

# CABINET

## MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

2 November 2009

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond) - In the Chair

Councillors: Robbie Payne (Deputy Mayor) (Finance and Performance Portfolio Holder),  
Gerard Hall (Adult Services Portfolio Holder).  
Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder),  
Peter Jackson (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder),  
Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder),

Officers: Paul Walker, Chief Executive  
Nicola Bailey, Director of Child and Adult Services  
Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services  
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mike Ward, Chief Financial Officer  
Joanne Machers, Chief Personnel Officer  
Stuart Green, Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development)  
Ian Merritt, Head of Commissioning and Children's Trust  
Steve Hilton, Assistant Public Relations Officer  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### 93. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Pam Hargreaves (Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder)

### 94. Declarations of interest by members

None.

### 95. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2009

Confirmed.

**96. Hartlepool Green Infrastructure – Supplementary Planning Document** (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

**Type of decision**

Key Decision – test ii applies.

**Purpose of report**

Cabinet was requested to support the creation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Hartlepool which would take the form of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as part of the Local Development Framework.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Mayor reported that the aim of the Green Infrastructure SPD is to produce a strategic approach to developing a network of green corridors and green places within Hartlepool. The report explained how the document fitted within the Local Development Framework, what the Strategy was seeking to achieve and identified the positive impacts it could have within Hartlepool. It was highlighted that the supplementary planning document had the potential to help draw down funding towards schemes contained within the Strategy though it did not contain specific resource allocations itself. Cabinet welcomed the document and commented that it was important that Cabinet received such key strategic documents to ensure it maintained an overview of the council's strategic policies.

**Decision**

That Cabinet approves the creation of the Hartlepool Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document.

**97. Response to Consultation on Care, Support, Independence – Shaping the Future of Care Together** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

To provide members with the opportunity to comment on and approve the Hartlepool response to the consultation on Care, Support, Independence – Shaping the Future of Care Together.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Adult Services Portfolio Holder reported that the green paper set out the government's vision for a new care and support system that is fit for the 21st Century and responsive to the changes in expectations and demographics of society. The paper attempted to address how the new way forward should be funded, by the state and individuals and identified three main options on which the government wishes to consult. The paper also

introduced the new concept of a National Care Service.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted the extensive consultation undertaken by the department based on the consultation questions identified by the government. In terms of the three ways in which a National Care Service could be funded in the future, the options of 100% funding by either the government or the individual were discounted due to costs considerations with the Comprehensive system being the option that received the most feedback. There was concern that the systems operated in different parts of the country could be markedly different due to funding arrangements. For instance the government's floor dampening scheme adversely affected the Hartlepool's central grant.

#### **Decision**

That the proposed response to the national consultation paper be approved.

### **98. Accommodation for Homeless Young People** *(Director of Child and Adult Services / Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

#### **Purpose of report**

The report provided an overview of the current arrangements for homeless young people and identifies the challenges in investing in further provision. Cabinet were requested to consider the options presented in this paper and authorise a tender process to secure the future provision of a Supported Lodgings scheme for young people.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Mayor reported that there is a recognised shortage of supported accommodation for young people in Hartlepool. Existing resources have to operate waiting lists as demand for accommodation exceeds the capacity currently available. Analysis showed that in the period between April 2007 and March 2009, 273 young people aged between sixteen and seventeen years presented as homeless to the local authority. This level of demand far exceeded the capacity of the available resources.

There were two main projects providing accommodation to young people across the town. These are provided by Tees Valley Housing (St Paul's Road) and Stonham Housing (Gainsford House), both establishments operate waiting lists for young people to access their services. The local authority only accesses "Bed and Breakfast" accommodation for young people in unplanned situations and to ensure the provision of short term accommodation whilst longer term solutions can be identified.

The Mayor also highlighted the scrutiny investigation undertaken by the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum, the final report for which had been recently considered by Cabinet.

There were three main options for providing a future service which had been scoped and summarised in the report: - 1) maintain the current status quo; 2) created a new council owned fixed asset; and 3) develop a supported lodgings scheme through a tendered contract. The preferred option being put forward in the report was contracted supported lodgings scheme. There was no specific regulatory definition of such a scheme but such a scheme would have the following features –

- It is a form of supported accommodation for vulnerable young people who are not yet fully ready to live independently;
- It is provided by private individuals (“hosts”) who offer a room in their home and provide support to the young person and also receive support from the scheme;
- It aims to provide a safe and supportive environment and an opportunity for young people to develop the skills necessary for independent living.

It was intended that in order to provide the service, six Supported Lodgings hosts be recruited across the town to provide accommodation for 16 - 24 year olds. They would be subject to Vetting and Barring procedures (including enhanced Criminal Record Bureau checks) and an assessment process that would be carried out by staff qualified to do so. Any prospective host would need to satisfy all of the following selection criteria:

- For safeguarding purposes, be over 25 years of age;
- Resident within 20 miles of Hartlepool town centre;
- Have a spare room in their home;
- Be willing to support a young person in undertaking the domestic and administrative tasks required to live independently and sustain a tenancy.

The report outlined the consultation that had been undertaken, including with a number of young people and practitioners from across the town. The financial considerations for implementing a supported lodgings scheme were set out in detail in the report. It was indicated that there was a budget limited to £90,000 per annum which could be utilised for the project, this was to fund both the costs of accommodation and payment for the hosts and the overall organisations of the scheme itself. It was anticipated that with a number of providers undertaking these kind of services across the north east, it would be possible, through a tendering procedure, to fund a project with six ‘hosts’ as detailed in the report.

There was concern from a Cabinet member that the proposed service was being put out to private contract when it could be provided in-house. The Director of Child and Adult Services was very clear in stating to Cabinet that it would not be possible for the council to provide such a service with six hosts, appropriate management and the dedicated support service staff for the identified budget. All the appropriate areas of the council had been involved in preparing the report, particularly Social Work and Supported

Housing teams. The service was also beyond any similar service the authority provided and there were no experienced staff that could be drawn upon to provide the key support services. There would still be local authority involvement with any young people referred into the project as they would have an allocated social worker. There would also be robust contract monitoring undertaken of the scheme itself.

A Cabinet member still indicated that they had concerns with the proposal and requested that a further report be submitted examining the potential of such an approach. The costs of the tendering procedure were also questioned. The Director stated that the tendering costs would be met in-house through the Commissioning Team. The Mayor requested that once the contract procedure had been completed a further report be submitted to Cabinet on the process and the successful contractor. It was also suggested that such a report also address the potential for the development of in-house resources to provide the scheme in future years.

### **Decision**

1. That the development of a supported lodgings scheme following a full tender exercise held in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2006 be authorised.
2. That following the conclusion of the tender exercise, a further report be submitted to Cabinet setting out the procedure undertaken, the successful contractor and the potential for the development in future years of an in-house provision of the service.

## **99. Business Transformation – Corporate Restructure – Tier 4 Chief Officer Pay and Grading and Slotting In and Outstanding Tier 3 Slotting In (*Chief Executive*)**

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

The report progressed the recommendations from the Cabinet reports of the 26th January, 6th April and 21st September with particular reference to the corporate restructure of the authority. Cabinet was requested to consider the recommendations of Local Government Employers (LGE) regarding the grading of the fourth tier Chief Officer posts, the slotting-in of the fourth tier Chief Officer posts and an outstanding third tier slotting-in.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Chief Executive reported that a key part of the programme was to deliver a corporate restructure along with new management structures. The business case for this workstream was agreed at Cabinet on 26th January 2009, and further progressed at the Cabinet meetings of 6th April and 21st September 2009. At that time decisions were taken on the functional structures for the three new departments, and it was suggested that wherever it was appropriate and the roles were comparable Chief Officers

should be slotted into the new posts. A further report was agreed to be submitted after the slotting-in or ring-fencing of the third tier in respect of the pay and grading and slotting-in of Chief Officers at this fourth tier. This report fulfilled that requirement.

Details of the three fourth tier Chief Officer posts had been submitted for external evaluation as agreed at Cabinet in January. The results include individual salary information, and were set out in the confidential appendix to this report. Consultation with the staff affected had also been undertaken. Only one response to this had been received but the Chief Personnel Officer advised that this could only be considered as part of the confidential element of the Cabinet's debate. No response had been submitted by the Trade Unions.

The Mayor suggested that the meeting move in confidential session to consider the information referred to in the appendix to the report and so moved the appropriate resolution. The further consideration so Cabinet are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

#### **Decision**

- 1 That the implementation of the recommendations of the LGE regarding the grading of the fourth tier Chief Officer posts be approved.
- 2 That the proposals regarding the slotting-in of fourth tier Chief Officer posts be agreed.
- 3 That the proposals regarding the outstanding slotting in of employees into third tier posts be agreed.
- 4 That any further reports regarding overall functional structures should it be required as part of the Business Transformation Programme be submitted to future Cabinet meetings.

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

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 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 101 'Business Transformation – Corporate Restructure – Tier 4 Chief Officer Pay and Grading and Slotting In and Outstanding Tier 3 Slotting In' paragraph 2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

**101. Business Transformation – Corporate Restructure – Tier 4 Chief Officer Pay and Grading and Slotting In and Outstanding Tier 3 Slotting In** (*Chief Executive*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

Cabinet consider further the report and appendices referred to in Minute 99 above.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

Details of Cabinet's considerations subsequent to minute 99 above are set out in the exempt section of the minutes.

**Decision**

- 1 That the implementation of the recommendations of the LGE regarding the grading of the fourth tier Chief Officer posts be approved.
- 2 That the proposals regarding the slotting-in of fourth tier Chief Officer posts be agreed.
- 3 That the proposals regarding the outstanding slotting in of employees into third tier posts be agreed.
- 4 That any further reports regarding overall functional structures should it be required as part of the Business Transformation Programme be submitted to future Cabinet meetings.

**102. Senior Management Review 2008** (*Chief Personnel Officer and Chief Solicitor*)

**Decision**

The mayor requested that consideration of this report be deferred to the next meeting of Cabinet

The meeting concluded at 10.00 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 6 NOVEMBER 2009**