of dealing with training arrangements sub-regionally.

Decision

- (i) That preliminary discussions with other local authorities in the region, be noted with a view to considering the potential arrangements for managing the future commissioning and funding regime for post 16 provision.
- (ii) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet setting out recommendations in relation to the proposed new commissioning structures for submission to Government Office North East in September 2008.

The meeting concluded at 9.35 am.

P DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 5 SEPTEMBER 2008