

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

19th January 2009

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

Present:

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

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
 Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
 Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

41. Local Government Act 2000

The Mayor indicated that in the absence of Councillor Jackson, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities, he would exercise his powers of decision as permitted under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Constitution.

42. Local Safety Schemes (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder with further details of the safety schemes planned for the A689 and Catcote Road

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Safety schemes are prioritised primarily on the basis of the number of accidents and the level of speeding recorded during surveys, with the A689 and Catcote Road the top two locations based on 2007 data. Approval had been given to the schemes in principle in June 2008. Details were given within the report of the proposed measures. On the A689 this would include new illuminated signage, end of carriageway markings and new hazard marker posts. On Catcote Road parking lay-bys would be provided on the

Eastside. There would also be an upgraded pelican crossing, a new school crossing patrol site and anti-skid surfacing would be refreshed. A map of Catcote Road, showing the proposed improvements, was provided for the Portfolio Holder's attention. Both schemes would be funded through the Local Transport Plan.

The Portfolio Holder indicated his full support for the proposed safety schemes. However he queried the lack of a crossing at the North end. Officers advised that there was already an island refuge in place there and it would be dangerous to have two crossings so close together. However a crossing guard could be provided at that area if it was deemed necessary.

Decision

That the schemes developed for the A689 and Catcote Road be approved for implementation.

42. Resident's Only Parking Controls – Sandringham Road *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To consider a petition received from residents of Sandringham Road seeking the removal of the residents permit parking controlled scheme at this location and to assess the results of a subsequent consultation carried out with residents.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Sandringham Road was currently on the fringe of the current permit controlled zone and residents would therefore be subject to an increased permit charge from £1 to £5 as agreed by Cabinet when the current permits expire in January 2009. The Head of Technical Services had received a signed petition from 74 residents requesting the removal of the scheme as they felt parking controls were no longer required. Recent visual surveys had indicated that spaces were available during enforcement hours. This could be seen to support residents' views but could equally be a demonstration that the scheme was working successfully. The residents had acknowledged through the petition that by opting out of the controlled parking scheme the Council would be unable to take parking enforcement action, particularly in relation to match day parking.

In December 2008 the Portfolio Holder had requested that officers re-consult with all residents over the proposal, highlighting the full implications of a withdrawal from the scheme to them. Responses were received from 56

residents, 63% of which supported the removal of the current parking controls. However there was a clear division within Sandringham Road with 88% of residents living between Murray Street and Christopher Street wishing to see the restrictions remain. It was proposed therefore that the parking restrictions in Sandringham Road be retained for properties 2a – 38 inclusive and that the remaining properties be withdrawn from the scheme. This would take effect from 1st February 2009, to coincide with the permit renewal date.

Decision

That the residents only parking restrictions in Sandringham Road between Murray Street and Christopher Street (properties 2a – 38 inclusive) be retained and that the remaining properties be withdrawn from the scheme with effect from 1st February 2009.

43. Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy Study and Town Wall Model Study – Award of Contracts *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the actions taken by the Head of Technical Services in awarding the contracts for the Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy Study and Town Wall Model Study.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In September 2007 the Portfolio Holder approved plans to advertise, compile a restricted list of tenderers and go to tender for consultancy services for coast protection in order to progress the Seaton Carew Strategy Study and Town Wall Model Study. A restricted list of tenderers for both studies was developed and in December 2007 the Portfolio Holder approved the evaluation of tenders on an 80% quality, 20% price basis.

The tender for the Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy Study was sent out to five consultants in February 2008. Only two tenders were returned, both of which were considerably higher than expected. One of the tenders was found to be non-conforming therefore the remaining tenderer was interviewed and marked in accordance with the quality matrix. The results were deemed to be very good and therefore they were selected as the preferred tenderer.

In addition, and after discussion with the Environment Agency's local Area Flood Risk Manager, it was decided that as the cost increase was substantially above the grant figure originally approved a new application for

grant should be made to the Environment Agency for consideration.

The tender for the Town Wall Model Study was sent to four consultants in July 2008. Two tenders were returned, once again both higher than expected. Both tenderers were interviewed and using the agreed quality / price scoring mechanism a preferred tenderer was selected. Once again it was decided following discussion with the Environment Agency's local Area Flood Risk Manager that a variation of the original grant approval should be submitted. After detailed consideration both studies were fully approved by the Environment Agency for 100% grant. This would cover all consultant's fees and Hartlepool Borough Council staff costs to a total of £715,780 for the Seaton Carew Strategy Study and £481,940 for the Town Wall Model Study. Both studies were awarded to Scott Wilson Consultants.

Details were given of the current progress in respect of both studies. It was anticipated that a report on the condition and performance of the existing structures would be available in mid 2009, via public presentation. Following this thorough technical and environmental assessments would be carried out, potential options appraised and a preferred option selected. These would be presented publically in 2010. Following this final project appraisal reports would be presented to the Environment Agency for approval. The Seaton Carew Coastal Strategy Study would also need to be formally adopted by Cabinet.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether it would be more financially viable to appoint a specialist on a year-long contract. Officers advised that Scott Wilson would tender their processes out and it would be more costly to break-up the processes. Also the Environment Agency might not approve this practice as they had a list of approved contractors and could be quite stringent when awarding grants.

Decision

That the actions taken by the Head of Technical Services in exercising delegated powers and awarding these contracts be noted.

The meeting finished at 9.15 am.

P DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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