

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

12th December, 2005

Present:

Councillor Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Peter Price, Director of Public Health and Well-being
 Nicola Bailey, Director of Adult & Community Services
 Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection & Housing
 Sandra Robinson, Acting Assistant Director/Deputy
 Jonathan Wistow, Scrutiny Support Officer
 Pat Watson, Democratic Services Officer

15. Discharge of Mercury from Crematoria *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio-holder of new requirements by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) regarding Mercury emissions and operation of cremation equipment.

To indicate the costs involved in implementing the requirements and recommend a course of action.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report set out detailed background information and indicated the financial implications, following discussion with J G Shelton & Co Ltd (provider and maintainer of current cremators).

The report advised that the costs of the works would need to be funded from Prudential Borrowing, as no other corporate resources would be available within the timescale for replacing the cremators. A strategy for funding the resulting repayment costs would need to be developed as part

of the 2006/07 Budget and policy proposals, which would be considered by Cabinet on 19th December 2005. The report indicated the following three options which could be considered as a means of financing the repayment of Prudential Borrowing costs;

Option 1. – Increase Cremation and Burial fees in the year the works are completed

This option would require a one off increase in fees of 15% and would be in addition to the normal inflationary increase.

Option 2. – Increase Cremation and Burial Fees on a phased basis commencing 2006/7

This option would require an annual fee increase of 2.3%, in addition to the normal inflationary increase, commencing 2006/7. Assuming the works would be completed in 2010/11 the additional fee income earned over the five years 2006/7 to 2010/11 would be earmarked to offset the capital cost of replacing the cremators. The remaining investment would be funded from Prudential Borrowing and the repayment costs would be funded from the available fee income.

Option 3. – Meet loan repayment costs from overall budget

This option would require a specific budget saving of £71,000 to be identified in 2010/11.

A decision on which option to implement will need to be made as part of the overall Budget and Policy framework process.

Decision

- (a) The Portfolio-holder noted the report and referred the issues for consideration by Cabinet as part of the 2006/7 Budget and Policy Framework process.
- (b) That approval 'in principle' be given to replacement of both cremators with associated gas cleaning equipment and replacement of inadequate electricity supply, at a cost of approximately £780,000 (estimated to be £904,000 by 2010/11).

16. Public Health Strategy (*Director of Public Health and Well-being*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with a copy of a Public Health Strategy for Hartlepool.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Public Health Strategy aims to provide a five-year framework (2006-2010) of action for the prevention of ill-health and the promotion of positive health and well-being. The focus of the Strategy would be on partnership approaches to community-based prevention programmes and pulled together, with a common framework, elements that had been developed within a range of multi-agency working groups.

The report indicated that the Public Health Strategy is a Hartlepool Partnership Strategy which would contribute to achieving objectives in the Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. A copy of the Strategy, which was appended to the report, identified the mechanisms for implementation to which the Council would be a major contributor.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased with the proposed Strategy and indicated his view that the Primary Care Trusts should be configuring in Partnership boundary areas.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) endorsed the Strategy, and
- (b) agreed to the recommendation of the Strategy to the Hartlepool Partnership.

17. Annual Review of Performance for Adult Social Care (Acting Director of Adult and Community Services)

Type of decision

Non-Key for information.

Purpose of report

To present the Annual Review of Performance for Adult Social Care letter from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report described the extensive performance appraisal system of monitoring by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), involving inspections, monitoring meetings, returns in Spring and Autumn and performance indicators. Appendix 1 to the report showed the results of the Performance Assessments which had been published on the CSCI Website on 1st December 2005. The departmental Action Plan was attached at appendix 2 and the national results at appendix 3. Locally an analysis had been carried out of Hartlepool's performance indicators for 2004/05, in

comparison with previous years and other authorities and this was attached at appendix 4. This showed continuing improvement overall, with 70% of indicators banded as stable or improving, and almost 90% rated 'acceptable' or better.

In conclusion, the Portfolio Holder was advised that Adult Services had continued to make steady progress over the past year and there were clear directions identified to continue this improvement.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) noted the report and Action Plan, and
- (b) thanked the staff of the department for the continued improvement achieved. He stressed the importance of protecting vulnerable people and continuation of choice, ie care at home if necessary. in the face of budget pressures nationally.

18. Adult Learning – Final Report – Children's Services Scrutiny Forum *presented by Jonathan Wistow, Scrutiny Support Officer*

Type of decision

Non-Key for information

Purpose of report

To present the findings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's inquiry into Adult Learning.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided background information from the original examination by the then Culture and Learning Scrutiny Forum on 21st April 2005 to the report of the re-inspection presented to this Forum on 30th August 2005, which was included as appendix A to the report. Appendix B to the report of 30th August described Future Funding of Adult Education and appendix C described Reforming of Funding and planning Arrangements for First Steps and Personal and Community Development Learning for Adults (copies of all the above documents were provided).

The findings were detailed and the recommendation was that the Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder should endorse the contents of the report and agree the findings (with the exception of 3.1 (c) which had been approved by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee).

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:

- (a) agreed the findings and recommendations of the report, and
- (b) asked it to be noted that in light of the impending announcement from the Learning and Skills Council, in the form of the document “Future of Post 19 Funding”, Scrutiny may wish to look at the future configuration of Adult Learning services.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 16th December 2005