

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

17 July 2009

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

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Brian Neale, Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator
Sally Forth, Anti-Social behaviour Co-ordinator
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
Danny Dunleavy, Youth Offending Services Manager
Garry Hutchison, Building Control Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

1. The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998 *(Building Control Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to update the Portfolio Holder of the position in respect of Building Control charge levels and sought agreement for the proposed new charges with effective from 1 July 2009.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The local Government Association had produced a model scheme of charges and in the past had produced annual advice of guidance levels for charges.

The Local Government Association had not produced guidance on levels of charges this year. The Charges Regulations required authorities to set charges at such a level to cover their relevant costs. As this authority's current charge levels were in accordance with the last guidance issued, together with the fact that the authority has achieved compliance in respect of the requirement for recovery of costs, it is proposed that only certain charges be increased by an

average of 4.1% to reflect budget requirement to maintain service delivery. It was hoped that these charges would ensure that the Local Authority charges were competitive in the market.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the proposed levels of charges incorporating an average of 4.1% average increase.

2. Safer Hartlepool Partnership Community Cohesion Fund Proposals *(Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to consider the recommendations of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of applications for community cohesion funding.

Issues for Consideration

Proposed awards for community cohesion grants were outlined as follows:-

Hartlepool Asian Association - £5,500
Grange Road Resource Centre - £840
Hart Gables - £3,000

The Portfolio Holder clarified that it was his responsibility to approve the grants rather than the Safer Hartlepool Partnership

Decision

The Portfolio Holder agreed the recommendations of the SHP Community Cohesion Grants Panel in respect of the three applications for funding to support community cohesion related projects totalling £9,340.

3. Church Street and Seaton Carew Conservation Area Appraisal Reports *(Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to seek Portfolio Holder approval of two conservation area appraisal reports for Church Street and Seaton Carew Conservation Areas.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the background to the appraisals and summarised the public consultation that was carried out and the responses to this. These responses were incorporated into the documents prepared by officers who carried out physical surveys alongside looking at existing documents. In addition, the conclusions drawn in the appraisal were outlined along with action plans addressing the main issues that had arisen including issuing guidance to commercial businesses regarding shop frontage and advertising.

It was clarified that conservation appraisals were still to be carried out in Stranton, Greatham and Elwick.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the appraisal and agreed to the action plans.

4. Development and Evaluation of the Good Tenant Scheme *(Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to update the Portfolio Holder on the progress of the Tenant Referencing (Good Tenant) Scheme and proposed how the scheme was to be evaluated.

Issues for Consideration

The report gave an overview of the first twelve months' operation of the scheme and outlined a proposed evaluation process. The evaluation would compare anti-social behaviour in areas since the introduction of the Good Tenants Scheme.

The Portfolio Holder asked whether landlords were using the scheme and was informed that landlords did access the scheme and the Anti-

Social Behaviour Unit had built up a database of references of tenants. The scheme had been well received by landlords and tenants.

The Portfolio Holder stated that the scheme did not appear to have been taken up as quickly as he had hoped and it was unclear yet whether it had reduced any anti-social behaviour. The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator stated that the evaluation of the scheme should enable the Local Authority to determine whether it was a success. It was highlighted that the scheme went hand in hand with the Selective Licensing of landlords and because of the bureaucracy surrounding this, it was by nature a slow process. The Portfolio Holder highlighted other areas of the town which may benefit from the Selective Licensing of landlords.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Noted the progress of the scheme
- Approved the proposed evaluation programme

5. Inspection of Youth Offending Services in 2009 *(Youth Offending Services Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to advise the Portfolio Holder of the Inspection of Youth Offending Programme 2009-12 and to request additional support in the preparation for Inspection.

Issues for Consideration

The report gave details of the Inspection of the Youth Offending Programme, the implementation of parts of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 and the Scaled Approach and requested approval for use of a consultant in preparation for the Inspection.

The Portfolio Holder stated that he was not comfortable with the use of extra support prior to an inspection but was informed that because of changes in the way that the team was working, this was necessary.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the Inspection of Youth Offending Service in October 2009 and agreed the additional support.

6. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2008/09 – Quarter 4 Monitoring Report *(Head of Support Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2008/09 in the fourth quarter of the year.

Issues for Consideration

The report described the progress against actions contained in the Departmental Plan and the fourth quarter outturn of key performance indicators. The vast majority of actions and Performance Indicators had been achieved and the Portfolio Holder stated that this was excellent news.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress made against the actions and indicators.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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