

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

27th April 2009

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

Present:

Councillor Peter Jackson (Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning Services
Denise Ogden, Head of Neighbourhood Management
Alastair Smith, Head of Technical Services
Paul Mitchinson, Highway Services Manager
Catherine Frank, Principal Community Strategy Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

62. Highway Planned Maintenance Works (Five-Year Programme) *(Head of Neighbourhood Management)*

Type of decision

Key – tests ii applies

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the five-year planned highway maintenance programme for the period April 2009 to March 2014

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The background was provided as to the testing methods utilised to identify the condition of a highway. A number of highways in Hartlepool had been identified for inclusion in the five-year programme based on these test results, highway inspections, risk management information and customer feedback. Specific details were appended to the report.

The Portfolio Holder referred to a notice of general exception which had been issued in respect of this report. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that this item had been included in previous copies of the forward plan but had been removed from the April Plan erroneously. The Chair of Scrutiny

had expressed no concerns. The Portfolio Holder also queried the reason an alternate version of the report had been issued as he could identify no changes. The Director of Neighbourhood Services indicated that the original report had been a working copy and 2 streets were different. In particular Queensberry Avenue had been amended from a year 5 plan in the original report to year 3 in the amended version.

The Portfolio Holder asked if the planned phase 2 works in Wooler Road would be proceeding as planned. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that they would. Any roads which deteriorated faster than expected would move up the priority list accordingly.

Decision

That the amended five-year programme for planned maintenance be approved for implementation from April 2009

63 Community Lynx Bus Fare Increase *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to increase the fare applied to the Community Lynx Bus to bring it in line with the Dial a Ride Service fares.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Community Lynx Bus Service, established in December 2006, provides access to health facilities across the Tees Valley area to people living in the rural communities of Stockton, Hartlepool and Durham. Initially set up in partnership with Stockton Borough Council funding was provided by the Government's Rural Bus Challenge scheme to provide the service for two years and procure vehicle routing and scheduling software. Fares have remained static since the commencement of the service.

Since the funding expired in March 2008 the service has continued to operate alongside Dial a Ride. It was proposed therefore that fares for the Community Lynx Bus be increased from £1.50 to £2.50 for all Hartlepool journeys. Journeys outside Hartlepool to increase from £2 to £3. The increases to take effect from 1st May 2009.

The Portfolio Holder expressed his support for the proposed increases, however he requested that they be scheduled to take effect from 15th May 2009 and that all current users be advised of the price rises prior to implementation.

Decision

That the increase in the Community Lynx Bus Fare be approved from 15th May 2009.

64. Resident's Only Parking Controls – Alston Street *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To consider a petition and results of a consultation with residents to withdraw Alston Street from any residential permit controlled parking restrictions.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder had previously considered this matter on 31st March 2009. On that occasion a report had detailed the background of the case and identified the results of a consultation carried out with residents. However as the number of returned responses from residents was low in comparison to those who signed the petition and the results were inconclusive the Portfolio Holder had deferred a decision in order that those residents who had failed to respond could be re-consulted. The Head of Technical Services advised that the first consultation had shown 18 completed responses, 9 for and 9 against. The second consultation had garnered 10 responses with 9 in favour of removing the parking restrictions and only 1 favouring retention. This left an overall rating of 18 for removal and 10 against.

Mr Harrison, a resident of Alston Street, attended the meeting and expressed his support for the proposed removal of the existing parking restrictions, saying they did not work and had never worked. The Portfolio Holder indicated he was minded to do as the majority of residents wished and remove the parking controls.

Decision

That the parking controls be removed.

65 English Martyrs School – School Crossing Patrol Request *(Head of Technical Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek the Portfolio Holder's views as to the establishment of a School Crossing Patrol at English Martyrs School in conjunction with the recent local safety scheme.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

A safety scheme on Catcote Road was previously approved by the Portfolio Holder to address issues relating to speed, parking and pedestrians outside English Martyrs School. As part of the scheme a designated safer crossing location was incorporated for use by a School Crossing Patrol warden subject to finances and approval by the Portfolio Holder. A Warden would benefit the pupils crossing Catcote Road and improve pedestrian safety however the existing School Crossing Patrol budget annually overspends by approximately £28,000. The £4,500 per annum cost of a School Crossing Patrol Warden would only add to this budget deficit.

Decision

That a School Crossing Patrol Warden be established outside English Martyrs School.

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

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To report the list of potential safety schemes following a review of updated road casualty data.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the updated list of potential safety schemes based on road casualty data for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. The Portfolio Holder queried the top placing of Raby Road (Hart Lane – Chatham Road). The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that a recent spate of accidents had increased it from its previous fifth placing on the priority list.

Decision

- I. That the updated safety scheme be approved

- II. That the development of a scheme for Raby Road be approved, the detailed scheme proposals to be reported to a future portfolio meeting.

67. North Pier Repair Works – Variation of Contract Value (*Head of Technical Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval to increase the scope of work of the existing contract for repair work to the North Pier in order to carry out additional essential works identified.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In February 2008 Cabinet approved the allocation of £100,000 to coast protection works to the North Pier in 2008/09 and 2009/10. Tenders were returned in January 2009 for the first phase of works. The contract was subsequently awarded to Seymour CEC Ltd at the tendered value of £87,206.81. Work commenced on Monday 16th February 2009 for eight weeks.

During the course of these works further works carried out by Middlesbrough Council's Laboratory Services had identified large cavities behind the outer wall. In order to maintain the integrity of the structure it was essential that these cavities be filled as soon as possible and the most efficient way to do this would be to include this work within the scope of the current contract. The Strategic Capital Resource and Asset Programme Team, which had originally proposed the funding, had allocated £100,000 for repair work to the North Pier in 2008/09 and 2009/10 and it was proposed that the 2009/10 allocation be used to carry out this additional work.

Decision

That approval be given to extend the scope of the work of the current contract up to the value of the budget available, in order to undertake the additional repair work identified.

68. Migration Impacts Fund (*Head of Community Strategy*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval for outline proposals for Hartlepool's submission to the Government Office for the North East Migration Impacts Fund.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In March 2009 a two year Government funding scheme was launched to help local public services respond quickly and flexibly to ease short term pressures caused by inward, international migration. The North East would receive nearly £1.39 million to distribute among local service providers with all providers, such as Police, Primary Care Trusts, Local Authorities and voluntary sector organisations eligible to apply.

Detailed information was given within the report of Hartlepool Borough Council's application for funding. Preparation of the bid had been coordinated by the Hartlepool Partnership Support Team and covered the appointment of an Advice and Development Worker, a dedicated Health Trainer and further midwifery support. The total bid over the two years would be £215,000. Officers also highlighted the intent of Hartlepool College of Further Education and Safer Hartlepool to submit a joint bid for funding for a Virtual Signpost Project. The results of the bid would be available from 15th June 2009, the Portfolio Holder asked that he be informed of the result and any comments on the bid itself.

Decision

That the broad outline of Hartlepool's application for funding to the Government's Migration Impacts Fund be approved.

69. Rift House / Burn Valley Neighbourhood *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek Portfolio Holder approval for the amendment of the Rift House/Burn Valley and NDC neighbourhood boundaries and to rename the Rift House/Burn Valley Forum as the Rift House Forum.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for Hartlepool, as agreed in 2002, set

out 7 priority neighbourhoods. Since then Neighbourhood Action Plans had been developed for each of these in order to deliver the renewal strategy at a local level and inform and improve local service delivery. The Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhood covered 2 distinct communities with the central area. The 2 communities have different issues and priorities and previous budgets had been split to enable each area to address their own priorities. Burn Valley Ward Councillors had approached the Central Neighbourhood Manager on behalf of residents to request that the Rift House/Burn Valley neighbourhood boundaries be amended so Burn Valley was incorporated within the NDC neighbourhood. A map was appended to the report showing the proposed changes.

It was highlighted that this amendment would not alter the Neighbourhood Renewal Area boundary as a whole, merely alter the layout of 2 neighbourhoods within it. Should these amendments be approved it was proposed that the £31,100 funding from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Residents' Priorities Budget for 2009/10 be split proportionally between the areas according to the population within the 10% most deprived nationally. The proposals were supported by all relevant ward councillors.

Decision

- I. That the amendment of the Rift House/Burn Valley and NDC neighbourhood boundaries as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.
- II. That the Rift House/Burn Valley Forum be renamed as the Rift House Forum

P DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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