

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

11 September 2009

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

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Richard Waldmeyer, Team Leader Policy, Planning and Information
Derek Gouldbum, Urban Policy Manager
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
John Smalley, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Richard Starrs, Neighbourhood Renewal and Strategy Officer
Helen Beaman, Environment Co-ordinator
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

9. Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (TVGTAA) *(Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of Decision

Key – test ii applies.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio holder that the Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (TVGTAA) has been prepared jointly by the Tees Valley Local Authorities and to consider and endorse the findings and explain its likely implications for Hartlepool.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (TVGTAA) was produced in response to recent legislation and guidance from the Government to resolve long term accommodation issues for members of the Gypsy and Traveller community. Funding was provided by Central Government for each local authority to carry out a GTAA. In Tees Valley this was commissioned at the sub-regional level, carried out by a Steering Group composed of officers, Gypsy and Traveller representatives and other key stakeholders including the Police. Details of the findings were presented in

the report including estimates of future requirements for authorised residential provision in the five Tees Valley areas. In Hartlepool six pitches would be needed before the end of 2026. Copies of the GTAA and supporting documents were available in the Member's room and on the planning policy page of the Council website.

Decision

That the report be noted and the needs assessment endorsed as the basis for future strategy development.

10. Hartlepool Growth Point Funding Allocation Update (Head of Regeneration)

Type of Decision

Key – test i applies.

Purpose of report

- I. To update the Portfolio Holder regarding the recent announcement from the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) regarding the reduction in the allocation of Growth Point funding awarded to the authorities of Tees Valley
- II. To seek endorsement of a proposed alternative programme to accommodate the proposed reduction in funding
- III. To provide a brief progress report relating to the sites already receiving Growth Point funding support

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Previously the Portfolio Holder had agreed to a programme of interventions utilising Growth Point funding in five housing development sites. A total of £443,365 had been allocated for 2009/10 with a further £704,017 in 2010/11. However on July 17th the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) announced a reduction in the 2010/11 capital budgets in order to fund other Government priorities. The original Growth Point approval document had highlighted that the 2010/11 allocations were provisional subject to Parliamentary confirmation. As a result the allocation for 2010/11 for Hartlepool now stood at £398,442. The Portfolio Holder had previously agreed detailed approval for the individual elements of the programme related to five separate projects – Easington Road demolitions, Shared Equity (Headway), Belle Vue acquisitions, Golden Flatts and East Central Hartlepool. It is proposed to manage the reduced allocation by retaining support for all five sites but with reduced Growth Point contributions to Belle Vue and Golden Flatts. The Urban Policy Manager gave details of how all of these sites would still be delivered, together with and update on progress on each scheme.

Decision

That the specific measures outlined to accommodate the reduction in Growth Point funding be approved.

11. Greatham Conservation Area Visual Assessment (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of Decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the visual assessment that has recently been carried out in the Greatham Conservation Area and request permission to take the draft document out to public consultation.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Appraisals are a means of assessing the key factors contributing to the appearance and character of existing conservation areas. The local authority had committed to undertaking two appraisals per year. However as full appraisals take time as an interim measure visual assessments would be carried out in other conservation areas to review their boundaries and ensure their character was clearly defined. A draft assessment had been prepared for Greatham but it was felt that this would benefit from public consultation prior to its finalisation. The document would therefore be uploaded to the Council's website, with a press release to alert residents to this. Local groups and interested parties would be consulted, including the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and Greatham Parish Council.

Decision

That a public consultation for the Greatham Conservation Area Visual Assessment be approved

12. Update on Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder on the recent correspondence from English Heritage regarding potential Partnership Schemes in Church Street and Stranton Conservation Areas.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In March the Portfolio Holder had given approval to officers to make an application to English Heritage for a grant of £300,000 under their Partnership Schemes in conservation areas to provide resources for building grants and funding for environmental works in Church Street and Stranton Conservation Areas. Partnership Schemes are designed to target funding for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas based on a partnership between English Heritage and a local authority. In this case the expression of interest had outlined a potential application for £300,000 of grant to be matched by public investment from the Council and if possible other public sources, with a total budget of £600,000.

English Heritage had considered the application and provided a feedback letter, appended to the report. They were positive on the proposed scheme in Stranton but felt that the Church Street scheme covered too large an area and would need to be tightened before it could be considered. English Heritage also felt they could only support one scheme in Hartlepool. They also raised concerns as to the Council's conservation policy, agreed on 19th February 2009, whereby UPVC could be used for windows in conservation areas.

Given this advice officers proposed further investigation into a potential partnership scheme in the Stranton Conservation Area. In order to do this, it was suggested that a short appraisal and management plan for the area be produced. Consultation would also be undertaken.

Decision

That the proposed approach by officers investigating the potential to pursue a Partnership Scheme application for the Stranton Conservation Area be approved.

13. Conservation Areas At Risk *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of Decision

Non-key

Purpose of Report

To provide information to the Portfolio Holder of the recent inclusion of three conservation areas from Hartlepool on the Heritage at Risk Register launched by English Heritage in June 2009.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The first Buildings at Risk Register was published in 1998, detailing listed buildings deemed to be at risk due to neglect and decay. This was expanded in 2008 to include scheduled ancient monuments, registered historic parks

and protected wreck sites. In 2009 English Heritage had decided to include conservation areas, in a bid to raise awareness. Conservation areas were deemed to be at risk if they were judged to have deteriorated in the last 3 years and likely to deteriorate in the next 3 years. In Hartlepool Church Street, Grange and the Headland conservation areas were deemed to be at risk. Officers noted however that the information these decisions had been based on was collected in summer 2008. Since then there had been some changes to the context which these areas could be considered in, most notably a clear policy on UPVC windows and the provision of financial assistance to properties in the Church Street conservation area for improvements.

Decision

That the report be noted.

14. Migration Impact Fund *(Head of Community Strategy)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To advise the Portfolio Holder of Hartlepool's successful submission to the Migration Impact Fund.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Migration Impact Fund was created in February 2008 as part of the Path to Citizenship Green Paper to help local public services respond to short term pressures caused by inward international migration. The North East would receive nearly £1.30 million, with regional allocations calculated using data from the Office of National Statistics. All providers were eligible to apply and three Hartlepool bids had been submitted. Of these only one, provision of an Advice and Development worker, was successful in securing funding. A copy of the bid submission was attached, giving details of the scope of the role. £40,000 had been allocated 2009/10 and £55,000 2010/11, the latter subject to review in Spring 2010.

Decision

That progress made to date with regards to the submission be noted.

15. Fairtrade Town Update (*Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection*)

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of progress with the Fairtrade Town initiative in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Hartlepool first achieved Fairtrade Town status in 2005. In order to retain this status continued commitment needed to be shown. Since 2002 the number of retail outlets meeting the criteria had increased from 17 to 29 and cafes/restaurants 9 to 16. Details were given of a number of other events which had been held including a public talk by George Alagiah at the Ahmadiyya Mosque, three Fairtrade Ceilidhs and a Fairtrade 'Ready, Steady, Cook. As a result of this work Hartlepool had extended their Fairtrade status to May 2011.

Decision

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10:15am

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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