

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION SCHEDULE



HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Thursday 15th December, 2005

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room "A"

The Mayor Stuart Drummond responsible for Regeneration and Liveability will consider the following items.

1. **KEY DECISIONS**

1.1 None

2. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

2.1 Planning Delivery Grant – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*

2.2 Community Security Contract – *Head of Community Safety and Prevention*

2.3 Minor Works Proposals – *Head of Environmental Management*

3. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

3.1 None

4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

4.1 None

5. **REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**

5.1 None

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves 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) Act 1985

6. **KEY DECISION**

6.1 None

7. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

7.1 Flex-Ability Limited – Application for Financial Assistance – (para 4) *Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)*

**REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO
REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER
15th December 2005**



Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval of the portfolio holder for the further use of 2005/06 Planning Delivery Grant.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

2.1 The report outlines the government's intentions for the use of the annual Planning Delivery Grant awarded to local authorities and sets out specific proposals for allocating a further amount of grant received by the Council in 2005/06.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

3.1 The portfolio holder has responsibility for planning services.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

4.1 Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

5.1 Portfolio holder only.

6. DECISION (S) REQUIRED

6.1 To approve the earmarking of Planning Delivery Grant resources to the projects and activities described.

Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report describes proposals for the use of a further amount of 2005/06 Planning Delivery Grant and seeks approval to the items put forward.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Delivery Grant is paid by central Government to local authorities and others and is allocated on the basis that it will drive up performance in the delivery of planning functions, both in terms of development control and plan making. This is the third year of the grant. It was previously reported to the Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio Holder on 15 July 2005 that Hartlepool's allocation for 2005/06 was £370,220. Since that report, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has recalculated allocations for authorities and in the case of Hartlepool, has increased its award for the year to a total of £498,338. Although the use of the grant is not ring fenced, it is a performance reward grant which recognises improvements against best value development control targets along with achievements in e-planning, planning policy and decision making. Future year's allocations will depend on continuing improvements being made in planning services.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Previous member decisions have committed £362,000 of the current grant allocation and therefore approximately £136,000 of resources remain. Work is currently ongoing to obtain cost estimates for some longer term planning requirements. Several proposals can however be presented at this time and the portfolio holder is asked to consider the following items that will continue to strengthen the council's planning service and ultimately deliver benefits to the community.
- 3.2 It is proposed to allocate £10,000 of grant to fund a consultants report on untidy buildings to assist in preparation for potential formal enforcement action. There are growing problems and concerns about untidy and derelict buildings and land. It is a complicated area of work involving a number of disciplines. Staff resources are limited and the use of consultants will enable a prioritised and focussed response to these problems and concerns. The impacts in terms of improving the environment will be significant.

- 3.3 The creation of a new two year fixed term post of Monitoring Officer in Development Control was approved using part of the initial allocation of Planning Delivery Grant for 2005/06. This post will provide a support role to the Enforcement Officer and will involve monitoring of compliance with planning conditions and checking allegations of unauthorised development. This caseload is rising each year as the number of planning applications increases. It is one of the areas of planning which is taking on a higher profile with members of the public. Initial efforts to recruit to the post by internal advertising have failed to attract any applications. With the additional grant money being awarded, it is now proposed to extend the contract of the Monitoring Officer post to early 2010 at a total cost of £50,000.
- 3.4 Greater reliance is now being placed on the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) within the planning service. Whilst a number of departmental staff have received basic training in order to be able to use GIS, it is proposed to build up the expertise of one member of staff to an advanced level through a further course of study. The use of £2,000 of planning delivery grant for this purpose is proposed.
- 3.5 A temporary part time post of Secretary to the Divisional Heads was created with Planning Delivery Grant money from 2003/04. Prior to this, no dedicated personal secretarial support for the Assistant Director (Planning & Economic Development) or Head of Regeneration was affordable. In view of the contribution this post has made towards the increased effectiveness of both senior managers, it is proposed to extend the contract of the current postholder by one further year to March 2008 using Planning Delivery Grant at a cost of £10,000.
- 3.6 Further proposals for the use of the remaining £64,000 of grant will be brought to a future portfolio holder meeting. It is expected however that most of this amount will be allocated towards projects which will not commence until the 2006/07 financial year. A summary of the information detailed above is set out at Appendix A.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the proposals described above and summarised in **Appendix A** regarding the use of £72,000 of unallocated 2005/06 Planning Delivery Grant are agreed.

APPENDIX A

PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT: PROPOSED USE

This appendix outlines the proposed use of the Planning Delivery Grant. It reflects identified needs and the purpose of the grant as outlined by the ODPM.

	£
Total grant allocated to HBC 2005/06	498,000
Grant committed as a result of previous decisions	362,000
Remaining grant available to be allocated	<u>136,000</u>
<u>Proposed Use</u>	
Commissioning of consultants report in respect of untidy and derelict buildings	10,000
Extension of the temporary Monitoring Officer post within the Development Control Section	50,000
Advanced GIS Training course for one member of staff	2,000
Extension of the temporary post of Secretary to Divisional Heads by one year	10,000
	<u>72,000</u>
Total of New Proposals	72,000
Balance of 2005/6 grant still to allocate	64,000
	<u>136,000</u>
Total	<u>136,000</u>

REGENERATION & LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

Report to Portfolio Holder
15th December 2005



Report of: The Head of Community Safety and Prevention

Subject: COMMUNITY SECURITY GUARD CONTRACT

SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline proposed changes to the method of security provision for council buildings and sites associated security services.

2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Outlines details of existing contract provision and budget. Sets out proposals for service provision after 1st April 2006.

3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

Community Safety issue.

4.0 TYPE OF DECISION

Non-Key

5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Portfolio holder.

6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Agree the different methods to provide various contract elements.

Report of: The Head of Community Safety and Prevention

Subject: COMMUNITY SECURITY GUARD CONTRACT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To outline proposed changes to the method of security provision for Council buildings and sites and associated security services

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In November 2000 the Council awarded the existing contract to Reay Security, following a competitive tendering process.

2.2 This contract was for a period from 1st November 2000 to 31st March 2004, with the option of an extension for up to a further two years. This option has been exercised in six month tranches by agreement with Reay Security. The contract now ceases on 31st March 2006.

2.3 The original contract price and rates within the Schedule of Rates were fixed from 1st November 2000 until 31st March 2002. Thereafter annual adjustments in accordance with the Retail Price Index were allowed under the terms of the contract. Adjustments have also been negotiated to take account of Minimum Wage increases, as this pay structure was introduced by Government after the commencement of the contract.

2.4 The contract requires the provision of static guards at buildings and building sites, a twenty-four hour mobile patrol, call-out to alarm activation at certain buildings and an escort service for mobile housing wardens.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The budget for the core-contract provision is £160,000 in 2005/06 and is the responsibility of the Regeneration and Planning Services Department.

- 3.2 From time to time additional sites and/or duties have been added to the core-contract. Costs associated with additional duties are recharged to the budget holder (e.g. for Historic Quay).

4. PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF THE SECURITY CONTRACT BEYOND 31ST MARCH 2006

- 4.1 A review of the current contract provision has been conducted. Building managers have been interviewed and sites surveyed to assess their suitability for security improvements (target hardening). This could reduce or remove the requirement for a static guard at particular sites or buildings.
- 4.2 Comments varied from site to site, depending on manager's experience, understanding and expectation of the service. The comments ranged from satisfactory to complete dissatisfaction.
- 4.3 Officers have therefore been exploring alternatives for the future security provision at Council buildings and sites.
- 4.4 It is proposed to utilise a variety of methods as follows:
- (i) in-house provision by Neighbourhood Services Department (e.g. for locking and unlocking public conveniences and parks, responding to alarm activations and escort service for mobile (housing) wardens (if required)).
 - (ii) procurement of a static guard service for particular buildings (e.g. Civic Centre), to be used as required.
 - (iii) Improved security at some sites, to be agreed with building managers.
- 4.5 In addition, the Council has a separate contract for a key holder escort service for thirty seven schools, which is recharged to these schools. This service has been extended from 1st December 2005 to 31st March 2006 and it is proposed that this will be brought within the security contract and provided by the in-house team.
- 4.6 Service provision would be tailored to the existing budget provision.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to agree that, in principle, the Council's Security requirements be provided by one or more of the methods outlined in paragraph 4.4 above, after 31st March 2006.

- 5.2 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to note that further detailed reports outlining proposals for service provision at individual buildings etc will be brought to future Portfolio Meetings.

Contact Officer: Alison Mawson

Background Papers

Community Security Contract November 2000 – March 2004

Various site surveys and questionnaires 2005.

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY

Report to Portfolio Holder
15th December 2005



Report of: Head of Environmental Management

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider recommendations of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of minor grant works.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

2.1 List of minor works proposals.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

3.1 Recommendations of spend on Minor Works projects to be confirmed by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Liveability.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

4.1 Non key decision.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

5.1 Recommendations of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums to Regeneration and Liveability.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

6.1 To agree the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of Minor Works proposals.

Report of: Head of Environmental Management

Subject: MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider recommendations of Neighbourhood Consultative Forums in respect of minor grant works.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The last cycle of consultative forums recommended the following for approval:

Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Burns Avenue – Tarmacing

Continuation of the grass verge tarmacing scheme in Burns Avenue at a cost of £3,500.

Springston Close – Landscaping

The replenishment of the five shrub beds on Springston Close with county roses and grasses at a cost of £2,600.

North Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Fish Sands

A contribution of £3,200 towards the total cost of £10k to resurface an area of lower promenade opposite the Pilot Pier.

Vane Street

Replacement of a shrub bed with tarmac and renewal of planting at a cost of £2,398.

Rear of Bruntoft Avenue

Replacement of existing gate with a more robust feature and the placement of large boulders to prevent fly-tipping. Total cost £3,171.

Lightfoot Crescent

The planting of four additional trees on the landscaped area at Lightfoot Crescent/Easington Road at a cost of £509.

Dropped Crossings

A contribution of £3,500 towards the provision of dropped crossings throughout the North Forum area.

Hart Lane – Woodland Area

Thinning out and coppicing of trees and shrubs at a cost of £5,880.

South Neighbourhood Consultative Forum

Travellers Gate

Refurbishment of shrub beds with grass and tree planting at a cost of £1,631.

Argyle Road and Stockton Road (272/274)

Refurbishment of two shrub beds at a cost of £1,415.

Blairgowrie Grove – Car Parking

The provision of parking bays at a cost of £8,285.

Saltaire Terrace – Street Lighting

The provision of four new lighting columns with a 50% minor works provision of £1,863.

Greatham Cemetery – Trees

The removal of some trees and thinning of others together with a reduction in the hedge height at a cost of £2,130.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All of the above works can be carried out using existing Minor Works budgets.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums be approved.