

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES

9 November 2009

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

Present:

Councillor: Caroline Barker (Vice-Chair) (In the Chair)

Councillors: John Coward and Edna Wright.

Resident Representatives: John Cambridge and Brenda Loynes.

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Management)
Laura Starrs, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

38. Apologies for Absence

Councillors S Akers-Belcher, R Cook and Worthy.

39. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

40. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2009

Confirmed.

41. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

No items.

42. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

No items.

43. Neighbourhood Services: Budget and Policy Framework Initial Consultation Proposals 2010/2011 (Scrutiny Support Officer)

The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that as part of the Budget and Policy Framework initial consultation proposals for 2010/2011, the Forum had the opportunity to consider the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department's pressures and priorities relating to the provision of neighbourhood services. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, Dave Stubbs, gave a presentation to Members outlining the key policy issues and risks that affected the various directorates of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department.

Within the report, one initial pressure and two priorities had been identified for 2010/11. The pressure related to the Support Bus Service and Concessionary Fares. A pressure currently estimated at £154,000 had been identified due to the reinstatement of the hospital service H1 to North Tessa Hospital and an anticipated above inflationary increase in concessionary fare payments. The two priorities related to an 'Extension of Out of Hours Service (£183,000) and Neighbourhood Management / Community Safety (£50,000). The Director highlighted that the second of these pressures included the cost of property rent, funding of an anti-social behaviour officer and admin / reception officer and was tied to the end of operation of the NDC and related to the Community Safety premises at 173 York Road which provided a base for a number of Council and Police officers. Cleveland Police had indicated their commitment to meeting half the costs of the premises.

Following the presentation, the Director and Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) responded to Members questions.

- Were there issues in finding funding to pick up at the end of the NDC? The Director commented that much of the NDC's work had been time limited and there was a well prepared exit strategy. The highlighted cost related to a shared cost with the Police for the continued operation of 173 York Road.
- Members commented on the management structure within the Procurement and Asset Management Division.
- Members referred to the energy saving features that had been installed within the Civic Centre.
- Members questioned what buildings were likely to be released through the Business Transformation Process? The Director commented that it had initially been thought that Bevan House and Station Lane could be released. However due to recent interest in other buildings that may be reviewed. There was sufficient space to accommodate staff if these buildings were released. The relocation of key teams that had a direct service contact with the public to the Civic Centre to make best use of the Contact Centre was already happening.
- Members referred to a 'windows scrappage' scheme.
- Members raised the issue of the additional works that would be

implemented around the Tall Ships event next year. The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) indicated that there would be ‘themed’ works around planting etc. and there would of course be a requirement for additional cleaning and other maintenance. All these additional works would be met either through the Tall Ships or existing departmental budgets.

- Members questioned the references in the presentation to the Central Area Innovation and Skills Quarter. The Director indicated that this was a plan approved by members that was based on the central area of the town around the two colleges.

The Scrutiny Support Officer sought and gained Members agreement to discuss with the Vice-Chair a response to be submitted to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on the pressures and priorities identified for the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department.

Decision

That a response based on the pressures and priorities identified for the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department budget 2010/11 be submitted to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 27 November 2009 following consultation with the Vice-Chair.

44. Issues Identified from the Forward Plan

No items.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 a.m.

CHAIR