

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

19 December 2008

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

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

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

22. Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) Consultation – Head of Community Strategy

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the Communities and Local Government (CLG) consultation document, the Working Neighbourhoods Fund 2009-2011: Revising the Third Criterion. Consultation (November 2008).

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In December 2007 the Government launched the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), replacing the Neighbourhoods Renewal Fund and incorporating the Deprived Area Fund. In determining the eligibility of Local authorities three criterion were used, the third being that the authority in question was ranked among the top 40 areas with highest combined benefit/non-employment rate. Hartlepool qualified under the first criterion namely that 20% or more of their Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in their Local Authority area lie within most deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007.

However in November 2007 CLG had announced that they believed the third criterion was flawed and it was inappropriate to distribute WNF on that basis. A consultation had been launched on their proposal to revise the third criterion and should this be agreed it would

apply to the allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11. The revision would increase the Hartlepool allocation by £20,738 in 2009/10 and £56,255 in 2010/11. The deadline for responses to the consultation was 9th January 2009. The Community Strategy Team would prepare a response on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council indicating assent to the revision of the third criterion using consistent data from 2007 and advising that they would wish the cut-off point for eligibility to remain at 40. The Portfolio Holder was happy to support these proposals.

Decision

That the consultation to revise the eligibility criteria from the WNF be noted and the proposed response by the Community Strategy Team on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council be approved.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 am

P DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 22nd December 2008