

# **REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

## **DECISION RECORD**

**28 August 2009**

The meeting commenced at 3.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development)

Officers: Peter Scott, Director of Regeneration and Planning  
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services  
Rob Smith, Senior Regeneration Officer  
Patrick Wilson, Employment Development Officer  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

## **1. Future Jobs Fund** *(Employment Development Officer)*

### **Type of decision**

Key – tests 1 and 2 apply

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the current position regarding the Future Jobs Fund (FJF) and seek authority to implement the programme.

### **Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

In May 2009 the Government announced the investment of over £1 billion to create jobs through the Future Jobs Fund. This would be used to generate jobs for those in greatest need, particularly long term unemployed young people and those in areas of high unemployment. The fund would be run by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). In June 2009 Economic Development – on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council and its partners – had submitted a successful application with a proposal to create 720 extra jobs. Confirmation of the final grant offer was still pending, subject to calculation by the DWP. Economic Development had confirmed that 650 jobs could be created over the period of September 2009 to 31 March 2010 (However, this may be revised and reduced after further consultation with DWP). A dedicated FJF Project Management Team was

to be established utilising existing staff to undertake day to day operational activities who would work closely with Jobcentre Plus to advertise the jobs to potential eligible candidates.

The Portfolio Holder asked why the difference in numbers between the proposal to create 720 jobs and the figure of 650 jobs confirmed in the report. She was informed that the 650 figure would possibly be implemented for the period October to March and it was clarified that at this stage there was no confirmation from DWP that there would be a reduction in the value of the grant. It was yet to be confirmed what the exact eligibility criteria would be but it was thought to be those between 18 and 24 who had been on jobseekers allowance (JSA) for 10 to 12 months, and it was hoped that some places may be offered to over 25s who had been claiming JSA and other non key benefits for over 9 months. It was anticipated that from 7 September 2009 the FJF Team would start to promote the project within the Jobcentre and clients would begin to be identified by Jobcentre Plus and the first 100 clients should begin work through FJF in October.

The Portfolio Holder was concerned that employers' expectations would be matched by suitable clients. Some employers who had initially expressed an interest, had decided to not pursue the opportunity but there were other interested parties which would ensure that projected numbers of jobs were attained. All the grant money received would be used to keep the client in work for at least six months for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

The Portfolio Holder queried the make up of the project management team and was informed that this would consist of existing Local Authority employees who would be utilised as project co-ordinators or employment liaison officers. The Portfolio Holder asked how much of the grant would be top-sliced to fund the project management team and was informed that this was still to be worked out. There was £6,500 allocated by the grant for each client and the bulk of this funding would go to partners to pay for wages and their own project costs. However, FJF would be utilised to cover Economic Developments project costs. It was clarified that apprenticeships could form part of the scheme.

The Portfolio Holder asked that any marketing literature should be done by local businesses and it was confirmed that any supplies would be obtained from local firms. The Employment Development Officer said it was hoped that some of the jobs would be linked into the Southem Business Zone and other regeneration programmes where applicable.

## **Decision**

The report was noted and the arrangements for working with partners to implement the job creation programme as outlined in the report were authorised.

## **2. Economic Assessments** *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the forthcoming statutory duty to undertake an Economic Assessment of the Borough and to gain agreement of the proposed process to undertake the assessment.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

From April 2010 the Governmental Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill proposes a statutory duty for local authorities to undertake an economic assessment of their area. Draft guidance had been issued with more detailed guidance due to follow. It was proposed that each of the five Tees Valley authorities would undertake its own Economic Assessment under a common framework with the relevant elements brought together in a sub regional Assessment. The Economic Assessment would be segmented into the themes of Business, People and Place with completion anticipated prior to the April 2010 deadline.

The Portfolio Holder asked how the processes of consultation with businesses would be undertaken within this Authority and was informed that it was hoped to engage the local Economic Forum and OneNorthEast.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report and endorsed the proposed processes of developing a local Economic Assessment which would be reflected within the sub regional assessment. Hartlepool Borough Council would work closely with the other Tees Valley Authorities and the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU) to ensure a common framework and approach to developing the local and sub regional Economic Assessment.

## **3. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2008/09 – Quarter 4 Monitoring Report** *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

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.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report showed details of progress against actions contained in the Departmental Plan and the fourth quarter outturn of key performance indicators. There were a total of 52 actions and 14 performance indicators assigned to this portfolio holder. Of these one action was not expected to achieve target, that of securing formal funding and delivery arrangements with relevant partners for Victoria Harbour and the reviews for this were outlined. Three performance indicators were not expected to achieve target, namely unemployment rates, number of young unemployed people assisted into training and number of business start ups with council assistance. Details were also given of departmental achievements up to March 2009 including the completion of the Strategic Investment Framework for the Central Area and Southern Business Zone.

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the achievements in Regeneration and Economic Development and commented that the Future Jobs Fund grant should assist the Authority in achieving targets set for unemployment rates and numbers of young unemployed people assisted into training.

The Portfolio Holder asked that she receive monitoring reports for quarters one and two of the 2009/10 Departmental Plan at a future meeting

#### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress against key actions and fourth quarter outturn of performance indicators.

### **4. Tees Valley Single Programme – Progress Report** (Head of Regeneration)

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key

#### **Purpose of report**

To provide an update of progress on the Hartlepool Single Programme package for 2008/09 and to note the development of the 2009/10 Single Programme Regeneration Plan.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Single Programme is one of the Government's main strategic economic development and regeneration programmes. Regional responsibility lies with One NorthEast (ONE), with Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) overseeing and managing the programme. The establishment of a multi-area agreement between TVU and ONE would allow the sub regional partnership

greater devolved power and flexibility to control and manage the programme, although ONE would retain ultimate authority. Information on the progress and expenditure of the projects for 2008/09 was given within the report along with an update on the development of the plan for 2009/10.

The Portfolio Holder asked whether there was a potential site for the Innovation Connectors project and was informed that a site had been identified in an area around Hartlepool College of Further Education although negotiations with the owner were still ongoing. Single Programme funding and delivery options for the project are currently being pursued by officers and this project is currently a reserve project in the Tees Valley Single Programme..

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress on the schemes included in the 2008/09 programme and noted the progress in developing the 2009/10 Programme.

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

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to 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– UK Steel Enterprise (UKSE) Innovation Centre (Para 3 - namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

## **6. UK Steel Enterprise (UKSE) Innovation Centre** *(para 3)* *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the current position regarding the proposed extension of UKSE's Innovation Centre.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

These were outlined in the exempt section of the minutes

**Decision**

The report was noted for information.

The meeting concluded at 3.20 pm.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 4 September 2009**