

CABINET

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

29 June 2009

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

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond) - In the Chair

Councillors: Pam Hargreaves (Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder)
Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)
Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)
Robbie Payne (Finance and Performance Portfolio Holder)
Peter Jackson (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder)
Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive
Joanne Machers, Chief Personnel Officer
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer
Dave Stubbs, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult and Community Services
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager

Also Present:

Edwin Jeffries, UNISON

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2009

Received.

4. North Hartlepool SRB Projects (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To seek Cabinet's views on the future maintenance of SRB sponsored projects.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods presented a report which highlighted that SRB Projects throughout the town, but particularly those in the north, were almost entirely funded through SRB monies. However, in very few, if any of these projects was there any revenue funding put in place to ensure their future maintenance. There were at present, two schemes which were causing major difficulties and one Councillor had insisted that some work was carried out.

The Celtic Cross located outside St Hilda's Church had been vandalised and virtually destroyed. The cost for the replacement of the cross was £1600 in York stone the same as the original, with an additional £400 for the relocation with a concrete base. The other area of particular concern was the Durham Street Cobble Stones. To date a supplier with a stock of replacement tiles had not been found and in the meantime replacement tiles have been formed to mimic the pattern in the surrounding area as a temporary solution. It was estimated that the replacement of the cobble stones would have major financial implications.

Members noted the amount of regeneration recently undertaken on the Headland and were disappointed that this vandalism had occurred. However, the need for maintenance of the cobble stones should be considered as part of the greater highway maintenance issues including the York Road area of the town.

A Member questioned why this matter had been reported to Cabinet as it was thought that it was a Portfolio Holder decision. The Director of Neighbourhood Services indicated that officers were constantly under pressure to rectify instances of vandalism similar to those reported but had limited resources and it was felt a Cabinet direction was necessary.

Cabinet Members were minded to let the Portfolio Holder continue to make decisions in relation to maintenance issues of SRB sponsored projects on

an individual basis. However, it was noted that this issue would need to be considered further during the budget consultation process as an additional budget pressure.

Decision

- (i) That the Portfolio Holder continue to make decisions on an individual basis in relation to maintenance issues of SRB sponsored projects.
- (ii) That this issue be considered as part of the Council's budget pressures during this year's budget consultation process.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 6 - Contest/Prevent – Counter Terrorism. This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)), Para 3.

Minute 7 - Senior Management Structure – Tier 2. This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual), Para 2.

6. Contest/Prevent – Counter Terrorism (*Director of Neighbourhood Services*) This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)), Para 3.

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To update Cabinet on the Government strategy for countering terrorism and to propose a framework for managing and moving the strategy forward.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The response to the terrorist threat in Britain was the establishment of the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) within the Home Office and the development of a National Strategy that was known within Government as CONTEST.

Further details were included within the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

Details were included within the exempt section of the minutes.

The Directors of Neighbourhood Services and Adult and Community Services left the meeting at this point.

7. Senior Management Structure – Tier 2 (*Chief Executive*)

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, namely information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual), Para 2.

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To inform Cabinet of the contents of a report prepared by external advisors, Local Government Employers, following an assessment of the new Director posts in the Council. To seek Cabinet's decision regarding the implementation of the advisor's recommendations.

Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet

The report set out the background to the Council's Business Transformation Programme and corporate restructure, the review that had been undertaken by external advisors and a summary of the advisor's recommendations. The review of Director's salaries, based upon the reduction of departments from 5 to 3 and the consequent impact on roles and responsibilities was agreed by Cabinet at the meeting on 6 April 2009. Copies of the Remuneration Strategy and the advisor's report were attached by way of confidential appendix.

Further details were included within the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

Details were included within the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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